

妙法蓮華經淺釋

THE DHARMA FLOWER SUTRA WITH COMMENTARY

【 卷五 從地湧出品第十五 】

ROLL FIVE, CHAPTER FIFTEEN: WELLING FORTH FROM THE EARTH

宣化上人講 COMMENTARY BY THE VENERABLE MASTER HUA

國際譯經學院記錄翻譯 TRANSLATED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION INSTITUT

修訂版 REVISED VERSION

是諸菩薩摩訶薩。從初湧出。以諸菩薩種種讚法。而讚於佛，如是時間。經五十小劫。是時。釋迦牟尼佛默然而坐。及諸四眾。亦皆默然。五十小劫。佛神力故。令諸大眾謂如半日。

「是諸菩薩摩訶薩」：這一些個大菩薩，「從初湧出」：從一開始從地湧出之後，就「以諸菩薩」：用諸菩薩讚歎佛這「種種讚法」，「而讚於佛」：讚歎釋迦牟尼佛、多寶如來和十方的佛。「如是時間，經五十小劫」：像這樣子這麼讚歎佛，經過了有五十個小劫這麼長的時間。「是時釋迦牟尼佛默然而坐」：諸位菩薩摩訶薩用讚法來讚歎於佛，經過了五十個小劫。那麼每一個小劫是多少呢？這一增一減，算一個劫。一增，每一百年壽命增加一歲，身量高度增加一寸，由十歲增加到八萬四千歲；再減，也是一百年，壽命減一歲，身量的高度減去一寸，減到人的壽命到十歲上；這一增一減，叫一個小劫。那麼是時釋迦牟尼佛在這五十個小劫裏邊，都默然而坐，也沒有說甚麼法。有的人在這個地方說：「這佛經講得一點邊際也沒有！釋迦牟尼佛在世祇不過八十多年，他說法四十九年，談經三百餘會；那麼說《法華經》，從開始到終了，祇不過八年的時間。為甚麼這個《法華經》的

Sutra:

From the time the Bodhisattva, Mahasattvas first welled forth out of the earth, and while they praised the Buddhas with various Bodhisattva praises, a period of fifty small eons elapsed. During that time, Shakyamuni Buddha remained seated in silence, and the four assemblies were silent for fifty small eons as well. Because of the Buddha's spiritual power, all in the great assembly were caused to say it had been as if half a day long.

Commentary:

From the time the Bodhisattva, Mahasattvas first welled forth out of the earth. The Great Bodhisattvas had initially come out of the ground, **and while they praised the Buddhas—**Shakyamuni Buddha, Many Jewels Thus Come One, and the Buddhas of the Ten Directions—**with various Bodhisattva praises, a period of fifty small eons elapsed.** They praised the Buddhas for fifty small eons. **During that time, Shakyamuni Buddha remained seated in silence.** The Bodhisattva, Mahasattvas were singing praises to the Buddhas for fifty small kalpas. How long is that?

Each eon goes through “one increase and one decrease.” During the rise of an eon, every one hundred years, people's life spans increase by one year and their heights increase by one inch. When people reach an average life span of 84,000 years, then a decline begins. Having started from an average life span of ten years and increased to an average life span of 84,000 years, a decline then sets in. Every one hundred years, the average life span decreases by one year and the average height by one inch. When it has decreased until the average life span reaches ten years, people are only ten inches tall. One cycle of increase and decrease is considered “one small eon.” The Buddha sat quietly for fifty such small eons and did not speak the Dharma.

Someone might start calculating and say, “This Sutra is not mak-

