Gathas for inviting the Great Bell

01. Body… speech and mind… in per-…fect oneness…
My heart… is sent along… with the bell…
May the hearers awaken… from for..getfulness
Transcend… all anxiety… and sorrow.
……

02. Listen… listen… this won-…derful sound…
Brings me back.. to my… true home.
Listen… listen… this won-…derful sound…
Brings me back… to my… true home.
…….

03. May the sound… of this bell… penetrate… deeply…
Into… the cos-…mos…
Even in… the dark-…est places…
May all… hear it… clearly.

04. So that… perfect… under-…standing…
May light… up… their heart…
Without… hardship… they may… transcend…
The realms… of birth… and death.
…….

05. May the sound… of this bell… penetrate… deeply…
Into… the cos-…mos…
So that… beings… in those… dark places…
May hear… it and… be free…

06. From birth… and death… May all… beings…
Realize… awak-…ening.
May all… beings… realize… awakening…
And find… their way… home.
…….

07. Listening… to the bell… I feel… the afflictions…
In me… begin to… dissolve.
My mind… is calm… my bo-…dy relaxed…
A smile… is born… on my lips.

08. Following… this sound… my breath… guides me back…
To the is-…land of mind-…fulness.
In the gar..den of… my heart… a flower…
Of peace… blooms beau-…tifully.
…….

09. The u-…niversal dhar-…ma door… echoes…
The sound… of the ris-…ing tide.
A beau..tiful…young child… is born…
In the heart… of a lo-…tus flower.

10. A sin-…gle drop… of this… water…
The nectar… of… compassion…
Is enough… to bring… back… the Spring…
To mountains… and to…. rivers.
…….

11. Hearing… the bell… I am… able…
To let go… of all my… afflictions.
My heart… is calm… my sorrows… ended…
No longer… bound to… anything.

12. I learn… to listen to… my suf-…fering…
And to… the suffering… of others.
When un-…derstanding… is born… in me…
Compassion… is al..so… born.
…….

13. The sound… of the Great… bell has just… resounded…
Reflecting… the gathas'… words…
Reaching… high up… into… the heavens…
Echoing… into… the hell realms.
…….

14. May the day… be well… and the night… be well…
May the mid-…day hour bring… happiness too.
In e-…very minute… and e-…very second…
May the day… and the night… be well.

15. By the bles-…sing of… the Trip-…le Gem,
May all things… be protected… and safe.
May all… beings born… in each… of the four ways…

Live in… a land… of purity.

16. May all… in the… three realms… be born…
Upon… Lotus… Thrones.
May count-…less wan-…dering souls… realize…
The three… virtuous… positions…

17. Of the… Bodhi…sattva… Path…
May all… living… beings…
With grace… and ease… fulfill… fulfill…
The Bod-…hi sattva… Stages.

18. The coun-…tenance… of the World-…
Honored One…
Like the… full… moon…
Or like… the orb… of… the sun…
Shines with… the light of… clarity.

19. A halo… of… wisdom… spreads…
In e-…very… direction…
Enve-…loping all… with love… and
compassion…
Joy and… equani-…mity.
…….
-- chant #20 as in Offering Incense --

20. Teaching and living the way of awareness in the very midst of suffering and confusion
Shakyamuni Buddha, the Fully Enlightened One,
to whom we bow in gratitude.

21. May the path… of the Bud-…dha grow…
brighter…
May the Dhar-…ma become… clearer…
May wind… and rain… be fa-…vorable…
May this… country be… at peace…

22. In cities… and (in)… rural… areas…
May all… follow… the Way…
Of right… practice… may nature… be safe…
May all… be free… and equal.

23. May the… refreshing breeze… of
compassion… enter…
Into… this world… of heat…
Allowing… the sun… of wisdom… to shine…
Clearly… in the cloud-…y sky…

24. So that… the path… of li-…beration…
Is ap-…preciated… everywhere…
And the… Dharma… rain… falls…
Bene-…fiting… all species.

25. May the Sangha… present here… practice…
diligently…
Showing… concern… and love…
For each other… as they would… for their…
family…
Transforming… their cons-…ciousness.

26. We as-…pire to… follow… the example…
Of the… Bodhi-…sattvas…
Saman-…tabha-…dra… and…
Avalo-…kitesh-…vara…

27. And all… other… Bodhi-…sattva
Maha-…satt-…vas…
And the… Great… Per-…fection…
Of… Wis-…dom.

28. We invoke… your name… Ava-…lokita…
We aspire… to learn… your way…
Of lis-…tening… in order… to help…
Relieve… suffering… in the world.

29. You know… how… to… listen…
In order… to un-…derstand…
We invoke… your name… in or-…der to…
Practice… (deep)… listening…

30. With all… our attention… and
open-…heartedness…
We will… sit and… listen…
Without… any prejudice… we'll sit… and listen…
Without… judging… or reacting…

31. We'll sit… and listen… to un-…derstand…
We'll listen… so atten-…tively…
To hear… what the o-…ther person… is saying…
And also… what is left… unsaid.

32.We know… that just… by lis-…tening deeply…
We al-…ready… alleviate…
A great… deal of… pain and suf-…fering
In the… other… person.

-- chant #33 as in Offering Incense --

33. Listening deeply, serving beings in countless ways
Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of Great Compassion, to whom we bow in gratitude.

34. We invoke… your name… Kshiti-…garbha…
We aspire… to learn… your way…
Of being… present… where there… is darkness…
Suffering…, oppres-…sion, despair…

35. So we… can bring… light, hope,… relief,…
Liberation… to those… places…
Determined… not to… forget… or abandon…
Those in… desperate… situations.

36. We'll do… our best… to estab-…lish contact…
With those… who… cannot…
Find a… way out… of their… suffering…
Those whose… cries… for help…

37. Justice… equality… and hu-…man rights…
Are not… being… heard…
We know… that hell… can… be found…
In ma-…ny pla-…ces on Earth.

38. We'll do… our best… not to… contribute…
To creating… more hells… on Earth…
And… to help… trans-…form….
The hells… that already… exist.

39. We'll practice… to realize… the qua-…lities of…
Perseverance… and stabi-…lity…
Like the Earth… we can al-…ways be… supportive…
And faithful… to those… in need.

-- chant #40 as in Offering Incense --

40. Fearless and persevering through realms of hell and darkness
Kshitigarbha the Bodhisattva of Great Aspiration,
to whom we bow in gratitude.

-- chant #41-50 regularly –

41. I take refuge in the Buddha, the One who shows me the way in this life.

42. I take refuge in the Dharma, the Way of understanding and of love.
43. I take refuge in the Sangha, the Community that lives in harmony and awareness.

44. Dwelling in the refuge of Buddha, I clearly see the path of light and beauty in the world.

45. Dwelling in the refuge of Dharma, I learn to open many doors on the path of transformation.

46. Dwelling in the refuge of Sangha, shining light that supports me, keeping my practice free of obstruction.

47. Taking refuge in the Buddha in myself, I aspire to help all people recognize their own awakened nature, realizing the Mind of Love.

48. Taking refuge in the Dharma in myself, I aspire to help all people fully master the ways of practice, and walk together on the path of liberation.

49. Taking refuge in the Sangha in myself, I aspire to help all people build four-fold communities, to embrace all beings and support their transformation.

50. Inviting the Great bell, practicing the way of awareness,
Give rise to benefits without limits.
We vow to share the fruits with all beings.
We vow to offer tribute to parents, teachers, friends, and numerous beings
Who give guidance and support along the path.