

The Flower Adornment Sutra

with commentary by Tripitaka Master Hua

Chapter One: Wondrous Adornments of the World-Rulers Gathering of the Cloud-Like and Sea-Like Assemblies of Beings of Similar Births

Continued from issue #173

SUTRA:

IV WAY PLACE SPIRITS

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MOREOVER, THERE WERE WAY PLACE SPIRITS, IN NUMBER AS MANY AS THE DUST-MOTES IN BUDDHA-WORLDS. SPECIFICALLY THEY WERE: BANNER OF PURE ADORNMENT WAY PLACE SPIRIT, SUMERU JEWELLED BRILLIANCE WAY PLACE SPIRIT, THUNDER-SOUND AND BANNER-LIKE CHARACTERISTICS WAY PLACE SPIRIT, RAINING DOWN FLOWERS WONDROUS EYES WAY PLACE SPIRIT, FLORAL NECKLACES BRIGHT COWL WAY PLACE SPIRIT, ADORNMENT OF RAINED-DOWN JEWELS WAY PLACE SPIRIT, COURAGEOUS FRAGRANCE EYES WAY PLACE SPIRIT, VAJRA MULTI-COLORED CLOUD WAY PLACE SPIRIT, LOTUS FLOWER BRILLIANCE WAY PLACE SPIRIT, AND ILLUMINING WONDERFUL LIGHT WAY PLACE SPIRIT. THOSE AND OTHERS ACTED AS THE LEADERS AND THERE WERE AS MANY AS THERE ARE DUST-MOTES IN BUDDHA-WORLDS. ALL OF THEM, IN THE PAST, HAD MET LIMITLESSLY MANY BUDDHAS, AND HAD ACCOMPLISHED THEIR VOWS TO MAKE OFFERINGS TO THEM ON A VAST SCALE.



COMMENTARY:

MOREOVER, THERE WERE WAY PLACE SPIRITS, IN NUMBER AS MANY AS THE DUST-MOTES IN BUDDHA-WORLDS. They were spirits that guard Way Places-- Aranyas--"pure and quiet places" where people cultivate. These spirits are good Dharma-protecting spirits. They safeguard the purity of cultivators and prevent heavenly demons and those of externalist ways from disturbing them.

SPECIFICALLY THEY WERE:

- 1) BANNER OF PURE ADORNMENT WAY PLACE SPIRIT. He guards the Way place so that it is pure and adorned.
- 2) SUMERU JEWELLED BRILLIANCE WAY PLACE SPIRIT. He emits an extremely wonderful and lofty precious light. Whatever Way Place he protects always emits precious light.
- 3) THUNDER-SOUND AND BANNER-LIKE CHARACTERISTICS WAY PLACE SPIRIT. His sound is like the booming of thunder; his marks and characteristics are like those of a precious banner.
- 4) RAINING DOWN FLOWERS WONDROUS EYES WAY PLACE SPIRIT. He is always able to rain down cascades of flowers, and he has wonderful eyes.
- 5) FLORAL NECKLACES BRIGHT COWL WAY PLACE SPIRIT. He has floral necklaces and his cowl emits light that universally shines on the living beings of the Way Place.
- 6) ADORNMENT OF RAINED-DOWN JEWELS WAY PLACE SPIRIT. He rains down the seven jewels to beautify the Way Place.
- 7) COURAGEOUS FRAGRANCE EYES WAY PLACE SPIRIT. The courage of this Dharma-protecting spirit can subdue demon armies and his eyes regard them with the fragrance of courage.
- 8) VAJRA MULTI-COLORED CLOUD WAY PLACE SPIRIT. His vajra brilliance releases tens of thousands of splendid lights, forming a multi-colored cloud canopy in mid-air. He also subdues demons.
- 9) LOTUS FLOWER BRILLIANCE WAY PLACE SPIRIT. He always manifests lotus blossoms and sends forth great light.
- 10) ILLUMINATING WONDERFUL LIGHT WAY PLACE SPIRIT. His wondrous light always shines throughout empty space.

THOSE AND OTHERS ACTED AS THE LEADERS AND THERE WERE AS MANY OF THEM AS THERE ARE DUST-MOTES IN BUDDHA-WORLDS. ALL OF THEM, IN THE PAST, HAD MET LIMITLESSLY MANY BUDDHAS AND HAD ACCOMPLISHED THEIR VOWS TO MAKE OFFERINGS TO THEM ON A VAST SCALE. They vowed to make offerings to the Buddhas of the ten directions. Those spirits were not just spirits, they were provisional manifestations of great Bodhisattvas. Therefore the power of their spiritual penetrations was inconceivable, the power of their vows was inconceivable, and the strength of their Dharma protection was also inconceivable.

V CITY RULING SPIRITS

SUTRA:

MOREOVER, THERE WERE CITY-RULING SPIRITS, IN NUMBER AS MANY AS DUST MOTES IN BUDDHA-WORLDS. SPECIFICALLY THEY WERE: JEWELLED PEAK ILLUMINATION CITY-RULING SPIRIT, WONDROUSLY ADORNING PALACES CITY-RULING SPIRIT, PURE JEWELS OF JOY CITY-RULING SPIRIT, PURITY FREED FROM WORRY CITY-RULING SPIRIT, FLOWER LAMPS AND BLAZING EYES CITY-RULING SPIRIT, BLAZING BANNER-LIKE CLEAR MANIFESTATION CITY-RULING SPIRIT, FLOURISHING BLESSINGS BRIGHT LIGHT CITY-RULING SPIRIT, CLEAR, PURE LIGHT CITY-RULING SPIRIT, FRAGRANT COWL ADORNMENT CITY-RULING SPIRIT, AND WONDROUS JEWELLED LIGHT CITY-RULING SPIRIT. THOSE AND OTHERS ACTED AS THE LEADERS, AND THERE WERE AS MANY OF THEM AS THERE ARE DUST MOTES IN BUDDHA-WORLDS. ALL OF THEM, THROUGHOUT INCONCEIVABLY MANY KALPAS IN THE PAST, HAD ADORNED AND PURIFIED THE PALACES DWELT IN BY THUS COME ONES.

COMMENTARY:

MOREOVER, THERE WERE CITY-RULING SPIRITS, IN NUMBER AS MANY AS DUST-MOTES IN BUDDHA-WORLDS. These are Dharma-protecting spirits who protect the inhabitants of cities, especially those where many people with good roots live. These spirits ensure that the cities are free from disasters.

SPECIFICALLY THEY WERE:

- 1) JEWELLED PEAK ILLUMINATION CITY-RULING SPIRIT. The wonderful functioning of his spiritual penetrations constantly emits dazzling light. This spirit hold a very prominent position among the multitudes of spirits.
- 2) WONDROUSLY ADORNING PALACES CITY-RULING SPIRIT. He can make all palaces especially adorned and wonderful.
- 3) PURE JEWELS OF JOY CITY-RULING SPIRIT. He emits light which is pure, within which appear the colors of the seven kinds of jewels, making any beholder joyous.
- 4) PURITY FREED FROM WORRY CITY-RULING SPIRIT. Since this spirit protects cities, towns, and hamlets, the citizens are freed from worry, grief, suffering, and vexation and are able to attain purity.
- 5) FLOWER LAMPS AND BLAZING EYES CITY-RULING SPIRIT. His feet are planted on lotus diases. He holds in each of his hands a lamp, and his eyes emit a flame-like blaze, hence his name. He definitely affords the protection that is the responsibility of city-ruling spirits: to bring peace to the inhabitants of cities so they have no calamities or accidents.

6) BLAZING BANNER-LIKE CLEAR MANIFESTATION CITY-RULING SPIRIT. This spirit emits a fire-like blaze from the top of his head which is as clearly apparent as a jeweled banner and very bright. Therefore, as soon as demons see this city-ruling spirit's blazing light, they feel afraid and run away as fast as they can.

7) FLOURISHING BLESSINGS BRIGHT LIGHT CITY-RULING SPIRIT. His reward of blessings is especially great, and he constantly emits light, Therefore, anyone who sees him also increases in blessings and wisdom and gains a longer lifespan.

8) CLEAR, PURE LIGHT CITY-RULING SPIRIT. He always sends out pristine light, light that has no defilement. This is described in a verse in the "Universal Door" Chapter of the *Dharma Flower Sutra*:

With its spotless, clear, pure light
The wisdom-sun dispels all gloom.
It quells calamities of wind and fire,
Illumining everywhere throughout the world.

This type of clear, pure light of wisdom, comparable to the sun's radiance, disperses all darkness. It can overcome all disasters and it shines pervasively in all worlds. That is the meaning of the name of this city-ruling spirit.

9) FRAGRANT COWL ADORNMENT CITY-RULING SPIRIT. His jeweled cowl emits a fragrance, which, when smelled by living beings, increases their life-spans and naturally rids them of disasters.

10) WONDROUS JEWELLED LIGHT CITY-RULING SPIRIT. His subtle and wonderful precious pearl sends forth light.

THOSE AND OTHERS ACTED AS THE LEADERS, ANY THERE WERE AS MANY OF THEM AS THERE ARE DUST-MOTES IN BUDDHA-WORLDS. ALL OF THEM, THROUGHOUT INCONCEIVABLY MANY KALPAS IN THE PAST, HAD ADORNED AND PURIFIED THE PALACES DWELT IN BY THUS COME ONES. The job of those city-ruling spirits was to make sure at all times that everything runs smoothly and that the palaces where Thus Come Ones were staying were particularly magnificent and pure. That is their work.

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