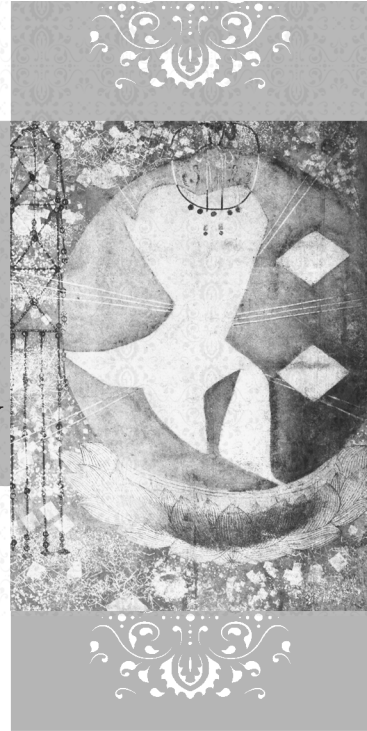




正法印
PROPER DHARMA SEAL

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

佛法好像大海一樣，你連一滴海水都還沒有喝，你就嫌多？那將來這麼大一個海的水，一定喝不完的。不過，只要盡你的力量，需要多少就用多少，佛法是取之不盡、用之不竭的——你取也取不完，用也用不完。所以應盡你的力量來利用佛法。

這是因為「藥珠」的意思，所以要說〈普門品〉。

第二個意思，叫「顯密」；顯是明顯，密是秘密。言其你誦〈觀世音菩薩普門品〉，有時候就得到明顯的感應，有時候就得到秘密的感應。

明顯的感應，就是人人能看見，人人也都懂得。譬如觀世音菩薩救護眾生，〈普門品〉上說：「設入大火，火不能燒」。《楞嚴經》上，觀音菩薩述耳根圓通時也說「火不能燒」。譬如你正在房裡，房外邊無意中起了火，或者鄰居起了火了，這時候，只要你一心相信觀世音菩薩，能誠心念觀世音菩薩，真真地有信心，那麼即使鄰居的房子燒了，你的房子也不會

The Buddhadharma is like a vast sea, and you have yet to sip even a single drop. How can you complain that it's too much? You'll never be able to drink it all. Although you can't drink it all, you can drink your fill according to your capacity. The Buddhadharma is endless for the taking and inexhaustible in its function. So you should try your best to practice the Buddha's teachings.

The "Universal Door" chapter is taught because it works like the Medicine King tree and the wish-fulfilling pearl.

2. There are two kinds of responses: exoteric and esoteric. When you recite the "Universal Door" chapter, sometimes you will obtain an exoteric response, and other times you will obtain an esoteric response.

An exoteric response is one that everyone can see and understand. Consider this example in the "Universal Door" chapter, "If living beings upholding the name of Guanyin Bodhisattva fall into a great fire, the fire will not burn them." In the *Sūraṅgama Sūtra*, Guanyin Bodhisattva explained her awakening through the ear faculty. That sūtra also says, "The fire will not burn them."

Although a great fire may blaze, if you single-mindedly believe in Guanyin Bodhisattva and recite her name with true faith, then while the houses around yours may burn down, yours will not. This applies only when a fire breaks out accidentally. If you think, "Let me test the Bodhisattva. Let me start a fire to see if my house will

燒的。可是這要無意中的，而不是故意。如果你故意去點一把火，試試看這個房子燒不燒？那一定燒的！為什麼？因為你是想試驗觀世音菩薩！

為什麼你要試驗？就因為你信得不真切，所以才要試一試。好像你交一個朋友，想知道這朋友對我是不是有真心？是不是拾金不昧的好人？於是等這位朋友來了，就故意把這伍百塊錢掉在地上，也不在那兒看著他。他要是不好的人，就會把這伍百塊錢撿起來拿走；他要是個好人，就不會把這伍百塊錢給拿走了。為什麼你要試驗你的朋友？就因為你對這個朋友沒有真正的認識，還不知道他是不是一個真正的好人。

經上說的「念觀世音菩薩，設入大火，火不能焚」，你不相信，想要試驗到底是能燒不能燒？如果這樣，那你對觀音菩薩根本就沒有信心。既然你沒有信心，觀音菩薩也不會來管你這麼多閒事的。你燒你自己的房子？那你燒就燒！你想要跳海自殺去，說：

「我設入大水，大水所漂，即得淺處，我看看得不得淺處？」你以試驗性質來推測觀世音菩薩的這種神通妙用，那觀音菩薩也不會管你這個閒事的。為什麼？你根本就沒有信心！所以你要是對菩薩沒有信心，他是不願意多管閒事的。

那麼在無意之中，鄰居著火了，你以真誠心念觀世音菩薩，這火不會燒到你的。你有意的，那就是對菩薩不相信，所以不可以試驗的。說：「那我若不試驗，怎能知道究竟是真的或是假的？」你知道是真的，又怎麼樣？你不知道是真的，又怎麼樣？你知道了，一天還是要吃飯、穿衣服，才能活著，那你何必又多此一舉呢？

「明顯」，是人人都知道的。譬如你鄰居的房子都燒了，而你的房子公然就不燒，這豈不是「顯」嗎？人人都知道：「啊！那個人是念觀世音菩薩有感應！他信佛真是有點妙處！」有感應了，這就是「顯」。

burn,” your house is sure to burn down. Why? Because you’re testing Guanyin Bodhisattva.

Why do you want to test the Bodhisattva? This indicates that you don’t have genuine faith. You want to test the Bodhisattva because you don’t truly believe in her. That’s like testing your friend to see if he’s really a loyal and honest friend, “I’ll leave five hundred dollars here on the floor. If he’s a good person, he won’t take it. If he’s a bad person, he will.” But why do you want to test your friend? It’s just because you don’t really know him. You don’t know whether or not he’s really a good person.

If you don’t believe in the sūtra and you want to see if the fire will burn you, then you don’t believe in Guanyin Bodhisattva at all. Since you don’t have any faith in Guanyin Bodhisattva, she doesn’t have to watch over your affairs. Go ahead and burn your house down if you like. If you want to commit suicide and jump into the ocean to see if the water will drown you as a test of Guanyin Bodhisattva’s spiritual powers, Guanyin Bodhisattva won’t pay any attention to you. Since you don’t believe in her, she’s not going to mind your business.

If your neighbor’s house accidentally catches on fire and you sincerely recite Guanyin Bodhisattva’s name, you will not be burned by the fire. But it has to be an accident; it cannot be something that you try as an experiment. “Well, I won’t know if it’s really true or false if I don’t test it out,” you say. Does it matter whether or not you know it’s true? Whether or not you know it’s true, you still have to eat food and wear clothes in order to live. Do you need to take the trouble to test it out?

A response is exoteric when everyone knows about it. Consider your house as an example. If your neighbor’s house burns down but yours does not, isn’t that an exoteric response? Everybody knows about it, saying, “That person gained a response by reciting Guanyin Bodhisattva’s name. He gained wondrous benefit by having faith in the Buddha.” A response that is obvious to everyone is exoteric.