

妙法蓮華經淺釋

The Dharma Flower Sutra with Commentary

【觀世音菩薩普門品第二十五】

Chapter Twenty-Five: The Universal Door of Guanyin Bodhisattva

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 English Translated by the International Translation Institute

這觀世音菩薩,他也示現佛身來度 一切應該成佛的眾生,也現菩薩身來度 一切應該成菩薩的眾生,也現天上的天 王身來度一切眾生。總而言之,這個眾 生應該以什麼身得度的,觀世音菩薩就 示現什麼身,來給這一類的眾生說法。

在佛教裏, 觀世音菩薩各處去教化 眾生。所以, 他要度一切眾生發菩提 心, 先看這個眾生歡喜什麼, 投其所 好, 他就說什麼法; 這個人也都歡喜 聽, 於是就把這個眾生度了。所以說, 觀世音菩薩也不一定是男身, 也不一定 是女身, 他也是男身, 也是女身, 不過 都是變化身。觀世音菩薩的本體, 是如 如不動的, 和佛是一樣。並且觀世音菩 薩在很久以前, 就已經成佛, 佛號為「 正法明如來」。

現在他化菩薩身來教化眾生,在佛 教中,他現菩薩身;在外道裏,他也現 外道的身,所以往往有一位穿著白衣服 的,在耶穌教裏就說她是聖母。其實, 這位聖母是誰呢?就是觀世音菩薩, 去教化那一類的眾生。他示現穿白衣服 Guanyin Bodhisattva may appear as a Buddha to rescue living beings who are ready for Buddhahood. She may also appear as a Bodhisattva to rescue living beings whose conditions are ripe to become Bodhisattvas. Or she may appear as a heavenly king to rescue living beings. In short, Guanyin Bodhisattva will manifest in whatever form living beings will respond to when she begins to teach them the Dharma.

In Buddhism, Guanyin Bodhisattva goes everywhere to teach and transform living beings. In order to inspire living beings to make the Bodhi resolve, the Bodhisattva first observes what delights living beings before teaching them whatever Dharma suits their liking. She has taken them across successfully when they enjoy hearing her Dharma. Therefore, Guanyin Bodhisattva is not necessarily male or female; she can be either male or female, but these are her transformation bodies. Just like the Buddhas, Guanyin Bodhisattva's essential substance is thus and unmoving. As a matter of fact, Guanyin Bodhisattva realized Buddhahood a long time ago. She was known as Tathāgata Light of Proper Dharma.

She now manifests as a Bodhisattva to teach and transform living beings. She appears as a Bodhisattva in Buddhism, but she may also appear as other personages in non-Buddhist religions. In Christianity, there was a lady in white known as the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus. Who was she? 的樣子,一般的耶穌教說這是聖母, 其實就是觀世音菩薩去顯現,令這個 眾生來發心。無論早晚,都會令他明 白佛法;明白佛法之後,就要發菩提 心。這是觀世音菩薩這種妙用無窮的 不可思議境界。

「觀世音菩薩」這幾個字,「觀」 是一種觀智, 能觀的智慧;「世音」 是所觀的境界。這能觀的智慧, 觀這 個所觀的境界, 觀這個世間所有一切 的境界、所有一切的音聲。這音聲, 有苦聲樂聲, 有善聲惡聲, 有好聲壞 聲, 觀世音菩薩觀看世界種種的音 聲, 他就令眾生遂心滿願——眾生無 論求什麼, 只要向觀世音菩薩祈求, 觀世音菩薩一定會令他遂心滿願。

所謂「一切眾生若干種音,菩薩 悉知悉見」,無論有什麼聲音,這一 位菩薩都知道。為什麼?因為他一天 到晚盡觀世界的音聲,觀一觀這地方 有什麼音聲?觀一觀那地方又有什麼 音聲?本來音聲是聽的,怎麼他說「 看」呢?音聲你能看得見嗎?你看不 見,但是觀世音菩薩能看得見,像看 雷達那個境界是一樣的;因為觀世音 菩薩他那兒有雷達,每一個眾生都有 電波,你這個電波發出的什麼音波, 他都知道。這是一種講法。

還有一種講法,因為觀世音菩薩眼 睛雖然說是「觀音聲」,也就是用眼 睛可以聽;這眼睛不單可以看,而且 又可以聽。為什麼這樣子呢?因為他 有六根互用的神通。一般人若修《法 華經》,得到法華三昧,或者得到六 根清淨這種境界,都可以六根互用, 何況觀世音菩薩呢!所以觀世音菩薩 耳朵也能看、也會說話、又會吃東 西,他眼睛會聽、也會想東西。這六 根互用的境界,觀世音菩薩很早以前 就得到了,所以他能觀世音。 She was actually Guanyin Bodhisattva, who had manifested to teach and transform that specific group of living beings. The Bodhisattva appeared as a lady in white, and the Christians called her the Virgin Mary, but in fact she was a manifestation of Guanyin Bodhisattva.

The Bodhisattva inspires living beings to make the Bodhi resolve and enables them to eventually understand the Buddhadharma. When they have understood the Buddhadharma, they aspire for bodhi. That is an inconceivable consequence of Guanyin Bodhisattva's inexhaustible, wondrous applications.

Lokita [from the Bodhisattva's Sanskrit name, Avalokiteśvara] represents the wisdom of contemplation; eśvara represents the states or the sounds of the world that the Bodhisattva contemplates. Guanyin Bodhisattva can discern all sounds.

The Bodhisattva can discern and understand the myriad sounds of living beings; she knows every single sound. Why? Because she contemplates the sounds of the world all day long. She contemplates sounds from everywhere. Sounds are heard, not seen. Why is it said that she contemplates or observes them? Can you see sounds? No. But Guanyin Bodhisattva can see them. You can't see sounds, but she can. She sees them as if they were on a radar screen. Every living being manifests as a blip on her radar. She can chart your every sound. That's one way to explain it.

There's another explanation. Guanyin Bodhisattva can also see with her ears and hear with her eyes. Even though we say that she contemplates the sounds of the world, she can also hear the sounds with her eyes. Not only can she see with her eyes, she can hear with them as well. Why? Because she has the spiritual powers that enable her six sense faculties to function interchangeably. Those who cultivate the *Dharma Flower Sūtra* and attain either the Dharma Flower samādhi or the purity of the six sense faculties will be able to use the six sense faculties interchangeably. Imagine how much greater Guanyin Bodhisattva's powers are. Therefore, Guanyin Bodhisattva can speak with her ears, eat with her ears, listen with her eyes, and think with her eyes. Guanyin Bodhisattva attained the state where her six sense faculties function interchangeably a long, long time ago, and so she is able to contemplate the sounds of the world.

£5To be continued