

Mandala Offering – the 100,000 Accumulations as Part of *Ngöndro* (Preliminaries)

To accumulate 100,000 mandala offerings it is necessary to have a mandala offering set, according to the tradition, either made of gold, silver, alloy, brass, wood, slate or other materials, the more valuable the material, the more merit.

Fill it with grains, (traditionally barley, but can also be wheat, corn or other grains – Indian corn is great) made yellow by soaking in saffron that is diffused in milk. Turmeric can be an additional coloring substance to color the grains yellow. Let the grains dry thoroughly before using them in the mandala offerings. You can put other valuable items with the grains, such as jewels, gold – or silver coins and other valuable items, as long as they are not too big, so that you can still make the heaps on the mandala.

Before making heaps, hold the mandala base with your left hand and keep a little grain in your left hand, so as not to be empty-handed. Cleanse the mandala base with your right wrist 3 times clockwise (purification) and 3 times counterclockwise (accumulating merit), then put a little grain in the middle, so that the base is not left empty, then put the first, largest ring on the base, then put a little grain around the inside of the ring and then add the 7 heaps. Finally place the pinnacle (Palace of the Gods) on top.

The 7 heaps are: Mt. Meru, Four Continents, Sun and Moon, beginning with a heap in the center for Mt Meru, and then going clockwise, east, south, west, north for the four continents, and then two heaps right and left of the first, central heap for sun and moon.

While cleansing the mandala plate and placing the ring recite: (either in Tibetan or English):

SANG GYE CHO DANG TSOG KYI CHOG NAM LA

JANG CHUB BAR DU DAG NI KYAB SU CHI

DAG GI JIN SOG GYI PE SO NAM KYI

DRO LA PAN CHIR SANG GYE DRUB PAR SHOG

I take refuge in Buddha, Dharma and Sangha

Until I obtain Enlightenment.

By practicing generosity and the other perfections

May I be able to obtain Enlightenment, for the benefit of all sentient beings.

Then while adding the 7 heaps visualize offering the whole universe (according to the tradition) and recite:

SA ZHI PO KYI JUG SHING ME TOG TRAM

RI RAB LING ZHI NYI DA GYAN PA DI

SANG GYA ZHING DU MIG TE UL WA YI

DRO KUN NAM DAG ZHING LA CHO PAR SHOG

By directing to the Fields of Buddhas

This offering of a mandala built on a base

Resplendent with flowers, saffron water and incense

Adorned with Mount Meru and the Four Continents

As well as with the Sun and the Moon

May all sentient beings be led to these Fields.

IDAM GURU RATNA MANDALA KAM NIR YATA YAMI

Then empty the mandala set into the mandala cloth in your lap – either towards you (purification and accumulation of merit) or away from you (offering to field of merit)

This is the process for one mandala offering. Repeat this 100,000 to complete the accumulation of mandala offerings as ngon dro.

To know more about the purpose and practice of the mandala offering, read Gelek Rimpoche's transcripts of Ganden Lha gyema, Lama Chöpa, Vajrayogini, Yamantaka, Chittamani Tara, Lam Rim and others.