

# The Mountain Hermitage



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November 2018

Student: *"How can all these jewels be considered one jewel?"*

Teacher: *"If you don't believe that one jewel is all the jewels, just put a dot on the jewel (in question).*

*When one jewel is dotted, there are dots on all the jewels."*

--Commentary on the teaching of Indra's Net – *Avatamsaka Sutra, The Buddha*

Dear Friend in the Dharma,

*Beginning with closing your eyes ... visualizing or in some way sensing an enormous jeweled net ... a net of infinite, of boundless proportions ... letting this fill your mind/your heart. This net is woven of an infinite variety of brilliant crystal gems, each with countless facets, with each jewel reflecting all the other jewels in the net.*

I recently offered those opening words in a guided meditation, and now heartfully offer them to you.

As we move into our unfolding sixteenth year, we move into a world where the threads of the exquisite jeweled net of our interconnectedness and interdependence are too often snapped, the fabric of our infinite oneness frayed.

*The Mountain Hermitage* plays an ever more critical role in affirming our essential 'inter-beingness', a term coined by Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh, that lies at the heart of all Buddhist doctrine.

We will again bring the teachings of the Dharma to our many retreatants in the year ahead. In so doing, we will offer the essential tools to repair the broken threads and strengthen the jeweled net that binds us together, each to each.

You too, our friend in the Dharma, are a jewel woven into this beautiful net of inter-being. Your presence, your support, and your connection to all we do and the many we serve is reflected in the lives of every *Hermitage* retreatant. They, too, capture your reflection in each of their lives, and beam it far and wide.

As they return to their daily lives, they work to maintain and protect the jeweled net of interdependence and interconnectedness, through which love, compassion, and transformative energy flow.

Again I humbly come to you for the annual financial support that has been the lifeblood of *The Mountain Hermitage* for fifteen years and will insure our continuance through the year ahead.

We estimate our general funding needs at \$14,000 to cover our modest administrative needs for the coming year, stipends for our dedicated teachers and scholarship funding to serve the broad range of seekers for whom a *Mountain Hermitage* retreat may transform a life.

**Your gift of one of the amounts on the enclosed Donor Reply -- or whatever amount you are moved to share -- will combine with the generous help of others to help carry us forward on sound footing into our sixteenth *Hermitage* year.**

With your help, *The Mountain Hermitage* will continue to be a significant source of interconnection among all sentient beings. Together, we will steadfastly honor our commitment to do all we can to insure the durability of the jeweled net of our lives.

Time is always of the essence. Your prompt response will help us in our planning to support as many yogis as we can with *Hermitage* scholarship dollars and to meet our administrative expenses. Each tax-deductible dollar you give brings *The Mountain Hermitage* ever closer to transforming and enacting our mission in ever-expanding ways.

Simply return the *Donor Reply* with your check or money order in the envelope provided. If you choose to give by credit card, please go to our website at [www.mountainhermitage.org](http://www.mountainhermitage.org) and click on the *How You Can Help* menu item. The website also offers a review of our 2019 & 2020 retreats.

You may also choose to offer a gift through your credit card via *Network for Good*, which offers options for supporting our scholarship fund, teacher fund, and general operating costs on a one time or monthly giving basis.

I offer you my deepest gratitude for all you have done to see *The Mountain Hermitage* through our many years of challenge and steady progress. May the joys of bringing the Dharma into the world come to you and those you love in the year ahead.

With metta,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia Rose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marcia Rose  
Founder and Guiding Teacher

P.S. All the compassionate and constructive acts that we create produce a ripple effect of beneficial action that will reverberate throughout the world.

Thank you for all you do. Be assured that the rippling reflections of your generosity will be felt in the lives of all we will serve in the year ahead.