

妙法蓮華經淺釋

The Dharma Flower Sutra with Commentary



【囑累品第二十二】

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO: THE ENTRUSTMENT

修訂版 Revised version

宣化上人講解

國際譯經學院記錄翻譯

Commentary by the Venerable Master Hua

Translated by the International Translation Institute

這是釋迦牟尼佛說了經典，吩咐一切的菩薩、一切的弟子要來流通這部經典：「你們將來應該受持、讀誦這《妙法蓮華經》！你們各位菩薩應該書寫、為人講說《妙法蓮華經》！等我入涅槃之後，你們儘量對一般人來弘揚、宣傳這一部《妙法蓮華經》！」所以叫「囑累」。

再舉一個你們很容易懂的。怎麼叫「囑累」？好像我們現在辦這份《金剛菩提海》雜誌，我就告訴他們：「你快點做，下個月早一點把它做出來，寄出給人。」這就是囑累。就是這個，沒有旁的。你們現在大約都懂了？這現前的事情這麼一說，你們都知道這個意思了；不然的時候，怎麼叫「囑累」？就是叫我們大家來做去！

因為當初，或者你也在釋迦牟尼佛這個法會，我也在這個法會，我們大家都是聽過釋迦牟尼佛這個囑累，所以現在我們又講說《妙法蓮華經》，又聽聞《妙法蓮華經》，又要來受持、讀誦、書寫這《妙法蓮華經》。我們現在這種工作就是受釋迦牟尼佛的囑累——你們聽經也是這個工作，我講經也都是這個工作。我們都是聽釋迦牟尼佛這個法，現在都照這個法去做！

After Śākyamuni Buddha expounded this Sūtra, he entrusted all the Bodhisattvas and his disciples with the work of propagating this Sūtra. Therefore, this chapter is called *The Entrustment*. The Buddha instructed them, “In the future, you should uphold, read, recite, write out, and explain to others this *Wondrous Dharma Lotus Sūtra*. After I enter nirvana, you should try your best to disseminate the *Wondrous Dharma Lotus Sūtra* far and wide.”

What is an entrustment? Let me give you a simple example concerning our journal, *Vajra Bodhi Sea*. I say to people, “Hurry up! We need to quickly finish next month’s issue so that we can mail it out earlier.” That is a form of entrustment. I hope you can understand the meaning of entrustment from this example. Why is it an entrustment? It motivates everyone to work on it.

Perhaps you and I were in the assembly of Śākyamuni Buddha at that time and heard this entrustment. So now we are here, with me lecturing on the *Wondrous Dharma Lotus Sūtra*, you listening to the *Wondrous Dharma Lotus Sūtra*, and all of us upholding, reading, reciting, and writing out the *Wondrous Dharma Lotus Sūtra*. We are now carrying out the work that Śākyamuni Buddha entrusted to us. When we listen to the Sūtra and expound on the Sūtra, we are doing this work. We are following Śākyamuni Buddha’s instructions. Having heard this Dharma from Śākyamuni Buddha, we practice accordingly.

This entrustment concerns the propagation of Sūtras. The Dharma-protecting laypeople of the Buddhist Lecture Hall, which is under the auspices of the Sino-American Buddhist Association, are planning to print the *Sixth Patriarch’s Dharma Jewel Platform Sūtra*. This Sūtra is easy

囑累，也就是流通。現在由中美佛教會、佛教講堂各位護法居士，大家來發心想印《六祖壇經》；這一部《六祖壇經》是有註解的，所以人看著很容易懂的。在美國這一切的眾生，我覺得和《六祖壇經》很有緣的，所以我們要發起印這部經。

最好每一個人都發一個大乘菩提心，不要發小乘菩提心；大乘，就要做一個法的布施。法的布施，勝過一切財的布施；但是法的布施，也要有財的布施來幫助。你先用錢來印經，把經印出來，才能送給人；這樣你就不會講經，也和你講經的功德是一樣的，因為這已經有註解了！

我們這個講堂很小的，有很多人想來聽經，就怕沒有地方坐，要站著聽，覺得很辛苦，所以就沒有那麼多人來。現在你做法的布施，送給你的親戚朋友，他們沒有時間來聽經，他們可以看經。一看這個經就懂了，對佛法就有認識了——就算不能完全認識，多多少少他們明白一點了。這就是你來教化他，令他們發菩提心！（所以現在我們印這個《六祖壇經》，都希望每一個人，盡你自己的能力，發心印多一點。最低限度，一個人印十部，我相信十部都不夠，要印百部、千部、一萬部，那是最好了。）

我在香港的時候，我儘量提倡印經。在我初到香港那時候，一部經書也沒有；你想找一部經書，那是非常困難，因為從來都很少人印經。那時候，我先印《法華經》；我們這兒講《楞嚴經》用的本子，也是在香港講《楞嚴經》的時候印的。我這麼一提倡印經，以後其他的佛教團體也都發起印經來了，影響得現在香港佛經很多。

現在到美國這兒，佛經也很少，我們現在先發起來印經；一個人若印多一點，這就是弘揚佛法的一個辦法。你一方面印經，一方面又開你自己的智慧。你智慧為什麼沒有開呢？為什麼你這麼迷？就因為功德還不夠，你就少智慧。你若功德大了，就有智慧了，就沒有愚癡了，也不迷了，就覺悟了。說是：「放生也要做功德，印經也要做功德，又要供養三寶，也要做功德；我做了很多功德，怎麼我還這麼迷呢？」

你覺得你做得很多，其實你做的功德還是很少的。

☸待續

to understand because it has a commentary. I feel that all the living beings in the United States have a great affinity with the *Sixth Patriarch's Dharma Jewel Platform Sūtra*, so we want to promote the printing of this Sūtra.

Ideally, everyone should make a bodhi resolve for the Great Vehicle. Do not make a Bodhi resolve for the Lesser Vehicle. A Great Vehicle resolve includes practicing the giving of Dharma. The gift of Dharma surpasses all other gifts, including the gift of wealth, but the gift of Dharma needs to be facilitated by the gift of wealth. First, you use money to print sūtras. You can then give these sūtras to people. You may not know how to lecture on sūtras, but if you give people sūtras with commentaries, you gain the same merit as if you had lectured on the sūtras.

Since this lecture hall is very small, not many people can attend the lectures. If too many people were to come, there would not be enough seats. They would have to stand through the lecture, which would be very uncomfortable. If you give the gift of Dharma to your friends and relatives, then even if they cannot come to the lectures, they can read the sūtras and understand the Buddhadharmā. They may not completely understand it, yet they will at least grasp a little bit. In this way you inspire them to bring forth the resolve for Bodhi. Now we are printing the *Sixth Patriarch's Sūtra*, I hope all of you will contribute as much as you can to print this Sūtra. Each person should print at least ten copies. I don't believe ten copies would be enough. If you can print a hundred, a thousand, or ten thousand copies, that will be the best.

I always advocated the printing of Sūtras when I was in Hong Kong. When I first arrived in Hong Kong, there were very few Sūtras available. It was very difficult to find even a single Sūtra, because Sūtras were rarely printed there. First I printed the *Dharma Flower Sūtra* and the *Sūrangama Sūtra*. The copies of the *Sūrangama Sūtra* that we used during the lecture here were printed in Hong Kong back then. Later on other Buddhist organizations followed my example, and now there are many Sūtras in Hong Kong.

There are very few Sūtras in America right now. Therefore, we should take the initiative to print Sūtras. Everyone should print more Sūtras. Printing Sūtras is a way of propagating the Buddhadharmā. By printing Sūtras, you develop your own wisdom. Why hasn't your wisdom opened up yet? It's because you have very little merit. If your merit is scanty, your wisdom will be shallow. If you have a lot of merit, you will be wise and free of delusion. When you are no longer confused, you will become enlightened. Why are you so confused? It is because you lack merit.

"I've liberated creatures, printed Sūtras, and made offerings to the Three Jewels. Why am I still so confused after having done all these meritorious deeds?" you ask.

You think you have earned lot of merit, but actually it is very little.

☸To be continued