

妙法蓮華經淺釋

The Dharma Flower Sutra with Commentary

【藥王菩薩本事品第二十三】

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE:

THE FORMER DEEDS OF MEDICINE KING BODHISATTVA

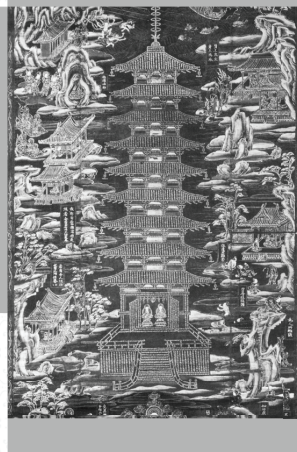
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宣化上人講解

國際譯經學院記錄翻譯

Commentary by the Venerable Master Hua

Translated by the International Translation Institute



「爾時，日月淨明德佛告一切衆生喜見菩薩」：在這個時候，日月淨明德佛見著方才在自己面前焚身供佛的菩薩又回來了，就很高興。他就告訴一切眾生喜見菩薩說，「善男子！我涅槃時到，滅盡時至，汝可安施床座」：你這個特別好的男子，你現在又來了！正好我就要入涅槃了，我涅槃的時候到了！我所應該教化的眾生已經教化完了，我現在要入滅了，你現在把我的床好好給我收拾一下，給我安好床座，預備好。「我於今夜，當般涅槃」：我在今天晚間十二點鐘的時候，我就要入大般涅槃了。

佛出世的時候，都是在白天，表示陽光照耀世界；佛入滅的時候，都在半夜，表示陰暗。不是說佛一入滅後，這世界就黑暗了，而是說要等到佛法滅了之後，這世界就黑暗了。佛入滅，還有佛法在世間，這世界還是光明的；如果一點佛法

Then Buddha Pure Bright Virtue Resembling the Sun and Moon said to Bodhisattva All Beings Delight in Seeing,...The Buddha was very glad to see this Bodhisattva come back after he had burned himself as an offering. The Buddha said to Bodhisattva All Beings Delight in Seeing, “Good man, the time of my parinirvana has arrived. You showed up just in time. **The time for my passing into stillness has arrived.** I have finished teaching all those living beings whom I was supposed to teach and transform, and it is now time for me to enter nirvana. **You may arrange a couch for me.** Get my bed ready, for tonight I shall enter parinirvana at around twelve midnight.”

A Buddha is always born in the daytime, which represents the sun shining on the world. A Buddha always enters nirvana at midnight, which signifies darkness. When a Buddha enters nirvana, the world becomes dark. There is not an immediate plunge into darkness. The reference to darkness is a metaphor meaning that after the demise of the Buddhadharma, the world will enter a stage of spiritual darkness. After the Buddha enters nirvana, the Buddhadharma remains in the world, and so the world is still bright. If not the slightest trace of Buddhadharma existed, the world would be as dark as night.

都沒有了，世界就黑暗了，就和晚間是一樣了。

又敕一切衆生喜見菩薩：善男子！我以佛法，囑累於汝，及諸菩薩大弟子，並阿耨多羅三藐三菩提法，亦以三千大千七寶世界，諸寶樹寶臺，及給侍諸天，悉付於汝。我滅度後，所有舍利，亦付囑汝，當令流布，廣設供養，應起若干千塔。

「又敕一切衆生喜見菩薩」：在這個時候，日月淨明德佛又敕命這位一切眾生喜見菩薩，「善男子！我以佛法，囑累於汝，及諸菩薩大弟子」：善男子！我把所有的佛法都交給你了，都囑託給你了，你要多一點辛苦了！不但佛法我託付給你，就是這所有的菩薩和一切的大弟子，「並阿耨多羅三藐三菩提法」：並和佛弟子所受的無上正等正覺這種法。

「亦以三千大千七寶世界，諸寶樹寶臺」：也把三千大千七寶的世界，又有寶樹和寶臺——寶樹，代表願王；寶臺，代表譬喻的諸法空。「及給侍諸天，悉付於汝」：給侍，就是侍候佛，來給佛做工、收拾地方，或者給佛倒茶，幫佛做這種種的工作。這是諸天給做的事情，現在我全部都交給你了。

「我滅度後，所有舍利，亦付囑汝」：等我入涅槃之後，所有舍利，也統統都囑咐給你，你來管理、辦理這件事情。「當令流布，廣設供養，應起若干千塔」：你應該將佛法也流通，將舍利也流佈，廣多地來設供養，建造若干千塔來供養佛法和舍利。若干，就是沒有一定的數目，或者有八萬四千這麼多。

「如是日月淨明德佛，敕一切衆生喜見菩薩已」：像這樣子，日月淨明德佛，敕一切眾生喜見菩薩應該做的工作，完了之後，「於夜後分，入於涅槃」：在半夜十二點以後，日月淨明德佛就入涅槃了。

Sūtra:

Furthermore, he instructed Bodhisattva All Beings Delight in Seeing, “Good man, I entrust you with the Buddhadharma, all the Bodhisattvas, great disciples, as well as the Dharma of anuttarā samyaksaṃbodhi. I also entrust to you the worlds of the seven treasures throughout the trichiliocosm, with their jeweled trees, jeweled platforms, and heavenly attendants. After my passing into stillness, I also entrust to you all my śarīra. You should distribute these śarīra far and wide, make numerous offerings to them, and build thousands of stūpas to house them.”

Commentary:

Furthermore, he instructed Bodhisattva All Beings Delight in Seeing, “Good man, I entrust you with the entirety of the Buddhadharma. You will have greater responsibilities to shoulder. Not only do I entrust you with the Buddhadharma, I also entrust to you all the Bodhisattvas, great disciples, as well as the Dharma of anuttarā samyaksaṃbodhi, which is the Dharma of the unsurpassed, complete, perfect awakening upheld by all Buddhist disciples.

I also entrust to you the worlds of the seven treasures throughout the trichiliocosm, with their jeweled trees, jeweled platforms, and heavenly attendants. “Jeweled trees” represent the kings of vows; “jeweled platforms” represent the emptiness of all phenomena. The “heavenly attendants” are gods who serve the Buddha, doing his housecleaning, serving him tea, and performing other such chores. The Buddha entrusted all these responsibilities to the Bodhisattva All Beings Delight in Seeing.

The Buddha continued, “After my passing into stillness, I also entrust to you all my śarīra. I will give you custody of my śarīra. You should distribute these śarīra far and wide. You must not only propagate the Buddhadharma, but also distribute my śarīra widely, make numerous offerings to them, and build thousands of stūpas to house them. The number of stūpas is not fixed and could be as many as eighty-four thousand.”

In this way, Buddha Pure Bright Virtue Resembling the Sun and Moon, having instructed Bodhisattva All Beings Delight in Seeing, entered nirvana during the latter half of the night. After assigning the Bodhisattva his duties, Buddha Pure Bright Virtue Resembling the Sun and Moon entered nirvana sometime after twelve midnight.

☞ To be continued