Swami Vivekananda, I am sincerely indebted to you. I express my heartfelt gratitude for having inspired and encouraged me until now.

In my youth I had an experience of the transience of life, and at the age of 18, when I came across the words of the Buddha that stated, “I alone am honored in heaven and on earth,” I decided to renounce the world and become a Zen monk. However, in the religious atmosphere of those days it was difficult to find a path that led to the truth, and besides I myself began to entertain doubts about continuing my life as a monk. It was then that you graciously approached me.

That was when an ascetic, a monk on a solitary journey, came to me with your message. Although it was at a later period that I truly came to accept your words, yet I firmly believe that from that moment onwards until today, you have never ceased to shower on me your divine protection.

Of the words you taught me, the ones that fortified me more that all others, are the following: “I do not believe in reform. I believe in the enhancement of the spirit.” Furthermore, you stated that even after casting aside our bodies we should continue working for the salvation of all beings, and not just for our own salvation.

You are indeed a Great Bodhisattva of Mahayana Buddhism.

Today in this spot I shall adopt this resolution of yours as my highest ideal, and I hereby swear to follow the path that you have taken.

Hereafter too, thanks to the bonds you have graciously established with me, I implore you to assist me in attaining ever more worthy goals and aspirations.

Vivekananda, lead me on.

Thank you very much.