



正法印  
PROPER DHARMA SEAL

# 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

修訂版 Revised version

宣化上人講解

國際譯經學院記錄翻譯

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「如闇得燈」：這黑暗的地方，你看不見東西，視而不見；若有一盞燈，就什麼都看得見了。這《法華經》，也就是暗室的明燈。

「如貧得寶」：又有一個比喻，比喻貧窮的人，現在得到七寶了，金、銀、琉璃、玻瓈、磈磈、赤珠、瑪瑙，什麼寶貝都得到了！

「如民得王」：又好像一般老百姓，若是沒有一個國王，他就該亂了；現在這老百姓也得到國王了。

「如賈客得海」：這行商坐賈——做生意的各處去跑，這叫「商」；坐那地方賣東西，這叫「賈」。賈客，都是賣珠寶的，這珠寶在什麼地方得的？在海裡得的。所以譬喻好像這個賈客，得到大海裡的珠寶一樣。這個字，本來是姓賈的「賈」（音「甲」），現在應該讀賈（音「古」），這個你們都應該要知道。你若說「賈（音「甲」）客」，那就是念白字了！

「如炬除闇」：又好像火炬，能把這一切黑暗都除去了。

**As one in a dark place finds a lamp.** In a dark room, you can't see anything. If you light a lamp, then you can see everything. The Dharma Flower Sūtra is a bright lamp in a dark room.

**As a poor person finds treasure.** In this analogy, someone with nothing obtains the seven treasures of gold, silver, vaiḍūrya, crystal, mother of pearl, red pearl, carnelian, and all kinds of other precious items.

**As subjects find a king.** If the subjects do not have a king, there is chaos. Now they have a king.

**As a merchant finds the sea.** In Chinese, there are two kinds of merchants, itinerant and stationary. What do merchants sell? They sell jewels, which are found and taken from the sea. So, it is as if a merchant has found precious pearls and other treasures in the sea.

**And as a torch dispels darkness.** Previously, the text mentioned a lamp illuminating a dark room. Now it refers to a torch that drives away all the darkness.

Just as those mentioned in the twelve analogies obtain what they need, *the Dharma Flower Sūtra, in the same way, enables living beings to leave behind all suffering, sickness, and pain, so that they find contentment. The Wonderful Dharma Lotus Sūtra can also enable all living*

「此法華經亦復如是」：這一部《妙法蓮華經》，也就好像前邊那十二個譬喻是一樣的。「能令眾生離一切苦、一切病痛」：能使令一切眾生，離開一切的苦惱，也能令一切眾生離一切的病痛，得一切的快樂。「能解一切生死之縛」：「生死」就好像一條繩子似的，把我們綁住了；現在你受持讀誦《法華經》，能把生死的這個綁縛，都可以解開了，都得到自由了，得到解脫了。

若人得聞此法華經，若自書，若使人書，所得功德，以佛智慧，籌量多少，不得其邊。若書是經卷，華香、瓔珞、燒香、末香、塗香、幡蓋、衣服、種種之燈、酥燈、油燈、諸香油燈、蒼蔔油燈、須曼那油燈、波羅羅油燈、婆利師迦油燈、那婆摩利油燈供養，所得功德，亦復無量。

「若人得聞此法華經」：假使有人能以有善根、有善的因緣，能聽聞到這部《妙法蓮華經》，或者受持，或者讀誦，或者為人解說，「若自書，若使人書」：或者自己書寫，或者用錢請人來幫著寫；因為自己不認字，沒有法子寫字。「所得功德，以佛智慧，籌量多少，不得其邊」：所得的這種功德，就是用佛這種無所不知、無所不明的智慧，來算一算、較量一下，看看這個功德有多少，也沒有法子知道這功德的邊際。

「若書是經卷」：假使有人，書寫這一部《妙法蓮華經》的經卷的時候，「華香、瓔珞」：或者用種種的花、種種的香來供養，或者你用瓔珞來供養這部經；「燒香、末香、塗香」：或者是用種種的燒香、末香、塗香，來供養這部經典；「幡蓋、衣服」：或者在經典前邊給懸上一個幡，或者做一個寶蓋，或者用種種的寶衣來供養這部經典。

「種種之燈、酥燈、油燈、諸香油燈」：或者又用種種的燈，來供養這部經典。好像酥油的燈，就是蠟燭；油燈，就是用普通油來點的燈；或者用種種的香油來點燈。

☯待續

beings to leave behind the suffering and pains caused by sickness. It can release them from all the bonds of birth and death. Birth and death are like ropes that bind us. Reading and reciting the *Dharma Flower Sūtra*, living beings can untie the knots of birth and death, liberating themselves and obtaining freedom.

#### **Sūtra:**

**If there are those who hear the Dharma Flower Sūtra and write it out themselves or have others write it out, the amount of merit they obtain cannot be determined even using the Buddha's wisdom.**

**If, while writing out this sūtra, they make offerings to it of flowers, incense, jeweled necklaces, burning incense, powdered incense, and paste incense, pennants and canopies, clothing, or assorted lamps, such as butter lamps, oil lamps, lamps of fragrant oil, lamps of campaka oil, lamps of sumanā oil, lamps of pāṭala oil, lamps of vārṣika oil, and lamps of navamālikā oil, the merit obtained is also immeasurable.**

#### **Commentary:**

If there are those who have the good roots and good causal conditions to hear the *Dharma Flower Sūtra* and either uphold, read, explain, or write it out themselves or have others hired to write it out on their behalf (perhaps because they are illiterate and cannot copy the sūtra themselves, so they pay someone to do it for them), the amount of merit they obtain cannot be determined even using the Buddha's wisdom. Even if one could use the Buddha's omniscient wisdom to figure out how much merit these people obtain, one would not be able to determine the scope of such merit.

If, while writing out this *Wonderful Dharma Lotus Sūtra*, they make offerings to it of all kinds of flowers and incense, as well as offerings of jeweled necklaces, burning incense, powdered incense, and paste incense, pennants and precious canopies hung in front of the sūtra, or assorted clothing, or assorted lamps, such as butter lamps, oil lamps, or lamps of fragrant oil. You may make offerings to this sūtra using various lamps. Butter lamps are like candles. Oil lamps are lamps lit with ordinary oil. You may also make offerings with lamps lit with fragrant oil.

☯To be continued