

## What is Repentance of Karmic Obstacles?

**Repentance** is the fourth practice of the Bodhisattva Samantabhadra. “Repentance” here has two parts. First part, ‘Repentance’ means recognizing past mistakes and changing one’s old perspectives; Second part is “Regeneration” which means from now on, ceasing all wrongdoings and elevating oneself to a new perspective.

Thus, repentance is an active process of change, transformation, and improvement of one’s outlook, values, attitude, and way of life to achieve greater happiness.

Master Hằng Trường has written three books: *Repentance of Earth Store Bodhisattva*, *Repentance of Amitabha Buddha*, and *Repentance of Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva*, all based on the philosophy of the *Avatamsaka Sutra*. According to this sutra, the Bodhisattva’s ideal of practice is the theme of life. In living, we must develop a noble heart, a broad perspective, a compassionate and forgiving spirit, and dedicate our entire live to serve and benefit others.

## INTRODUCE THE DALLAS REPENTANCE RECITATION GROUP

The Dallas Repentance Recitation Group recently celebrated its 10th anniversary on Saturday, August 17, 2024. In the early days, the group had only nine members. Each week, the group organizes repentance recitations on two days: Monday and Wednesday at 9 p.m. The Dallas Repentance Recitation Group has tirelessly worked for the past 10 years. Today, the group has expanded to 10 states across the U.S.

Congratulations to the Dallas Repentance Recitation Group on their 10-year anniversary, and we hope that in the future, the recitation network will spread all over the world.



## **We would like to share a heartfelt message from a sister in the recitation group:**

“Ten years ago, in the Dallas, Texas area, beautiful lotus flowers were budding. Every Monday and Wednesday, these lotuses bloom and rise, spreading their fragrance far and wide. The fragrance comes from the words of *Repentance of Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva*, *Repentance of Earth Store Bodhisattva*, and *Repentance of Amitabha Buddha*, compiled by Master Hằng Trườ̀ng, along with explanations based on the *Avatamsaka Sutra*. These lotuses have been nurtured in the pond of the Compassionate Service Society (CSS).

Ten years have quietly passed, a tenth of a century. The year 2024 marks a milestone, a remembrance of the early weeks and months. The group, initially consisting of nine members, each from different parts of the world, would come together at 9 p.m. twice a week to recite the repentance for each other over the phone.”

And so, the gentle words of the repentance liturgy intertwined with sound, flowing with the light through time, entering people’s hearts, and has now spread to 10 states. Without any prompting, as soon as the designated time arrives, the phone lines ring, and the members join the call to listen.

As it progressed, this small program gradually became known as the Repentance Recitation Group (RRG). In addition to reciting the repentance liturgy, RRG has also introduced special online programs for major holidays. To add variety to the spiritual experience, RRG has included Spring music performances, *The Kitchen Ambassador* script readings for Lunar New Year, or *the Ullambama Festival* celebrations to bring a joyful and lively atmosphere to the members.

Even more remarkable is that every year, during the World Peace Gathering (WPG) or Dharma Assembly in California, despite the long distances, the elderly members do not mind the journey and attend to explore the wondrous Dharma while enriching their spiritual knowledge. The younger members volunteer to assist with the necessary tasks during the two days of the WPG.



The humble wish for the future is that RRG will introduce Zoom meetings so that listeners and reciters can see each other, and more and more lotus flowers will bloom everywhere.

## **Here is the reflection of a member who “listens to the recitation of repentance”:**

RRG Dallas has already been around for 10 years! A tenth of a century, how fast time flies; it feels like just yesterday! The bright, joyful faces in the picture seem to accompany the voices of the brothers and sisters reciting the repentance. Although I don't know everyone's faces, each one feels familiar, friendly, cheerful, and gentle!

As a member who listens to the recitation of repentance, Chơn Niệm is truly happy to celebrate the 10th anniversary of RRG...listening carefully, listening carefully...learning...practicing... Chơn Niệm often feels very fortunate to have been born into a Buddhist family, blessed with the opportunity to study, listen to the Dharma, and fortunate to have met Master Hằng Trường and to practice. The hours spent listening to the brothers and sisters reciting the repentance are hours of learning and continuing the practice, a truly happy blessing!

I share in the joy of celebrating the 10th anniversary of RRG Dallas and thank all the brothers and sisters very much!

Wishing the brothers and sisters and their families a healthy and happy *Ullambana Festival* season, with diligent practice, spreading the light of peace and compassion everywhere!

Looking forward to seeing the brothers and sisters at the Special Program dedicated to those listening to the recitation of repentance, especially for the elderly, including the two sisters, Chơn Nhơn and Chơn Niệm. I look forward to our weekly meetings to listen to the recitation of repentance!

Love, 🙏❤️