

Minwa-Fu Hokekyo Dowo

(Volume 22 of 30 Volumes)

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The Great Universe Becomes One Buddha Land

(Transmission to the Great Bodhisattvas from Underground)

Chapter 1

Who Will Be the Expounder of the *Lotus Sutra* in the *Mappo* Era?

At the beginning of Chapter 15 of the *Lotus Sutra* (Volume 16), the countless numbers of the Bodhisattvas from the other worlds of the ten directions of the universe joined their hands together toward Buddha Sakyamuni, bowed to Him and said with their beautiful voices simultaneously:

“World-Honored One! If you permit us to protect, keep, read, recite and copy this sutra in this Saha-World after your extinction, we will do so, and expound it in this world!”

However, the Buddha refused their proposals with a compassionate voice.

A) The Buddha's Immediate Disciples

Sakyamuni Buddha said:

“No, Bodhisattvas from the other worlds! I cannot ask you to expound the *Lotus Sutra* to the people in this Saha-world in the *mappo* era because there will be Great Bodhisattvas whom I had already assigned who have been waiting to appear in the sky from underground.”

When He said this, the ground of the Saha-World quaked and cracked, and many thousands of billions of Bodhisattvas sprang up from underground simultaneously just like a huge fog coming out of a big gorge. There were as many Bodhisattvas as sand in the River Ganges. There were four leaders among them named Superior-Practice, Limitless-Practice, Pure-Practice and Steadily-Established-Practice Bodhisattvas. Their bodies were golden-colored with innumerable rays of light signifying their great virtues. Do you recall them now? I recommend you read Volume 16 again if not.



Thereupon Maitreya Bodhisattva, seeing the countless numbers of Bodhisattvas springing up from underground asked the Buddha, “We have never seen or heard of these Bodhisattvas. Where did they come from? Why did they appear? Who expounded the Dharma to them? Who are their masters? There must be some profound reason for their appearance. World-Honored One! Please remove our doubts!”

Responding to his request, Sakyamuni Buddha revealed Chapter 16 of the *Lotus Sutra*, The Duration of the Life of the Tathagata, (Volume 17) and explained the Eternal Life of the Buddha.

Then, Sakyamuni Buddha explained the various merits for the good men and women who believe the sutra with obedient and gentle minds in Volumes 18, 19 and 20. To prove the reality of their merits, the Buddha revealed the story of His previous existence as Never-Despising Bodhisattva in Volume 21 (Chapter 20 of the *Lotus Sutra*.)

The Buddha explained when you believe in everyone's Buddha nature and the *Lotus Sutra*, respect others, bow to them and repeat the bowing to their Buddha nature, you will become Buddhas for sure.

B) Conditions to Become Buddhas

Do you remember that a condition to become a Buddha is to believe in the *Lotus Sutra* with a singleness of mind?

Why is that? It is because Sakyamuni Buddha had expounded various teachings to various people at many different places for the last forty-two years after His Enlightenment. He revealed many teachings at each individual level of understanding in order for all of them to be saved. But those teachings were expedients. The real purpose for the Buddha appearing on this earth was to reveal the Universal Truth and to save all living beings around the world with the *Lotus Sutra*. Therefore, even if you cannot believe the phenomena in the sutra at all, they are all true and real from the Buddha's point of view. Thus, we must believe the sutra.

Chapter 2

Confucius Also Respected Sakyamuni Buddha

At about the same time Sakyamuni lived in India, there was a sage named Confucius in China. He taught Confucianism.

Sakyamuni Buddha knew of the existence of Confucius who also knew of the Buddha and said, "There is a saint in the western country called India." He also said that the teachings of Confucianism were at a beginner's level compared to Buddhism. What this meant was that his teachings were mostly about morals and ethics, but the people should know morals and ethics in order to understand Buddhism correctly.

So Buddhism is much more profound than Confucianism.



A) The Direction of Expounding Buddha Dharma

Sakyamuni Buddha predicted the direction and the area where the Buddha Dharma would be expounded. He said in Chapter 23 of the *Lotus Sutra*, “Star-King-Flower Bodhisattva! Protect this sutra by your supernatural power! It is because this sutra is a good medicine for the diseases of the people of the Jambudvipa (the world of ordinary human beings). The patient who hears this sutra will be cured of his disease at once.” Jambudvipa is essentially Asia where there is a strong relationship with the Buddha Dharma.

Asians may have a different way of thinking. Americans and Europeans usually insist on self-assertion. They think if you do not assert yourself, you are not courageous. On the other hand, Asians who are gentle and courageous listen to others well and do not assert themselves too much. Therefore, Asians may be closer in their relationship with Sakyamuni Buddha. That means Asians have more responsibility for considering the Buddha Dharma.

What kind of responsibility am I talking about? Instead of asking me, you must think about it by yourself or ask the Buddha! You are supposed to know sooner or later.

Chapter 3 Beginning of the Special Transmission

Now is the time for the special transmission!

When Sakyamuni Buddha finished his talk about His previous existence as Never-Despising Bodhisattva, the Four Great Leaders: 1) Superior-Practice, 2) Limitless-Practice, 3) Pure-Practice and 4) Steadily-Established-Practice Bodhisattvas, who had sprung up from underground together with as many of their fellow Bodhisattvas as there were sand particles in the River Ganges, waited patiently, joined their hands together toward the Buddha, bowed to Him and finally said:

A) Special Transmission Begins

“World-Honored One! We, as Your immediate and original disciples, have received the Dharma and practiced it since countless kalpas ago. Now it is time for us, isn’t it? In order to repay Your favor, we will expound this sutra in this defiled world after Your extinction. Not only that, we will expound it in the worlds of Your replicas and the world of the ten directions in the universe.

As Maitreya Bodhisattva said in Chapter 15 of the sutra, “It is like a handsome, black-haired, twenty-five year old man who points to a man a hundred years old and says, ‘You are my son,’ or as if to believe a man a hundred years old who points to a young man and says, ‘You are my father.’”

Therefore, they must be well trained, have strong determination and endure any persecutions. Therefore, those Great Bodhisattvas from underground might request the Buddha’s permission to expound the *Lotus Sutra* in the *Mappo* Era.

They said, “After Your extinction, we request to expound this sutra not only in this world, but also in the ten directions of the universe. Why is that? It is because we also wish to obtain this true, pure and great Dharma, to keep, read, recite, expound and copy *The Sutra of*

the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma, the only one true teaching in the universe to the people in the defiled worlds. We will do it even at the cost of our lives. We shall lead them to understand it day and night to save as many people as possible. We will let them copy it to preserve the right teachings of the Buddha in later years.”



How wonderful and refreshing were these words! These were the true minds of the Buddha's disciples. They wished to return their favors from the Buddha. We must follow this attitude toward our parents! But we often say, "I will do it for you." This attitude is actually vain.

Rather we must say, "Let me do it for me to live righteously or to raise the level of my soul!"



B) Replacing His Word by Supernatural Power

However, Sakyamuni Buddha did not answer the Great Bodhisattvas' proposal right away. Instead, He displayed ten great supernatural powers in the presence of the great multitude.

The great multitude was headed by Manjusri and Maitreya Bodhisattvas, all other Bodhisattvas, Buddha's relatives and disciples, monks, nuns, kings/queens, their attendants, and non-human beings such as gods, dragons, animals, and also half-human and half animals. They were all gathered at the assembly in Chapter One of the *Lotus Sutra*. Of course, there were Buddhas and replica Buddhas with their attendants assembled in the sky in Chapter Eleven of the *Lotus Sutra*.

Sakyamuni Buddha could not express his joyful feeling with His words, instead, He showed the great compassion of the Eternal Buddha with the Ten Supernatural Powers! So, everyone would understand He had such great powers.

Chapter 4

Ten Supernatural Powers

The ten great supernatural powers were:

- 1) He stretched out His broad and long tongue,
- 2) He emitted rays of light from His body and illuminated the worlds in all directions,
- 3) He coughed at the same time,
- 4) He snapped His fingers,
- 5) The ground of those worlds quaked in the six ways.

Having seen all this, the great multitude assembled in the sky had the greatest joy that they had ever had. Sakyamuni Buddha showed more supernatural powers.

- 6) Because of the illumination of the worlds in all directions of the universe, the congregation saw many more Buddhas in the universe,
- 7) They heard the voices of the living beings of those worlds from the sky,
- 8) Those living beings joined their hands together towards the Saha-World,
- 9) They scattered various flowers, incense, necklaces and other things,
- 10) At that time, the worlds of the ten quarters became as if they had been a single Buddha-world.

These last five supernatural powers were shown for us, the people in the *mappo* era. Why is it so? Because Sakyamuni Buddha wished to tell us that the center of the universe is this Saha-World, that the only one Eternal Buddha in the universe is Sakyamuni Buddha and that the *Lotus Sutra* is the only one teaching of the Eternal Buddha's spirit!

A) Magnificent Shows in the Universe

Can you imagine these supernatural powers? I will explain them for you.

- 1) The Buddha stretching His tongue broad and wide: All people, including gods and non-human beings in the assembly, heard the declaration of the proposal by the

Bodhisattvas from underground, and wondered what the Buddha would say and therefore watched His mouth. When the Buddha opened His mouth a little, all of them put their palms together waiting His words. But His mouth opened wider and His tongue came out. The stretching out of one's tongue is one of Hindu customs and denotes not telling a lie. However, His tip of the tongue passed His nose and forehead, and extended high and high up at a very great speed until the tip of it reached the world of Brahman Heaven.

2) Then, He emitted rays of light with an immeasurable variety of colors from all His pores. It was so beautiful and glaringly bright.



B) Sakyamuni and All Replica Buddhas

Instinctively the great multitude said, “Awesome!” which echoed all over the world. More surprises! The replica Buddhas from the ten directions in the universe also stretched out their wide and long tongues to the heaven and emitted innumerable rays of light from their pores with an immeasurable variety of colors just as Sakyamuni did.

The congregation was again surprised of these phenomena because they thought the replica Buddhas from the ten directions in the universe were from their own pure Buddha Worlds. Why did they copy Sakyamuni Buddha who lived in this defiled world? They thought that these replica Buddhas sitting on the lion-like seats under the jeweled trees were of a higher rank than Sakyamuni. But that was a big mistake.

C) The Most Beautiful Saha-World

Remember! Keep this in your mind! This Saha-World is the best and most beautiful Buddha-Land. On this earth, the Eternal Buddha dwells. If there was no Eternal Sakyamuni Buddha on this planet, there was no pure land anywhere in the replica Buddha-lands. Therefore, it is very natural for the replica Buddhas to imitate Sakyamuni Buddha.

With these supernatural powers, Sakyamuni Buddha was trying to show the congregation that the minds of the replica Buddhas whom Sakyamuni had revealed in the first half of



the sutra and the mind of the Eternal Buddha whom He revealed in the last half of the sutra were exactly the same. That is to say, “The *Lotus Sutra* is the only one true teaching in the entire universe that can save all living beings.”

These supernatural powers were displayed continuously for one hundred thousand years, shined in all corners of the universe and removed the darkness in the universe. But for the people in the assembly, they felt the phenomena just for a few moments.

Then they pulled back their tongues. This time they coughed at the same time, and snapped their fingers, “Click, click ! ” joyfully.

D) The Impression Was Not Calmed Down Yet

The multitude was so surprised to see that the Eternal Buddha and all His replica Buddhas stretched out their tongues to reach to the heavens, illuminated bright rays of light from their pores, snapped their fingers and coughed together, so that the land of all worlds of the ten directions of the universe quaked. They experienced a great impression of all of the Buddhas’ supernatural powers.

At first large noises occurred like a bomb dropping or thunder hitting the ground, then the ground quaked in the six ways up and down, side to side, and round and round.

It was natural to quake in many different ways, because countless numbers of Buddhas performed these supernatural powers simultaneously. The supernatural powers signified that Sakyamuni Buddha was the Eternal Origin-



nal Buddha and that His original teaching was the *Lotus Sutra*. Therefore, all of the countries of the universe quaked simultaneously to display their impression.

Watching these supernatural powers, everyone at the assembly including the four Great Bodhisattvas from underground and all other Bodhisattvas who came after their masters understood clearly that the *Lotus Sutra* was the real medicine to cure all living beings in this Saha-World.

E) Believe It Obediently

You know that hundreds, thousands, millions and billions of people gathered in the sky. You'd better believe it obediently. Do you know how many cells are in a person's body? You will be surprised to know that the size of one million cancer cells is only one tenth the size of a sesame seed. It may be the size of a dot punched with a ballpoint pen.

When 10 billion cancer cells gather, the size is about the size of a bean. Then a doctor is able to find it. When the doctor finds it, it is in the early stages of cancer, so it is curable. But when the cancer cells grow to a size of a ping pong ball, it is hard to cure. Cancer cells may number up to 500 billion based on a recent report.

F) Bad Cells Must Be Treated

When countless numbers of cancer cells gather, they undermine one's body. Suppose there is a bad person who behaves like the cancer cell, we must give him good medicine in the right manner as soon as possible and let him behave in a good manner. If you do not realize that, the most beautiful planet in the universe may be destroyed. I hope you will become fond of the *Lotus Sutra* sooner.

By the way, because the earth quaked in the six different ways, the unbelievable phenomena reverberated over the Buddha-worlds of the ten quarters in the universe.



Chapter 5

For the People in the *Mappo* Era

By the supernatural powers of the Buddha, the living beings including gods, human beings, half human and half animals and all other living beings in those Buddha worlds saw the many hundreds of thousands of billions of Buddhas expounding the sutra in this Saha-World.

Those living beings in the Buddha worlds of the ten quarters also saw their Buddhas gathered in the sky of this Saha-world. Guess what will happen next!

A) The Beautiful Blue Planet

They saw Sakyamuni Buddha sitting by the side of Many-Treasures Tathagata on the lion-like seats in the stupa of many treasures. They also saw that many hundreds of thousands of billions of Bodhisattvas and their attendants as well as all kinds of living beings were surrounding Sakyamuni Buddha respectfully. Having seen all these phenomena they had the greatest joy that they had ever had, and their eyes were full of tears of happiness.

At that time, the gods in the skies of the worlds of the ten quarters said loudly and simultaneously:



B) “Myo” of the Original Cause and the Original Effect

“There is a world called Saha beyond a distance of many hundreds of thousands of billions of asamkhyas of worlds. In that world lives a Buddha called Sakyamuni. He is now expounding a sutra of the Great Vehicle, called *The Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma*, the Dharma for Bodhisattvas, the Dharma Upheld by the Buddhas. The people of the Saha-World rejoice from the bottom of their hearts! Bow and make offerings to Sakyamuni Buddha!”

In other words, the gods in the ten quarters of the universe said, “There is a blue and beautiful planet called Earth far, far away in the universe. On Earth, there is Sakyamuni Buddha. He is now teaching the *Lotus Sutra*, for all living beings to be saved by practicing the Way of Righteousness. As a result, they will get out of the cycle of birth and death in the six realms of existence. Because of their good relationship with the Buddha Dharma, they will be able to practice the Way of the Bodhisattvas to help others in mutual existence. Then they will eventually become Buddhas.” Sakyamuni Buddha is expounding that kind of teaching now. It is the Only One Great Buddha Vehicle to save all living beings.

Having heard their voices from the skies, the living beings of those worlds joined their hands together towards the Saha-World, and said, “Namu Sakyamuni Buddha, Namu Sakyamuni Buddha!” “We shall devote ourselves completely to the great teaching of the Buddha called the *Lotus Sutra*. Namu Myoho Renge Kyo!” All of them adored the Buddha.

Nichiren Dai’Shonin named this phenomenon, “Myo of the Original Cause and the Original Effect.”

C) The Center of the Cosmic Universe Is the Saha-World

This phenomenon is the proof that the center of the universe is this Saha-World and that the earth is the place where the Eternal Sakyamuni Buddha dwells. Another proof is that the gods in the skies of the ten quarters of the universe scattered various flowers, various kinds of incense, various treasures, and other wonderful things upon the Saha-World from afar just like huge clouds gathering in the sky above Sakyamuni Buddha and staying in this world. At that time, the worlds of the ten quarters became passable through each other without hindrance as if they had been a single Buddha-World.

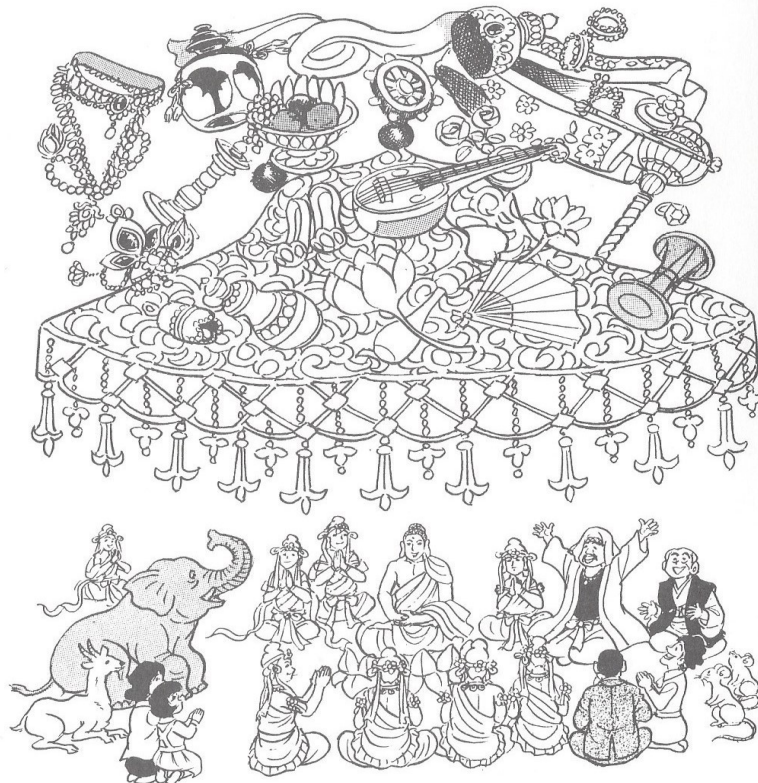
Chapter 6

Becoming a Single Huge Buddha World

The worlds of the ten quarters became passable through each other without hindrance as if the ten quarters in the universe became passable through each other without hindrance. Becoming a single huge Buddha World meant that the entire cosmic universe was embraced by Sakyamuni Buddha who is the One and Only Eternal Buddha of great compassion. How happy and peaceful we are!

In order to save all living beings in the cosmic universe, Sakyamuni Buddha dispatched His replica Buddhas and let them expound the *Lotus Sutra* and made their dispatched worlds become the pure-land. However, only this Saha-World must be propagated by the Original Great Bodhisattvas from underground and not by the replica Buddhas or Bodhisattvas from the other Buddha worlds.

With Eternal Buddha's Great Compassion, Sakyamuni appeared on this world as an ordinary human being, became the Buddha as the result of His long time ascetic practices and then revealed Himself as the Eternal Buddha or the Dharma-Buddha in Chapter 16 of the *Lotus Sutra*.



With His great compassion, He made this Saha-World the most beautiful, bluish planet among all the worlds of the ten directions in the universe. It was for Him to save all living beings, especially the people on this earth.

A meaningful livelihood is not as easy as you think and not simple because many things are happening, one after another. There are many things you must do, so you cannot do only what you would like to do.

By the way, the scattered things that came from the worlds of the ten quarters like gathering clouds changed into a jeweled awning over the Saha-World. The awning extended over the Buddhas like a huge canopy. It was so beautiful and hard to explain in words.

A) Great Mission in this Saha-World

After showing these ten great supernatural powers, Sakyamuni Buddha finally responded to the golden colored Great Bodhisattvas from underground for expounding the *Lotus Sutra*.

Reading the sentences of Chapter 21 of the *Lotus Sutra*, Nichiren Dai'Shonin had a strong determination and believed that "I am the rebirth of the Superior-Practice Bodhisattva from underground."

Sakyamuni Buddha sitting together with Many-Treasures Buddha in the jeweled stupa made the special transmission to expound the sutra to the four Great Bodhisattvas: Superior-Practice, Limitless-Practice, Pure-Practice, and



Steadily-Established-Practice Bodhisattvas. The special transmission was also given to all Bodhisattvas as many as the number of sand particles of the River Ganges, who had sprung up from underground. The Buddha gave the special transmission to expound the *Lotus Sutra* for the people in the *mappo* era.

The reason this transmission was given to these Bodhisattvas from underground was because they were the original disciples of the Eternal Buddha. They could overcome any persecutions in the *mappo* era in this Saha-World because they were the original direct disciples of the Eternal Buddha. Thus, He could not give this special transmission to the Bodhisattvas from other worlds.

B) Work Hard, More Rewards

Because the Saha-World is defiled and full of sufferings, the Buddha's compassion is great. It is a privilege to be an expounder of the sutra to make this world the pure Buddha-land. That is what the special transmission means.

The special transmission means that Sakyamuni Buddha gave this permission to expound the *Lotus Sutra* directly to the Great Bodhisattvas from underground to save all living beings in this Saha-World only and bring forth happiness and world peace for the people in the *mappo* era.

It must have had a special meaning that the Buddha gave that mission to them even though they were said to expound the *Lotus Sutra* not only in this world but also the other worlds in the ten quarters of the universe. We cannot guess what the Buddha was thinking.

By the way, the first five supernatural powers among the ten powers were shown for the sake of the congregation in the sky assembly while the last five supernatural powers were given for the people in the *mappo* era. It must be Sakyamuni Buddha's great compassion!

C) The Original Buddha, the Original Buddha Land and the Original Dharma in the *Mappo* Era

Sakyamuni Buddha is the only Buddha in the ten quarters of the cosmic universe.

The Saha-World is the center of the worlds in the ten quarters of the entire cosmic universe.

The *Lotus Sutra* is the only Buddha Dharma for the people in the ten quarters of the entire universe to become Buddhas.

The beginning of the *mappo* era is the most attractive stage show for the Great Bodhisattvas from underground. This Saha-World fits the beautiful pure Buddha-land. That is the reason why the Buddha showed the above mentioned supernatural powers.

The *mappo* era is the period when the people in Asia, Europe and America and all countries are defiled and do not understand what is right or wrong. They become very selfish and do things only for themselves. They do not work hard for the sake of others like people who are sick or old. They do not think about the community or about the benefit of the companies where they work. They think that if they are happy, people think they are great. They neglect their parents and act in ways to receive instant gratification. It seems that good and bad are reversed.

D) Good Medicine to Cure Critical Illness

It seems that the people around the world these days are suffering from critical mental illness. They do not know how to fix it.

Therefore, the great compassionate Buddha had dispatched His original disciples to the defiled world full of these critically ill patients to be cured with the wonderful medicine of good color, taste



and smell, which is the *Lotus Sutra*. He intended to save the people in the *mappo* era and to save this beautiful blue Saha-world.

The original Disciple, Nichiren, understood the depth of the Buddha's heart because he was one of the four leaders of the Great Bodhisattvas from underground. Therefore, he revealed the Three Great Mysteries of the Dharma* in his treatise, Kanjin Honzon-Sho. In the treatise, he holds the strong determination of his appearance in this *mappo* era as the rebirth of Superior-Practice Bodhisattva. The first of the three is the most venerable object of worship revealed in the last half of the *Lotus Sutra*. He says clearly:

“The Saha-World as the pure and eternal world of the Original Sakyamuni Buddha is immune from the three calamities and the four kalpas of change. The Original Sakyamuni Buddha neither entered Pari-nirvana in the past, nor will he be born in the future.”

The three calamities are fire, flooding and strong winds, which are said to destroy the world. The four kalpas of cosmic change are the kalpa of construction, continuance, destruction, and emptiness. (It is like the process of one's life: birth, growth, getting old and death.)

Suppose a planet is born. It takes many billion years for some living beings to appear on the planet. Then these living beings repeat birth and death for countless years, but a downfall may occur, one after another, during extraordinary times and destruction begins. Someday a war or natural disaster occurs suddenly and the planet will disappear. These processes are the three calamities and the four kalpas of cosmic changes.

In other words, what Nichiren Dai'Shonin tried to say is that, “On this Saha-World of the world of the Eternal Buddha Land, if we practice the righteousness of the teachings of the Buddha, war and the natural destruction will not happen. The land will remain the beautiful blue Buddha Land. There the Eternal Buddha has never passed away nor appeared but He dwells here in the eternal past, the present and the eternal future.”

He always lives with us on this Saha-World!

(The Three Great Mysteries of the Dharma are 1) Hommon no Honzon or the Most Venerable One Revealed in the Hommon Section of the Lotus Sutra, 2) Hommon no Kaidan or the Precepts Platform Prescribed in the Hommon Section of the Lotus Sutra, and 3) Hommon no Daimoku or the Daimoku-chanting founded in the Hommon Section of the Lotus Sutra. These three mysteries are the most important concepts of Nichiren Buddhism.)*

E) At the Saha-World in the Defiled *Mappo* Era

Let us read the sutra:

“I have trained the Bodhisattvas from underground since countless eons ago! The supernatural powers of the Buddhas are as immeasurable, limitless and inconceivable as previously stated. But I shall not be able to tell all the merits of this sutra to those whom this sutra is to be transmitted even if I continue telling them by my supernatural powers for many hundreds of thousands of billions of kalpas.”

Thus, the Buddha related how hard it was to explain the merits of the person who would expound the sutra in the Saha-world.

Nichiren Dai’Shonin said that it was he who was the first person to expound the sutra in the *mappo*-era. He also said, “It is too hard to chant the sacred title of the *Lotus Sutra* if he was not one of the Bodhisattvas from underground.” So, let’s have courage and dedicate ourselves to chant the Odaimoku “*Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo.*” Then you will become the Bodhisattvas from underground who are the immediate disciples of the Eternal Buddha.

Sakyamuni Buddha’s transmission still continues:



F) The Merits Could Not be Explain by Words

“I shall not be able to tell all the merits of this sutra to those to whom this sutra is to be transmitted even if I continue telling them by my supernatural powers for many hundreds of thousands of billions of kalpas. To sum up:

All the teachings of the Buddha,

All the unhindered, supernatural powers of the Buddha,

All the treasury of the hidden core of the Buddha and

All the profound achievements of the Buddha are revealed and expounded explicitly in this sutra.”

“Therefore, after My Extinction My dear immediate disciples should have strong faith, keep, read, recite, expound and copy this sutra with all your hearts! Make others easily understand it as much as possible! Copy the sutra for the people after you! The *Mappo*-era is for you to practice the *Lotus Sutra*! Endure all hardships!”

G) The Place Where You Are Now is the Place for You to Practice the Dharma

“Therefore, keep, read, recite, expound and copy this sutra, and act according to the teachings of it with all your hearts!

In any world where anyone practices this sutra or acts according to its teachings or in any place where you are at, be it in a beautiful park, a green field, under a tree, on a monastery, in the house of a lay person, in a castle where a noble family lives, in a mountain, in a valley, or in a wilderness, there should be a stupa erected and offerings made to it. Know this, the place where the stupa is erected is the place of enlightenment. Here My disciples will attain Enlightenment and will become Bud-



dhas. Here My disciples as the Buddhas will turn the wheel of the Dharma. After they accomplish their missions to expound the Dharma, here is where all these Buddhas will enter into Pari-Nirvana (final physical death).”

Then the Eternal Sakyamuni Buddha placed His right hand on the heads of all immediate Great Bodhisattvas from underground to signify the transmission of the *Lotus Sutra* to them.

H) Make Yourself A Treasure Stupa

Because Kenji Miyazawa was very fond of the *Lotus Sutra*, he was not afraid to die. He said at his death bed, “Birth is ‘myo-ho’ or a wonderful law, death is also ‘myo-ho’ or a wonderful law!”

He also made a poem:

“Though my hands are getting hot, my feet hurt,
I erect a stupa here,
It will brighten the world ...
So, I erect a stupa!”

He left his foot prints as one of the Great Bodhisattvas from underground.

How about you? Do not get attached to birth and death but entrust everything to the Buddha and the *Lotus Sutra* like Kenji Miyazawa! You will feel free and not be afraid to die!

I) Entrust the Four Phrases of the Primary Mystery

“The *Lotus Sutra* contains all the teachings of the Buddha. The sutra contains all the unhindered and supernatural powers of the Buddha. It is all the treasury of the hidden core of the Buddha. All the profound achievements of the Buddha are all revealed and expounded explicitly in this *Lotus sutra*.”

These are called the Four Phrases of the Primary Mystery. What Sakyamuni Buddha transmitted to Superior-Practice Bodhisattva and the other Great Bodhisattvas

who welled up from underground is nothing less than the above mentioned four phrases. Nichiren Dai'Shonin realized that it was he who was Superior-Practice Bodhisattva; therefore, he had strong conviction as the Bodhisattva whom the Buddha transmitted to expound the *Lotus Sutra* in the *mappo* era.

Remember the Bodhisattvas sprung up from underground just like a lot of fog rising from a deep valley. The top leader among them was Superior-Practice Bodhisattva followed by Limitless-Practice, Pure-Practice and Steadily-Established-Practice and also their fellow countless number of Bodhisattvas as many as the numbers of sand particles in the River Ganges. We will discuss the other Bodhisattvas later. Please look forward to learning about them.

Thereupon Sakyamuni Buddha, wishing to repeat what he had said, sang in gathas. He said that it was the One and Only True Dharma, the *Lotus Sutra*, that reveals that all people are able to become Buddhas.



J) Just like the Light of the Sun/the Moon and the Boundless Wind in the Sky

After the Buddha's extinction in the defiled worlds of the *mappo* era,
"Anyone who keeps this sutra will be able to expound
The meanings of the teachings and the names and words of this sutra,
Their eloquence will be as boundless and
As unhindered as the wind in the sky.

Anyone who understands why the Buddhas expounded many sutras,
Who knows the position of this sutra in the series of sutras,
And who expounds it according to its true meanings,
Will be able to eliminate the darkness of the living beings
Of the world where he walks about
Just as the light of the sun and the moon
Eliminates all darkness,
He will be able to cause innumerable Bodhisattvas
To dwell finally in the One Vehicle."

Thus, He expressed how He was delighted and concluded at the end:

K) I Am the Original Disciple Dispatched by the Original Buddha

"Therefore, the man of wisdom
Who hears the benefits of these merits
And who keeps this sutra after my extinction,
Will be able to attain
The Enlightenment of the Buddha
Definitely and doubtlessly."

How lucky we are!

Nichiren Dai'Shonin had a strong conviction: "I am the one who takes the lead of the Bodhisattvas from underground. I am the one whom the Buddha trained as the original disciple."

He was afraid of nothing! He was able to overcome all persecutions because he always had a strong belief in the secure protection of the Buddhas; therefore, he was able to accept all persecutions to prove that he was Supreme-Practice Bodhisattva.

L) Uncertain Life But Live Preciously

One's life is uncertain just like the morning dew which disappears when the sun rises. Don't get attached to this uncertain life, but live as the chosen disciples of the Buddha, and you will not regret it later!

Please keep the following words in your mind:
The most precious in this defiled world was meeting the *Lotus Sutra* and the real practitioner of the sutra.

The most precious is to believe yourself as one of the Buddha's disciples and try to be one of the Bodhisattvas from underground!

Then, you will be like Kenji Miyazawa who brightened the world, erected a stupa and entered Pari-Nirvana.