## Viewing the holy relics of the Buddha

I pay homage to the Supreme Enlightened One who, by cherishing all living beings, appeared in this world as a Prince and then renounced his throne. He sought the true way of life everywhere and although he endured countless obstacles and suffering his mind remained resolute.

For six years he lived in a dangerous cave, deep in the highest mountains where he practiced self-mortification,

just as others have done in the past and will do in the future.

When completing his practice he swept away all mental defilements and when seeing the great star

he attained the highest enlightenment of Buddhahood.

For fifty years he delivered the teachings and countless living beings attained enlightenment and freedom from suffering.

Countless people travelled across the suffering ocean to the peaceful world.

When seeing that his words were complete

and his teachings had spread across the world

he entered the Sa-la forest and left his relics for future generations.

If one has the good fortune to see his relics and pay homage to them

you will receive the same good opportunity as being born in the time of the Buddha.

Today we have the most fortunate opportunity that the holy relics of the

Buddha have been brought to Australia so that everyone can view and venerate them.

We prostrate before the Enlightened One and pray that with this merit we advanced on the Buddha's path.

Soon we will go back to our native land and escape from the endless lives

of floating in the vast sea of birth and rebirth (Samsara).

South Australia 7/4/2008 Kim Tam Thich Hanh Niem