
The Neydren Ritual for Guiding the Consciousnesses of the Deceased

The guiding and liberating ceremony, or Neydren ritual, is carried out by practitioners who have understanding and skill in the methods of Secret Mantra. This practice is always performed in conjunction with the sadhana of the wisdom deity. It is in that state of pure awareness that the possibility of guiding the consciousness that is lost in the bardo (the intermediate state between lives) can occur. Contact is made with the disembodied consciousness by writing the seed syllables that correspond to the six realms of existence and also by making replicas and effigies of certain individuals. Through the power and blessing of prayer, compassion, method, and wisdom, the consciousness may be contacted and led from states of bewilderment and fear to higher, more productive, positive, and spiritual states of rebirth as well as the possibility of awakening in the pure realms of wisdom awareness. This ceremony is powerful and beneficial on many levels. Even the thought to benefit others in this way can help them toward their eventual liberation from suffering.

You can help a deceased being connect to this ceremony by providing a small amount of their ashes or hair, or a photograph of them. If these are not available, it is also suitable to write their name on a piece of paper and put this in the ceremony. Even if the deceased passed from this life long ago, the ceremony will be of benefit to them wherever they might be embodied now. Please note that if you provide hair or photographs, these will be burned in the ceremony and will **not** be returned to you. However, if you provide a large quantity of ashes (more than 2 tablespoons), once these are blessed in the ceremony they *will* be returned to you. Be sure to pick up these blessed ashes from the ritual assistants after the ceremony.

The ashes from the burned names, photographs, and hair, as well as a small pinch of the ashes of the deceased, will be used to make a few tsa tsas, which will be placed in the Amitabha garden at Tashi Choling Center for Buddhist Studies in Ashland, Oregon. This way, all of the beings in the ceremony will receive the blessings of having a Nirmanakaya form made from their ashes. If the family of the deceased would like to make tsa tsas of the rest of their loved one's ashes, or if they would like to sponsor someone to do this, please ask the ritual assistants about this.
