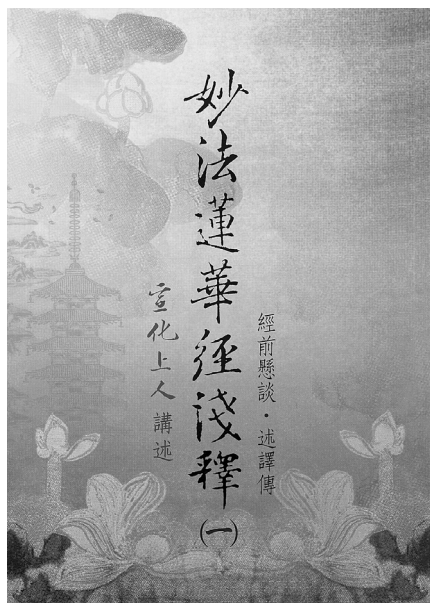


# Thoughts on the Publication of *A Simple Explanation of the Wonderful Dharma Lotus Flower Sutra*

## 漫談《妙法蓮華經淺釋》的出版

正法雲趣入一切如來菩提果  
深密藏超越十方衆生凡夫地



*With clouds of proper Dharma, we enter the Bodhi Fruit of all Thus Come Ones.*

*With the treasury of profound secrets, we transcend the level of ordinary beings everywhere.*

比丘尼恒瓏 文 BY BHIKSHUNI HENG LUNG

比丘尼近廣 英譯 TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY BHIKSHUNI JIN GWANG

《妙法蓮華經》略稱《法華經》，是佛陀晚年在印度靈鷲山所宣講，為大乘佛教要典，共有7卷28品。「妙法」，就是所說的教法微妙無上，法法皆妙，是不可以心思、不可以言議的大法。「蓮華經」，蓮華是花中之王，出淤泥而不染，比喻這部經是所有經典中最究竟、潔淨完美的一部經。

上人於1968年秋，在三藩市佛教講堂開講《妙法蓮華經》，歷時二年，於1970年秋末圓滿結經。上人講經時，一向用淺白的文字來講解，因此他說：「我所講解的經典，都稱做『淺釋』。」其目的

The Buddha explained the *Wonderful Dharma Lotus Flower Sutra* (the *Lotus Sutra*) in the latter years of his life at Vulture Peak in India. It is one of the key Mahayana Buddhist texts and consists of seven rolls and 28 chapters. Wonderful Dharma is a subtle and supreme teaching that is wonderful in every way. It is a great teaching that cannot be conceptualized or verbalized. The lotus is the king among flowers, emerging out of mud without being tainted. This metaphor elucidates that this sutra is one of the most ultimate, pure and perfect sutras.

The Venerable Master lectured on the *Lotus Sutra* starting autumn of 1968 at the Buddhist Lecture Hall in San Francisco. He concluded the lectures two years later, during autumn of 1970. The Venerable Master always explained the sutras with very simple language; hence he admits, "The sutras that I explain are all 'simple explanations.'" The purpose of which is no less than to teach so that the targeted audience understands the meaning and applies it, establishing a solid foundation in cultivation.

無非是要廣施教化，令聽者或是讀者都能明白經義，進而依教行持，建立修行穩固的基礎。所以許多人聆聽或是細讀上人的淺釋時，會發現文字雖然淺白，但是句句都能析出佛法的精髓，真實而深刻；而上人用辭的結構，也是非常嚴密而有層次的，顯示了上人深厚的國學根柢。

事實上，聖人的語言，不是凡夫的知見智慧所能測知的。聖人所施的言教，也不是偶然發生，必定有所因緣。所謂「法不孤起，仗境方生；道不虛行，遇緣則應」，世間的一切，都是因緣和合而成就的。

《妙法蓮華經淺釋》的出版，可追溯至1993年。當時錄音室開始把當年所錄的《法華經淺釋》大型盤帶，一一轉錄成DAT，再轉錄到卡帶；並發現因年代太久，盤帶幾處略有毀損，所以於1993年特別請上人再行補講。之後，中文出版部再根據轉錄出的193片卡帶，一字不漏地將上人所講的內容謄寫出來；然後在謄寫出的稿紙上，來回幾次複聽卡帶，核對修正，之後才打字輸入電腦。輸入電腦後，又再經過多次的複聽校正，確定與上人講解無所出入後，才開始進行初順、二順的順文工作。

上人生前曾特別叮囑，再度結集諸經時，務必加上科判條文，使其更臻完整。所以在二順時，俯拾先賢遺唾，根據明朝藕益大師〈法華會義科〉為主，清朝大義法師〈法華經大成科〉為輔，以此斟酌增刪，縷述經絡法脈，使令義理更見分明，並且方便現代人研究閱讀。其中名相的部份，也一一參考佛學辭典及古德所撰釋的註解。

順文完成後，就進行電腦排版，以及最後的檢查校對。完成後的排版檔，從2008年七月開始，陸續將十冊的清樣稿，以網路方式寄至台灣台南和裕出版社。又為了降低印刷風險，特地在九月初，搭機從加拿大溫哥華飛往台灣停留兩週，以便就近檢查打樣稿。

Many who have listened to or perused the Venerable Master's "simple explanations" have found that every one outlines the essence of the Buddhist teachings, true and deep. Even though the words are simple, but the sentence structure is tight and layered, an indication of the Venerable Master's profound foundation in Chinese literature.

Actually, ordinary people may not necessarily be able to fathom the words of sages. Sages' words do not happen by chance, but they come when the conditions are present. As it is said, "The Dharma does not rise alone, but emerges due to circumstance; the Way is not practiced in vain, things click when conditions are met." Everything is realized once the set of conditions comes together.

Publications of the *Lotus Sutra* go back to 1993. At that time, the DRBA tape room converted large reels into DAT (Digital Audio Tape), then to cassette tapes. The Chinese division of the Buddhist Text Translation Society then transcribed word by word the content of the Venerable Master's 193 tapes. The paper copies of the transcriptions were reviewed against the cassettes several times, corrected, then entered into the computer. After numerous reviews and corrections, polishing work for the first and second times began.

The Venerable Master had specifically instructed that when the various sutra lectures are compiled, outlines must supplement them to make the explanations more comprehensive. Therefore, while polishing the written explanations the second time, we made some deletions and insertions based primarily on Great Master Ou Yi's *Comprehensive Meaning of the Dharma Flower Sutra* from the Ming Dynasty and secondarily on Dharma Master Da Yi's *Great Accomplishment of the Dharma Flower Sutra* of the Qing Dynasty. We hope that this type of structure further elucidates the meaning and makes it convenient for people nowadays to study it. We also consulted various Buddhist dictionaries and commentaries by virtuous ones of old regarding terminology.

Once the polishing work was completed, we proceeded with layout and finally, proofreading. The ten fair copies of the final layout were electronically forwarded to Taiwan's He Yu Press beginning in July 2008. To reduce any possible risk, I traveled from Vancouver to Taiwan at the beginning of September, staying two weeks to check the copies.

The fact that *A Simple Explanation of the Wonderful Dharma Lotus Flower Sutra* can be published successfully is all due to the power of the collective. I recall in the last 15 years, starting in 1993, more than a dozen individuals helped to transcribe and review paper copies of the transcripts, several dozen individuals did key-in work and reviewed the Chinese, three people did design and computer graphics, while about ten people did the final proofreading. It is only with the perseverance and hard work of so many people that *A Simple Explanation of the Wonderful Dharma Lotus Flower Sutra* appears before everyone with a new look and a more comprehensive content at the end of 2008.

Even more exciting is the fact that the DRBA tape room will also release the entire set of *A Simple Explanation of the Wonderful Dharma*

今日《妙法蓮華經淺釋》得以順利出版，正可謂是「集眾人之力」。回顧從1993年開始的十五年當中，幫忙謄稿以及在稿紙上核對者就有十幾位，中文輸入和複聽者也有數十位，電腦排版及設計人員共計三位，而最後的校對人員也有十位。正是有這麼多人的堅持及努力，才使得《妙法蓮華經淺釋》得以在2008年底，以嶄新的風貌、更完整的內容，呈現於諸位善知識面前。

更令人興奮的是，錄音室也將同時於2008年底，出版全套的《妙法蓮華經淺釋》MP3，搭上目前最流行的多媒體傳播的腳步，著實稱得上是法總佛經翻譯委員會的一項薪傳。



聖人設教，必有由致。《法華經》上說：「諸佛世尊唯以一大事因緣故，出現於世。」這個大事就不是平常的事，就是所有人的生死大事！佛爲了令眾生開示悟入佛之知見，才說《法華經》，因爲「一切眾生皆有佛性，皆堪作佛。」

然古德云：

修行空華萬行，宴坐水月道場；

降伏鏡裏魔軍，大作夢中佛事。

十方三世一切諸佛，住世之緣將了，必講這部《法華經》；而過去多寶古佛爲表示擁護，穿越諸剎塵劫，也必來聆聽這部《法華經》。經海浩瀚，若論三藏十二部經流通之廣久，信奉之深遠，當以本經爲最。

上人提到：「這一部經，是經中最究竟的一部經！」所謂「開慧的楞嚴，成佛的法華」，想要成佛，一定要學《法華經》。所以《法華經》可說是一部自性經，也是成佛的源泉。願此新版《妙法蓮華經淺釋》的問世，令眾生超越凡夫地，趣入一切如來的菩提果。

編者按：精裝《妙法蓮華經淺釋》，一套十冊，已於2008年12月出版印出。

*Lotus Flower Sutra* in MP3's, catching up with a most popular multimedia format nowadays. This is indeed a torch passed on for the DRBA Buddhist Text Translation Society.

There are reasons why sages teach. The *Lotus Sutra* says, "All the Buddhas, the World Honored Ones, appear in the world only because of the causes and conditions of the great matter." This great matter is nothing ordinary; it is the matter of birth and death for everyone! The Buddha lectured on the *Lotus Sutra* to lead sentient beings to the way Buddhas view things. After all, "All beings have the Buddha nature and can become Buddhas."

The ancients said:

*The myriad conducts cultivated are like flowers in space;  
Sitting at banquets in monasteries is like the moon's  
reflection in water;*

*Tame the demon armies in the mirror,  
And vastly do the Buddhas' work while dreaming.*

All Buddhas throughout the ten directions and the three periods of time speak about the contents of the *Lotus Sutra* when their affinities to abide in the world are coming to a close. The Buddha of antiquity, Many Jewels, will definitely travel across lands and eons to come and listen to this sutra as a show of his support. The sea of sutras is vast. Among the Buddhist canon, this sutra is the foremost in its reach through circulation and depth in terms of faith.

The Venerable Master had mentioned, "This sutra is the most ultimate among the sutras!" So it's said, "The Shurangama uncovers wisdom while the Lotus brings about Buddhahood." We must study the *Lotus Sutra* if we want to become Buddhas. The *Lotus Sutra* is a sutra about our inherent nature and the spring to realizing Buddhahood. May this new edition of *A Simple Explanation of the Wonderful Dharma Lotus Flower Sutra* lead living beings to transcendence, going beyond the level of common men and enter the fruition of all Thus Come Ones' Bodhi.

Editor's note: The ten-volume, hardcover set of *A Simple Explanation of the Wonderful Dharma Lotus Flower Sutra* in Chinese was just published in December 2008.

