

The Flower Adornment Sutra

Chapter Forty "Universal Worthy's Conduct and Vows"

with commentary by Tripitaka Master Hua

The Seventh Vow: To Request that the Buddhas Remain in the World

SUTRA:

MOREOVER, GOOD MAN, REQUESTING THAT THE BUDDHAS REMAIN IN THE WORLD IS EXPLAINED LIKE THIS: ALL BUDDHAS, THUS COME ONES, ARE AS NUMEROUS AS FINE MOTES OF DUST IN ALL BUDDHALANDS THROUGHOUT THE TEN DIRECTIONS AND THE THREE PERIODS OF TIME, EXHAUSTING THE DHARMA REALM AND THE REALM OF EMPTY SPACE. WHEN THEY ARE ABOUT TO ENTER PARINIRVANA, ALONG WITH ALL BODHISATTVAS, SOUND HEARERS, THOSE ENLIGHTENED BY CONDITIONS, LEARNERS, AND THOSE BEYOND STUDY, INCLUDING ALL GOOD KNOWING ADVISORS, I ASK THEM ALL NOT TO ENTER NIRVANA. I REQUEST THAT THEY REMAIN IN THE WORLD FOR AS MANY KALPAS AS THERE ARE FINE MOTES OF DUST IN ALL BUDDHALANDS, BRINGING BENEFIT AND BLISS TO ALL LIVING BEINGS.

"SO IT IS THAT EVEN IF THE REALM OF EMPTY SPACE IS EXHAUSTED, THE REALMS OF LIVING BEINGS ARE EXHAUSTED, THE KARMA OF LIVING BEINGS IS EXHAUSTED, AND THE AFFLICTIONS OF LIVING BEINGS ARE EXHAUSTED, STILL MY REQUESTING IS ENDLESS. IT CONTINUES IN THOUGHT AFTER THOUGHT WITHOUT CEASE. MY BODY, MOUTH, AND MIND NEVER WEARY OF THESE DEEDS."

COMMENTARY:

MOREOVER, GOOD MAN, REQUESTING THAT THE BUDDHAS REMAIN IN THE WORLD IS EXPLAINED LIKE THIS. I will now explain the meaning of the vow to request that the Buddhas remain in the world. ALL BUDDHAS, THUS COME ONES, ARE AS NUMEROUS AS FINE MOTES OF DUST IN ALL BUDDHALANDS THROUGHOUT THE TEN DIRECTIONS AND THE THREE PERIODS OF TIME, EXHAUSTING THE DHARMA REALM AND THE REALM OF EMPTY SPACE, throughout all of empty space, totally pervading all Buddhalands. WHEN THEY ARE ABOUT TO ENTER PARINIRVANA, after they have finished transforming those with whom they have affinities, the Buddhas wish to manifest entry into Nirvana. When they are about to enter Nirvana, I will have already requested that they not enter Nirvana but always remain in the world, teaching and transforming living beings. Not only will I ask all Buddhas to dwell eternally in the world, I will also ask the BODHISATTVAS,

SOUND HEARERS, THOSE ENLIGHTENED BY CONDITIONS, LEARNERS, AND THOSE BEYOND STUDY not to leave the world. Those of the first fruition, the second fruition, and the third fruition are still on the level of Learners, whereas those of the fourth fruition are on the level of Those Beyond Study. INCLUDING ALL GOOD KNOWING ADVISORS. Not only will I request all these sages, but I ask all good advisors, Dharma Masters who lecture Sutras, not to leave the world. In accord with my vow, I ASK THEM ALL, each and every one of them, NOT TO ENTER NIRVANA so quickly. I REQUEST THAT THEY REMAIN IN THE WORLD FOR AS MANY KALPAS AS THERE ARE FINE MOTES OF DUST IN ALL BUDDHALANDS. I request them to stay with us for a period of time throughout kalpas as many as all the fine motes of dust in all the Buddhalands, BRINGING BENEFIT AND BLISS TO ALL LIVING BEINGS. I wish all Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, Sound Hearers, Those Enlightened by Conditions, and all good advisors will remain forever in the world and bring benefit to all living beings.

SO IT IS that I make my vow like this: EVEN IF THE REALM OF EMPTY SPACE IS EXHAUSTED. Basically, the realm of empty space cannot be exhausted, nor can THE REALMS OF LIVING BEINGS BE EXHAUSTED, nor can THE KARMA, the karmic obstacles OF LIVING BEINGS be EXHAUSTED, but if they ever could come to an end, my vow to ask all Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, Sound Hearers, Those Enlightened by Conditions, and good advisors to constantly remain in the world would STILL be ENDLESS. IT CONTINUES IN THOUGHT AFTER THOUGHT WITHOUT CEASE. MY BODY, MOUTH, AND MIND NEVER WEARY OF THESE DEEDS. My vow is inconceivably firm.

