

THE FUNERAL BAND PLAYS

The Repenting Voice

The funeral band plays
Popular songs once sang
Emotions go on ride
Past memories float by

Funeral proceeds to march
Drums begin hitting hard
Trumpets blows at maximum
Loud music draws crowd

No one ever question
No one seems aware
Music for the deceased
Or music for attention

Whether music benefits deceased
Does it dignifies deceased
Drowning the Buddha recitation
Drowning the family cries

Band music finally ends
Crowd jumps into coaches
Heading towards the crematorium
Proceeding to closing act

Looking back to past
Lord Buddha was right
Four sufferings in life
Birth aging illness death

Death spares no one
Death one breath away
To end rebirth cycle
Recite Namō Buddha Amitabha

Life is about karma
Create karma suffer karma
Generate happiness receive happiness
Owe gratitude repay gratitude

Owe debt pay debt
Cause suffering receive suffering
Take revenge suffer revenge
Take life pay life

Anger leads to hell
Greediness leads to ghost
Ignorance leads to animals
Kindness leads to heaven

Happiness is never permanent
Happiness gone sufferings come
Everything just an illusion
What we fighting for

When life suddenly ends
Past important not important
Many decades of ambitions
All turns to ashes

Today one funeral ends
Wonder when my turn
The clock ticking down
Several decades passed by

At my Buddha table
Seated Three Sage statues
Buddha Amitabha stands centrally
Avalokitesvara and Earth-Treasury besides

Wei-Tuo and Qie-Lan Bodhisattvas
Two Dharma-Protectors standing guard
Ancestor tablet on right-end
Ten-Realm tablet on left-end

Buddha Amitabha symbolizes Infinite-wisdom
Buddha Amitabha symbolizes Infinite-life
Avalokitesvara symbolizes Great Compassion
Earth-Treasury symbolizes Filial Respect

Wei-Tuo symbolizes Dharma Protector
Qie-Lan symbolizes Gratitude Loyalty
Ancestor reminds Filial Piety
Ten-Realm reminds One Dharma-Body

Facing the Buddha statues
I sit silently meditating
Visualizing Buddha Amitabha presence
Chanting Namó Buddha Amitabha

Buddha's Western Pure Land
This life final destination
No more foolish lives
No more endless funerals

Once let go totally
Western Three Sages appear
Ask me last words
I reply no worries

Sitting on my lotus
Buddha beams me up
Reach the lotus pool
No more endless rebirths

To friends and families
I wish we reunite
At Western Pure Land
Sufferings gone Love permanent