

News From The Dharma Realm

Bowing the Ten Thousand Buddhas Repentance Assembly

On April 24th an auspicious Dharma Assembly commenced at the Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas, City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Members of the four-fold assembly began bowing the *Buddha Speaks the Buddhas' Names Sutra*. With every bow in veneration to a Buddha, each member of the assembly transfers merit and virtue to all beings in the Dharma Realm and to the well-being of all worlds. Simultaneously eradicating their own karmic obstacles and dedicating their aid to all beings, the participants in this powerful and serene Dharma assembly join together to foster a positive force of goodness. Generating this goodness through the vehicle of vows and the purity of body, mouth, and mind, this rare assembly hopes to eradicate malevolence, to instill wholesomeness and harmony, and to turn the tide of growing unrest and irresolution into a tranquil sea, supportive of life.

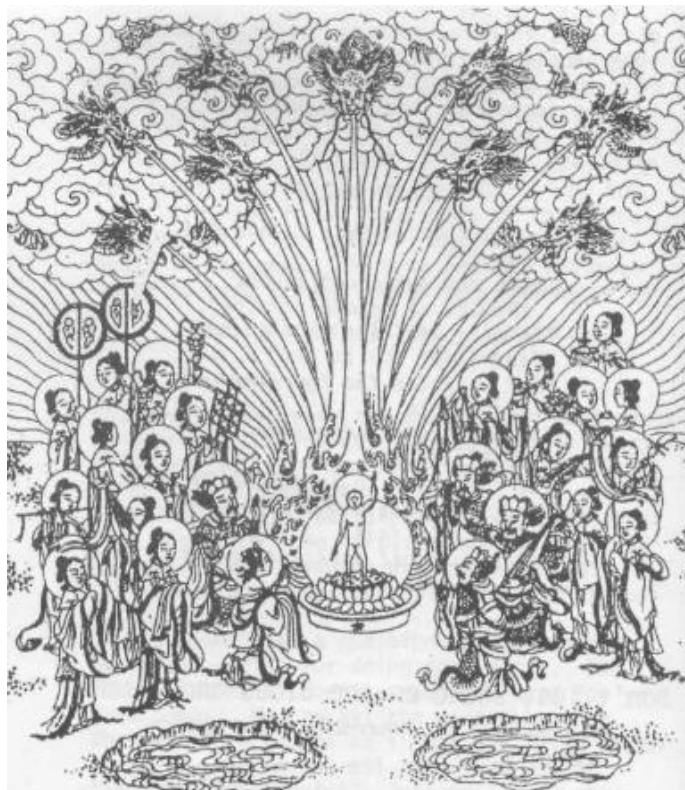
The *Sutra of Protecting the Country* says:

If a country begins to show signs of turmoil, it is the unseen evil forces which first stir up the turmoil. This in turn causes the citizens to become uneasy and unruly. If troublemakers take over, then the lives of myriad citizens are lost, the leaders of the country begin to quarrel, heaven and earth manifest inauspicious signs, the stars and planets get out of orbit, and eventually vast floods, uncontrollable fires, and devastating winds prevail. If, when such disasters arise, the leaders and citizens of the country can bow to the Buddhas and recite the Sutras, such calamities will be diminished or completely dissipated.

The Dharma Assembly continues through to May 18th. All sincere worshippers are welcome as long as they can follow the rules of the City and participate fully in the Dharma Assembly. For further information call the centers listed on inside front cover of this issue.

Shakyamuni Buddha's Birthday Celebrated May 15th

Marking the culmination of the Repentance Assembly bowing the *Buddha Speaks the Buddhas' Names Sutra*, will be the birthday celebration in honor of Shakyamuni Buddha, our Teaching Host in the Saha world. Each year hundreds of disciples and friends of the Dharma gather to share in this joyous occasion.



Significant in its own right as a day of repentance and renewal, the Buddha's Birthday program includes the ritual of bathing the image of the new-born sage. This act signifies the purification of the Buddha nature inherent in us all, which is, in ordinary unenlightened people, covered by a net of ignorance and karmic obstruction. With a sincere heart and firm resolve to reform one's bad habits, one can gain immeasurable benefit from the simple act of bathing the Buddha.

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