

LUNAR NEW YEAR 2025

*Apricot branches and chrysanthemum blooms,
Evoking the soul of Vietnam,
Invite us to remember the birth of the new year
And the blossoming of the sacred path.*

Tet, the new year, arrives, and the earth and sky clothe themselves with vitality and hope. We do the same: looking back at ourselves, transforming the actions of body and mind to live a more meaningful life. We hear the gentle reminder in Spring's beauty that life is short; every moment is precious.

The insight that everything in life is connected, that nothing exists independently, is the key to transforming our thoughts, words, and actions. When we understand that it is possible to cultivate harmonious causes and conditions, we also understand how to appreciate relationships and the simple things in life. On this path, our souls gradually expand in the direction of love, responsibility, and generosity. Love is no longer limited to family or friends, but spreads even to strangers and all beings.

This awareness not only makes our lives more peaceful and happier, but also empowers us to beautify this world. Like small drops of water joining the vast ocean, each of our good deeds join the boundless ocean of merit, creating an endless spring for ourselves - and also for everyone around us.

Let the new year be an opportunity to transform our bodies and minds, returning to the core values taught by the Buddha, so that each day becomes a day filled with wisdom and love.

On behalf of the monastics of Dinh Quang Temple, I would like to wish all Buddhists and friends immeasurable peace, happiness, prosperity, and wealth, as we welcome the New Year of the Snake, 2025.