

# Diamond Vessel

Poems on Vajrasattva



Romy Steffel

The following poems arose out of a contemplation on purification, carried out in retreat at Coorain, Balingup, in 2010.

Tibetan Buddhist teaching provided the springboard, with the principle of purification represented in the form of Vajrasattva, the Diamond Being. Traditional mindfulness also grounded the practice.

Contemplating the iconic, symbolic, form of Vajrasattva (included at the back) allows a creative response to arise. These poems are one example of this.

The Tibetan long One Hundred Syllable Mantra saying from Vajrasattva practice is on the following page. Karma Chime Shore's translation follows in italics throughout, and in its entirety at the end.

Purification has many aspects, takes time, and increases freedom.

All poems are by Romy Steffel.

OM *Vajrasattva samaya manupalaya,*  
*Vajrasattva tvenopa tishtha,*  
*dridho me bhava, suto khyo me bhava,*  
*supo khyo me bhava,*  
*anurakto me bhava,*  
*sarva siddhim me prayaccha,*  
*sarva karma su ca me*  
*cittam shriyah kuru*  
HUM HA HA HA HA HOH  
*Bhagavan, sarva tathagata vajra*  
*ma me munca vajri bhava*  
*mahasamayasattva AH*

wholeness forms  
from gentleness

flower  
then  
moon

*OM Vajrasattva guard intention  
purity of being remain now*

The moon reflected  
on still water.

The sun on a clear lake.

Like faith  
wherever there is water,  
there is your face.

*Vajrasattva be remembered  
steady, joyful and enriching*

Lest arrogance  
turn away love!

The faithful lover  
of the present  
is always there.

Don't turn  
to imagined suitors  
elsewhere.



How to undo harm:  
petals floating on a stream,  
a feather resting on a pond.

Be like water  
follow the line of least  
resistance

wear away mountains

*loving vessel, wisdom's source*  
*in all life's deeds make my mind noble*

Each moment  
is round.  
A bird call  
makes a sphere  
with the trees  
and air.

The diamond of  
a magpie's tail in flight  
is a flash of light  
in the bowl.

Like Magdalen's gentle hands  
like Mary's tears  
soothe the ache  
that needn't be.

*HUM*

*HA*

*HA*

*HA*

*HA*

*HOH*

Make me strong.  
Weave my bones  
and molecules  
with crystal.  
Make my DNA  
turn with your light.  
Thread my sinews  
with diamond  
strength.

your still face  
a mirror  
under water



*Blessed nature, diamond wisdom  
never disappear from view*

Wash pride away  
so pleasure remains  
cool blue humility  
running through my veins

I am  
a clay earth mother  
all belly and breast.

I am  
a gourd filled with water  
round and trembling.

I am  
blue firelight  
in a hollow in the ground.

Each person:  
a crystal  
whose flaws  
can catch the light;  
cracks and shatters  
showing the sun.

*We pray remain continue strongly  
heartfelt, healing present in our daily lives*

As rain washes  
the dust from the air  
Wash boredom away  
uncover  
the clear light

I am a pond in a forest  
from which birds drink.  
While the trees around are dark  
with shelter and shade  
I am a blue  
mirror for the sun  
ecstatic  
and calm even when  
the leaves shake with rain.

Drench your insides  
so your skin is crystal

then gauze

and floats away  
into space



*Oh source of freedom*  
*living wisdom AH*

A crystal bowl  
in a downpour.  
Pure clear rain  
fills it quickly  
until it trembles  
and overflows

OM *Vajrasattva guard intention*  
*purity of being remain now*  
*Vajrasattva be remembered*  
*steady, joyful and enriching*  
*loving vessel, wisdom's source*  
*in all life's deeds make my mind noble*  
HUM HA HA HA HA HOH  
*Blessed nature, diamond wisdom*  
*never disappear from view*  
*we pray remain continue strongly*  
*heartfelt, healing present*  
*in our daily lives*  
*oh source of freedom*  
*living wisdom AH*





*May all being be well and happy*

*Sarva Mangalam*