The Dharma Flower Sutra with Commentary

Chapter Twenty: Never slighting bodhisattva

> Revised version Translated by the International Translation Institute Commentary by the Venerable Master Hua

「千劫於阿鼻地獄受大苦惱」:他 們在一千劫的時間裡,在阿鼻地獄 受大苦惱。

「畢是罪已,復遇常不輕菩薩,教 化阿耨多羅三藐三菩提」:他們受完 罪報之後,又再托生做人;他們又 遇著這一位常不輕菩薩,來教化 他們,令他們發阿耨多羅三藐三 菩提這無上正等正覺的心。

得大勢,於汝意云何?爾時四衆 常輕是菩薩者,豈異人乎?今此 會中,跋陀婆羅等五百菩薩,師 子月等五百比丘,尼思佛等五百 優婆塞,皆於阿耨多羅三藐三菩 提不退轉者是。

「得大勢,於汝意云何」: 大勢至菩薩!在你的意思裡,怎 麼樣啊?「爾時四眾常輕是菩薩 者,豈異人乎」:當時比丘、比 丘尼、優婆塞、優婆夷這四眾弟 子,常輕慢常不輕菩薩的這一些 個人,你知道嗎?他們也不是旁 人,是誰呢?

「今此會中,跋陀婆羅等五 百菩薩」:就是現在我們這個法 會裡邊,這跋陀婆羅等五百位菩 薩,他們都是那時候的增上慢四 眾弟子。跋陀婆羅是梵語,翻譯 為善守。以前因為他增上慢、不 守規矩,現在又受常不輕菩薩教 化,他就善守規矩、善守戒律 了。這有五百位菩薩,單單舉出

Commentary:

They suffered great agony in the Avici Hell for a thousand kalpas. After having settled the retribution of their offenses, they once again met with Never-Slighting Bodhisattva, who taught and transformed them to anuttarasamyaksambodhi. After they had finished undergoing the retribution of their offenses, they were once again reborn as human beings, and met with the Bodhisattva Never-Slighting again. He taught and transformed them to bring forth the resolve for anuttarasamyaksambodhi, the unsurpassed, right and equal, right enlightenment.

Sutra:

Great Strength, what do you think? Could the fourfold assembly at that time who often slighted this Bodhisattva be anyone else? They were the five hundred Bodhisattvas including Bhadrapala Bodhisattva and others in this assembly; the five hundred Bhikshus including Bhikshu Lion Moon and others; and the five hundred Upasakas including Sugatachetana and others, all of who will now never retreat from *anuttarasamyaksambodhi*.

Commentary:

Great Strength, what do you think? Could the fourfold assembly at that time who often slighted this Bodhisattva be anyone else? Do you know who the

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跋陀婆羅這一位菩薩作為上首。

「師子月等五百比丘」:有一位比 丘,他說法像獅子吼,他的智慧猶如月 光,所以叫師子月。師子月等五百位比 丘,也是當時增上慢的四眾弟子。「尼 思佛等五百優婆塞」:又有一些個優婆 塞,為首的是「尼思佛」;這也是當時 增上慢的四眾弟子。「皆於阿耨多羅三 藐三菩提不退轉者是」:現在他們在無 上正等正覺這佛的果位上,都已經修到 不退轉的境界,不會再墮落了。

得大勢!當知是法華經,大饒益諸菩薩 摩訶薩,能令至於阿耨多羅三藐三菩 提。是故諸菩薩摩訶薩,於如來滅後, 常應受持、讀誦、解說、書寫是經。

「得大勢!當知是法華經」:大勢至 菩薩!你應該知道,這一部《妙法蓮華 經》,「大饒益諸菩薩摩訶薩,能令至 於阿耨多羅三藐三菩提」:對於一切的 大菩薩摩訶薩,都有大的利益。有什麼 大的饒益呢?能使令這一切的菩薩、大 菩薩,都決定能得到這無上正等正覺的 果位。

「是故諸菩薩摩訶薩,於如來滅後」:因 為這個,所以這一切的菩薩和大菩薩,在 我釋迦牟尼佛滅度之後,「常應受持、 讀誦、解說、書寫是經」:應該常常受 持這一部《妙法蓮華經》,應當常常讀 這一部《妙法蓮華經》,應該常常背誦 這一部《妙法蓮華經》,又應該常常靜 說這一部《妙法蓮華經》,又應該常常 書寫這一部《妙法蓮華經》,又應該常常 書寫這一部《妙法蓮華經》。你作多少 功德,就得到多少的益處,絕對沒有虛 妄的!

我們人聽經,要越聽越歡喜聽,越 歡喜聽越聽;學佛法,要比吃蜜糖更歡 喜。佛法就是甘露,甘露是天上一種不 死的藥。我們聽佛法,可以由迷轉悟, 由不明白得到明白。佛為什麼說佛法? 就因為要眾生明白佛法。 Bhikshus, Bhikshunis, Upasakas and Upasikas of the fourfold assembly who slighted Bodhisattva Never Slighting were at that time? They were none other than persons familiar to you. Who are they?

They were the five hundred Bodhisattvas including Bhadrapala Bodhisattva and others in this assembly. They were among the arrogant fourfold assembly at that time. "Bhadrapala" is Sanskrit, meaning "Skillful in Guarding." In the past, he was arrogant and didn't follow the rules, but having been taught by Bodhisattva Never Slighting, he became one skillful in following the rules and guarding the precepts. Among these five hundred Bodhisattvas, Bodhisattva Bhadrapala was cited as the leader.

The five hundred Bhikshus including Bhikshu Lion Moon and others were also among the arrogant fourfold assembly. There was one Bhikshu who roared like a lion when he spoke the Dharma, and whose wisdom was like the moon, and so he was called Lion Moon. And the five hundred Upasakas including Sugatachetana and others were also among the arrogant fourfold assembly at that time with Upasaka Sugatachetana as leader. All of who will now never retreat from *anuttarasamyaksambodhi*. Now on the path to Buddhahood, the unsurpassed, equal and right enlightenment, these people have cultivated to the level where they would never retreat nor descend into the lower paths again.

Sutra:

Great Strength, you should know that this *Dharma Flower Sutra* greatly benefits all the Bodhisattvas Mahasattvas and could enable them to arrive at *anuttarasamyakambodhi*. Therefore, after the Tathagata's passing, all Bodhisattvas Mahasattvas should always receive, uphold, read, recite, explain and copy out this Sutra.

Commentary:

Great Strength, you should know that this *Dharma Flower Sutra* greatly benefits all the Bodhisattvas Mahasattvas and could enable them to arrive at *anuttarasamyakambodhi*. What great benefits does this Sutra bring? It could lead all the great Bodhisattvas Mahasattvas to surely attain the fruition of unsurpassed, equal and right enlightenment.

Therefore, after the Tathagata's passing, all Bodhisattvas Mahasattvas should always receive, uphold, read, recite, explain and copy out this Sutra. Because of this, all the great Bodhisattvas Mahasattvas should always receive, uphold, read, recite, explain and copy out the *Lotus Sutra*. According to the amount of merit and virtue a person creates, he will receive that much benefit. It will absolutely not be in vain.

When listening to sutra lectures, it should be the case that the more we listen, the more we want to hear; and the more we like to listen, the more often we get to hear it. Studying the Buddhadharma should be even more delightful than eating honey. The Buddhadharma is sweet dew. Sweet dew is the medicine of immortality from heaven. By listening to the Buddhadharma, people can turn from confusion to awakening and change their lack of understanding to understanding. Why did the Buddha speak the Dharma? It is so that living beings can understand it. Proper Dharma

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