



Dharma Flower Sutra

commentary by Tripitaka Master Hua

-translated by BTTS

-reviewed by Bhikshuni Heng Ch'ih

-edited by Upasika Nancy Lethcoe

SUTRA:

"HE WILL GRADUALLY PERFECT THE BODHISATTVA PATH, AND AFTER LIMITLESS ASAMKHYEYA AEONS HE WILL IN THIS LAND ATTAIN ANUTTARASAMYAKSAMBODHI. HIS NAME WILL BE DHARMA BRIGHTNESS, THUS COME ONE, ONE WORTHY OF OFFERINGS, ONE OF PROPER AND UNIVERSAL KNOWLEDGE, ONE OF PERFECT CLARITY AND CONDUCT, WELL GONE ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THE WORLD, SUPREME LORD, A HERO WHO SUBDUES AND TAMES, A TEACHER OF GODS AND HUMANS, THE BUDDHA, THE WORLD HONORED ONE.

COMMENTARY:

"HE WILL GRADUALLY PERFECT THE BODHISATTVA PATH." Purnamaitreyaniputra will practice the Bodhisattva Way to perfection, and become a Buddha, "AND AFTER LIMITLESS ASAMKHYEYA AEONS HE WILL IN THIS LAND, in the Saha World, ATTAIN ANUTTARASAMYAKSAMBODHI." He will realize Buddhahood. "HIS Buddha NAME WILL BE DHARMA BRIGHTNESS, THUS COME ONE." You should all remember that this will be his Buddha name. He will be "ONE WORTHY OF OFFERINGS from humans and gods, ONE OF PROPER AND UNIVERSAL KNOWLEDGE." He will know that the ten thousand dharmas are the mind, and the mind gives birth to the ten thousand dharmas. That is right and universal knowledge. "ONE OF PERFECT CLARITY AND CONDUCT, his intelligence and wisdom will be complete. He will be a WELL GONE ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THE WORLD. He will understand what most don't understand. A SUPREME LORD, there is no one higher than a Buddha. A HERO WHO SUBDUES AND TAMES, he will regulate all in the three realms. A TEACHER OF GODS AND HUMANS, he will be a guide for those in the human realm and also for the gods. He will be THE BUDDHA, THE WORLD HONORED ONE. He will be honored by those in and beyond the world. All Buddhas have these ten titles.

SUTRA:

"THIS BUDDHA SHALL TAKE LANDS THROUGHOUT THE GREAT THREE THOUSAND WORLD SYSTEMS AS MANY AS THE SANDS IN THE GANGES RIVER AS HIS BUDDHALAND, WITH THE SEVEN JEWELS FOR EARTH. THE LAND WILL BE AS LEVEL AS THE PALM OF ONE'S HAND. IT SHALL HAVE NO MOUNTAINS, OR HILLS, GORGES, GULLIES AND PITCHES. IT WILL BE FILLED WITH PAVILIONS AND PALACES OF THE SEVEN JEWELS. THE PALACES OF THE

GODS WILL BE LOCATED IN SPACE NEARBY SO THE HUMANS AND GODS MAY CONSORT AND SEE ONE ANOTHER.

COMMENTARY:

"THIS BUDDHA SHALL TAKE LANDS THROUGHOUT THE GREAT THREE THOUSAND WORLD SYSTEMS AS MANY AS THE SANDS IN THE GANGES RIVER AS HIS BUDDHA-LAND, WITH THE SEVEN JEWELS FOR EARTH: gold, silver, lapis lazuli, crystal, mother-of-pearl, red pearls, and carnelian. THE LAND WILL BE AS LEVEL AS THE PALM OF ONE'S HAND." There are two ways to explain this. The first is that the land will be level, like the palms of one's hands.

"Well, the palm of my hand isn't flat," you might say. This doesn't mean our hands, it means the Buddha's palm. The Buddha's palms are perfectly flat. The other way to explain it is that in the ocean there is a kind of stone that is absolutely flat, without the slightest bump; the stone is called "palm" stone. The meaning is that the land is level.

"IT SHALL HAVE NO MOUNTAINS, OR HILLS, GORGES, GULLIES, OR DITCHES, or other uneven spots. IT WILL BE FILLED WITH PAVILIONS AND PALACES OF THE SEVEN JEWELS. It will be filled with many beautiful buildings and scenic spots. THE PALACES OF THE GODS WILL BE LOCATED IN SPACE NEARBY SO THE HUMANS AND GODS MAY CONSORT AND SEE ONE ANOTHER." The gods will be able to see the people, and the people will be able to see the gods. In this world, we can only see other people; we can't see the gods.

You say, "I have seen the gods." Well, maybe you have seen them. I haven't. If everyone could see them as a matter of course, then you could say that we see one another. A few people have the Heavenly Eye, and have seen them, but in general people can't see them; those without the Heavenly Eye cannot see them.

SUTRA:

"THERE WILL BE NO EVIL PATHS AND NO WOMEN. ALL THE LIVING BEINGS WILL BE BORN BY TRANSFORMATION, AND HAVE NO SEXUAL DESIRE.

COMMENTARY:

"THERE WILL BE NO EVIL PATHS." In the Buddhaland of Dharma Brightness, Thus Come One, the gods and humans will be able to see one another. Why is this? Because the people in that land will have spiritual penetrations. They will be able to fly and transform. Also, there will be no hell-beings, animals, hungry ghosts, or asuras. Since there will be no hells, when people die, they will not suffer. Since there will be no hungry ghosts, when people are dead, they will not be hungry. Since there will be no animals, after they die, people won't get reborn as animals. So, there will be no evil paths. "AND there will be NO WOMEN." No women will live in this land.

"If there are no women," you may wonder, "then where do all the people come from?"

ALL THE LIVING BEINGS WILL BE BORN BY TRANSFORMATION," from lotus flowers. They won't have to be born from women. In the Land of Ultimate Bliss there are no women, either.

In the Eastern Land of Akshobhya Buddha, the Eastern Pure Land of Medicine Master Buddha, there are women, but although there are women, there is no sexual desire; women are also transformationally born from lotuses. Purnamaitreyaniputra who will be the Buddha, Dharma Brightness, will have a land in which the living beings will be born from transformation, not from wombs. What is meant by "birth by transformation?" It means that originally there was none there and then all of a sudden, someone appears. The person just appears out of nowhere, as it were. Some are transformationally born from lotuses and others are transformationally born from trees. Trees can grow people! Some are transformationally born from the ocean. Everyone in Purnamaitreyaniputra's land will have an inconceivable state.

Beings there will "HAVE NO SEXUAL DESIRE." Sexual desire is impure. People who cultivate should not harbor thoughts of sexual desire; they shouldn't have this kind of greed. If you aren't even supposed to have such thoughts, how much the less should one actually indulge in sexual conduct! Since they have no sexual desire, they attain great spiritual powers. They all have great spiritual powers, the spiritual powers of the Bodhisattvas.

SUTRA:

"THEY WILL OBTAIN GREAT SPIRITUAL PENETRATIONS. THEIR BODIES WILL EMIT LIGHT, AND THEY WILL BE ABLE TO FLY AT WILL. THEIR RESOLVE WILL BE SOLID. THEY WILL BE VIGOROUS AND WISE. THEY WILL BE GOLDEN COLORED, AND ADORNED WITH THE THIRTY-TWO MARKS. THE LIVING BEINGS IN THAT LAND WILL ALWAYS TAKE TWO KINDS OF FOOD: THE FIRST, THE FOOD OF DHARMA-JOY, AND THE SECOND THE FOOD OF DHYANA-HAPPINESS."

COMMENTARY:

Because they have no sexual desire, "THEY WILL OBTAIN GREAT SPIRITUAL PENETRATIONS. THEIR BODIES WILL EMIT LIGHT." Since they are not born of sexual desire, but rather by transformation, they will have great wisdom, and because of this great wisdom, their bodies will give off light. "THEY WILL BE ABLE TO FLY AT WILL." Wherever they want to go, they just have to think, and in a flash they are there! "THEIR RESOLVE to cultivate the Buddhadharma WILL BE SOLID," extremely firm. They will only go forward; they will never retreat. They will make progress everyday. Everyday they will be more vigorous. "THEY WILL BE VIGOROUS, AND so they will be greatly WISE. THEY WILL BE GOLDEN COLORED. The bodies of these living beings will be golden, ADORNED WITH THE THIRTY-TWO MARKS." Their marks will be perfect. Even if they haven't completed all the thirty-two marks, they will still adorn themselves towards that perfection. "THE LIVING BEINGS IN THAT LAND WILL ALWAYS TAKE TWO KINDS OF FOOD:" These two kinds of food are very unusual. "THE FIRST kind of food is THE FOOD OF DHARMA-JOY." Yesterday, I told you that when Purnamaitreyaniputra listened to the Dharma, he didn't need to eat or sleep. How could he go without eating? Because he gained the food of Dharma-joy. It's like you students of the Buddhadharma now all eat one meal a day. This is something that's basically impossible. It's very difficult not to eat, because people's most basic instincts are food and sex. People like to eat, and they have desire; these two instincts come with them at birth. Now you can listen to the Buddhadharma and forget about eating. Listening to the Dharma makes you so elated that you forget everything. You forget about eating, and you forget about sleeping. If you nod out during the lectures, though, that doesn't count

as being filled with Dharma-joy! "AND THE SECOND kind of food is THE FOOD OF DHYANA-HAPPINESS:" You meditate everyday. You sit in Ch'an; the more you sit, the more you enjoy it, and the happier you are. You can't bear to get up from meditation. The flavor of Dhyana-happiness is really extremely wonderful! Once you attain the happiness of Dhyana, wild horses can't keep you from meditating. Why? Because you have tasted this flavor, and must sit in meditation, and cultivate the flavor of Dhyana-happiness.

There are many kinds of food. We living beings eat "portion food," that is, we eat bite by bite. The gods eat by means of "thought." They just think of food, and they get full. This indicated they have gained a certain amount of Dhyana-happiness. Ghosts and spirits eat by "contact;" they don't need to put the food in their mouths. They just take a good whiff of it and are full. If you have gained the Heavenly Eye, you will be able to see that a change takes place in the food you offer to the Buddha. Let's take oranges and apples, for example. Before you offer them to the Buddha, each orange, say, has two parts; there is the orange, and the orange-essence. If you have opened your Heavenly Eye, you will see the orange as "two" oranges, not just one. Your ordinary eyes can't see this. When you offer the orange to the Buddha, the Buddha accepts the orange essence. After you have offered the orange, it's essence is gone. The ghosts also eat this essence of the object. When you give something to the ghosts to eat, that's the part of it they eat. This is a very subtle process and not something most people are aware of. In the land of Dharma Brightness, Thus Come One, the living beings will eat the food of Dharma-joy and Dhyana-happiness. Continued next issue.