

大智度論摘譯

卷第一 緣起論

ROLL ONE: ON ARISING OF CONDITIONS

Excerpts from the Treatise on the Great Perfection of Wisdom

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復次菩薩初生時。放 大光明普遍十方。行至七步 四顧觀察。作師子吼。而說 偈言

我生胎分盡 是最末後身 我已得解脫 當復度眾生

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Moreover, when the Bodhisattva was first born, he radiated a great brilliance which extended universally throughout the ten directions. He walked seven steps, surveyed the four quarters, roared the lion's roar and then uttered a verse, proclaiming:

"Birth from the womb for me is now ended. This is the very last physical form. Already I have achieved liberation and shall moreover bring deliverance to beings."

After pronouncing this pledge, in the course of time he grew to adulthood. He sought to relinquish his relatives and retinue, to leave behind the homelife, and to cultivate the unsurpassed Way. He arose in the night and, surveying the sleeping forms of his female entertainers and attendants, his wife and his consorts, beheld them as resembling decaying corpses.

He instructed ChaUEaka to saddle his white steed. At midnight they traversed the city wall, rode for twelve yojanas, and arrived at the forest inhabited by BhÁrgava, the rishi. He then took up a knife, cut off his hair, and exchanged his wonderfully bejewelled raiments for a coarsely-woven saÚghÁéÍ [cloak].

On the banks of the NairañjanÁ River he cultivated bitterly ascetic practices for six years, eating only a sesame seed or a grain of rice each day. He thought to himself, "This method contradicts the Way."

At that tme, the Bodhisattva left behind the place where he had cultivated such ascetic practices and went and sat at the adamantine place beneath the bodhi tree. The demon king brought a throng of his minions numbering eighteen myriads of koéls in an attempt to devastate the Bodhisattva. Because of the power of his wisdom and merit, the Bodhisattva overcame the demon hordes and afterwards achieved anuttarasamyaks $a \times bodhi$ (the utmost, right and perfect

enlightenment). (Continued on page 23)