

POEMS

I wrote this poem after being inspired by my women's literature summer class that I was taking. At the time, I was really doubting my faith and asking myself what I truly believed in. I had reached a point in my practice where simply chanting blindly did not work any longer. That type of thinking was what I needed in high school. Now I was questioning whether I chanted for myself because I really wanted to and whether I really believed I was changing my life.

So, I wrote this poem to pull myself out of the doubt and the despair. I used it to motivate me and jump-start my faith. With it came a lot more chanting and studying. There are two things that I have learned while chanting to the Gohonzon during my college experience at Rutgers University: 1) Always be specific in what you want and 2) Never, ever accept no for an answer. I hope you can find the inspiration within yourself (I know it's there) and produce something unique and beautiful.

Courage

Roar, lion, roar
Darkness no more.
No longer shy
from adversity's eye.
Through my struggles
my effort doubles,
only strong faith
will Buddhists make.
Fight, study, search, and Fight
to reveal a true, inner light.
All the earth's length
will not lessen my strength
No longer accepting defeat
my victories I will meet
and help others do the same
Ignite their inner flame.
So Roar, Lion, Roar
Let you life Soar
Awaken to the mission
You promised before
Because
Fear Retreats
When Woman speaks.

by Caroline Bergui, New Jersey

Shimmering Star

By Karen Quispe

The tiny Pointy Star

I feel like making a wish.

You go up to space just to see that star.

The feeling is smooth and plain with straight

short triangle shapes surrounding it.

It looks like a creative shaped crystal in the sky at night.

That is just such a pretty sight.

I see it way, way high up.

My, it's so far.

Oh I wish I could be that special star.