



THE KALAPA COURT

Shambhala Oaths of Office Procedures for Shambhala Centres and Groups

Shambhala Oaths of Office are simple, yet formal, ceremonies during which new leaders take an oath of office and leaders who have completed their formal service to Shambhala take an oath of retirement, before a preceptor and/or a shrine. The oaths are then sealed by taking a sip of oath water.

Shambhala Oaths of Office are conducted by a preceptor, representing the Shambhala tradition of sacred secular leadership. The preceptor is the most senior active office holder representing either the entire community, such as a centre director, or the specific pillar concerned; e. g. retiring Practice and Education Coordinators may wish to oath new Practice and Education Coordinators. If no preceptor is available -- as would be the case with new a coordinator of a newly formed Shambhala Meditation Group -- then the oaths should simply be taken in front of the shrine, with the oath water resting on the shrine itself.

The ceremony should take place in a formal environment, a shrine room if possible, with fellow Shambhala community members present. The preceptor is seated in a chair next to the shrine, facing the oath-takers who are seated -- kneeling if possible -- facing the preceptor on zabutons. The preceptor has a conch filled with saffron water, representing purity, on their side table. This is placed on the shrine for new group coordinators.

If there is a preceptor, they offer the community's appreciation to those leaders who have completed their formal service to Shambhala and are taking an oath of retirement. After any retirements have taken place, the preceptor invites the new leaders to take their oaths expressing their aspiration to go forward on the path of cultivating enlightened society through sacred secular leadership.

Each retiree and/or new leader reads their oath of office and then receives a small taste of oath water in their cupped hands, from which they drink. (The preceptor or their assistant may wish to have a towel ready in case of spills.) It is customary to respect the sacredness of the oath water by wiping any left-over water from your hands onto the crown of your head. If a pin is available for the position, it is offered at this time.

If a most senior leader is retiring, and there is no one obviously their elder to take the oath from, they may simply wish to take their oath to the shrine, and give themselves oath water. New coordinators follow this procedure as well.

If there are gifts to offer retirees, this may be done at this time as well, or later during a reception. Following the oath taking, a celebratory reception may be held with toasts and gifts for retirees, and words of welcome and support to new leaders and members.

Procedures for obtaining oaths and pins follow.

International Appointments: Oaths of Office, Retirement Oaths and Pins

Shambhala Meditation Centre Directors

Sealed oaths of office and retirement oaths for Shambhala Meditation Centre Directors are mailed upon approval by the Office of the Kalapa Court.

Contact: <aweinstein.shambhala@gmail.com>

Centre director pins are available from Shambhala Media:

<http://www.shambhalamedia.org/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=PTW098>

Chagdzo

Sealed oaths and pins for Chagdzo are mailed upon approval by the Chagdzo Kyi Khyap.

Contact: <conniebrockmn@yahoo.com>

Shambhala Meditation Group Coordinators

Oaths of office and retirement oaths are available online at:

<http://shambhalanetwork.org/centresupport/oaths-and-appointments/>

No pins are available at this time.

Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum Representatives

Oaths and pins are available upon approval by Sangyum Wendy Friedman.

Contact: <hester3.14@gmail.com> for appointment procedures.

Office of Societal Health and Well-being Representatives

Oaths and pins are available upon approval by Mary Whetsell

Contact: <mwhetsell@mindspring.com> for appointment procedures.

Shambhala Practice and Education Coordinators

Oaths of office are available online at: <http://shambhalanetwork.org/centresupport/oaths-and-appointments/>

No pins are available at this time.

Centre Appointments: Oaths of Office, Retirement Oaths and Pins

The following oaths of office are printed locally on local Shambhala Centre stationery and sealed with the local centre seal:

Shambhala Meditation Centre Members

Oaths of office are available online at: <http://shambhalanetwork.org/centresupport/oaths-and-appointments/>

Member pins are available from Shambhala Media:

<http://www.shambhalamedia.org/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=PTW090>.

Shambhala Council Members

Oaths of office are available online at: <http://shambhalanetwork.org/centresupport/oaths-and-appointments/>

Shambhala Council pins are available from Shambhala Media:

<http://www.shambhalamedia.org/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=PTW372>

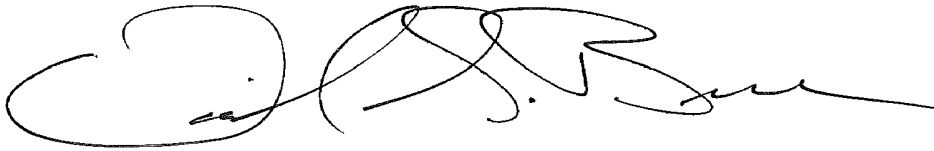
Dekyongs

Oaths of office are available online at: <http://shambhalanetwork.org/centresupport/oaths-and-appointments/>

Dekyong pins are available from Shambhala Media:

<http://www.shambhalamedia.org/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=PTW096>

Yours in mutual service to Shambhala,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David S. Brown', with a large, stylized initial 'D' and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

David S. Brown

Email: dbrown@shambhala.org

Phone: (902) 425.4275 x 33