

Earth Vase project coordinated by Anna Bihler.
Text based on traditional sources.

Planting Earthvases - 3(4)



RAM	YAM	LAM	KHAM	A
Fire	Air	Earth	Water	Empty Space

Choice of the site

Choose places that seem important to you. These can be places in key points in the environment, or the ground in parks, by the sea, on hills, by springs and so on. Choose a site in which the vase won't be disturbed e.g. by roots of a growing tree or washed away. If the pot is buried deep then it will be safe even if people or cows walk on it.

If you are concerned with ownership infringement then better to select another place. However, keep in mind that possession is just a concept too.

The planting

The act of burying a treasure is to please local and global spirits, unseen by the eye but perceived by their actions. The burying symbolises the giving back with prayers, good wishes, and bare intention of some of what humans have torn from the earth with a crude sense ungrateful entitlement. The earth vase helps to heal the heart by highlighting for us the fact that by this action we express acknowledgement of the harm that has been caused. We are part to both the cause and effect. We express recognition and offer reparation.

Before and during digging, imagine yourself as Padmasambhava and request permission from local spirits to disturb the land. Order them to cooperate for the sake of the Dharma. Then dig the hole and place the vase inside. Make sure that the vase is at minimum covered by 20 cm of soil. The deeper, the better. You can embed the vase in juniper (protective) if you have some. As you fill in the pit, chant more prayers, mantras and songs. Cover it completely. Cover or remove all disturbances caused by the burial and your activity.

Besides the 7-Line-Prayer or the Guru Mantra, you can also recite the mantra that purifies elements SHUDHE SHUDHE E YAM BAM RAM LAM⁽²⁾ or *The Prayer for Happiness in the World* as printed in *Longing for Limitless Light*, pages 329 ff.

To choose a date such as solstice, Guru day or Full Moon can be considered auspicious but is not mandatory.

It would be great to share the information about the site, possibly coordinates and a picture of its environment with the group. We keep a list of all vases that are in progress or finally planted. This list is saved on the Group's Google drive.

As much as anything submits to the power of impermanence so too will the vase slowly disintegrate into its surroundings. Decide when you will repeat the earthvase practice. Toward the last stages of your life, it can be helpful to give away your smaller dharma collectibles by putting them into a vase or giving them to others to put it 'their' vases.

v. 1.0 Aug. 2023

(1) For further lecture on this process see the Chapter on Vajrasattva by CR Lama in *Simply Being*.

(2) A longer Mantra version is:

OM SHUDHE SHUDHE	E SHUDHE	YAM SHUDHE	BAM SHUDHE	RAM SHUDHE	LAM SHUDHE
ॐ seed syllable	E space	Yam Air/wind	BAM water	Ram Fire	Lam Earth/Mt Meru

Shudhe means in Sanskrit *purified*