

Minwa Fu Hokekyo Dowa
(Volume 11 of 30 Volumes)
by Rev. Kōge Matsumoto
Translated by Rev. Shokai Kanai

The Buddha's Messengers

(Cherish, Trust, and Avoid Attachment)

Chapter 10 of the Lotus Sutra:
The Teacher of the Dharma

Chapter 1

How Many Years at Mt. Sacred Eagle?

I wonder how many years have passed since Sakyamuni Buddha began preaching at Mount Sacred Eagle? Since then, many things have happened, haven't they?

(Let us review.)

Before the Buddha revealed this Lotus Sutra, He surprised the congregation gathered at the mountain in the Sutra of Innumerable Teachings, which is the opening sutra of the Threefold Lotus Sutra. Do you remember? He declared, "During the last forty and odd years since I became the Buddha, I had expounded the Dharma in various ways but had not yet revealed the most precious truth."

The majority of the congregation were people who have listened to the Dharma and followed what the Buddha had told them to do since the very beginning, after His Enlightenment. It must be a big shock for them to hear such words, almost as if they could not breathe.



A) Mysterious Happenings

After the Buddha declared such an important message, He shut His mouth, closed His eyes, and went into deep meditation. That happened in the first chapter of the Lotus Sutra. (Volume 2)

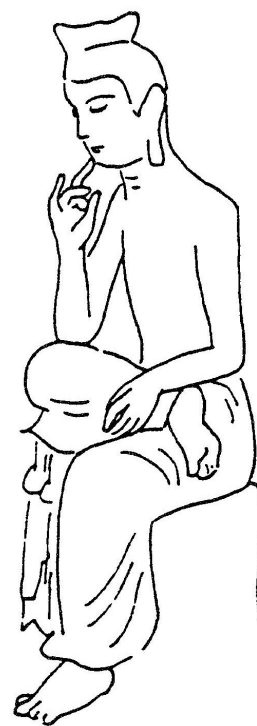
However, in the beginning of the Lotus Sutra, many mysterious things happened one after another, such as the fluttering of many lotus flower petals as they fell, the earth quaking in six different ways, and the rays of wisdom-light emitting from His eyebrows. (Volume 2)



B) Manjusri and Maitreya

The congregation who gathered at Mount Sacred Eagle wondered what the causes of these wonderful phenomena were. In order to clear their questions, the dialogue started between Manjusri Bodhisattva and Maitreya Bodhisattva. (Volume 2)

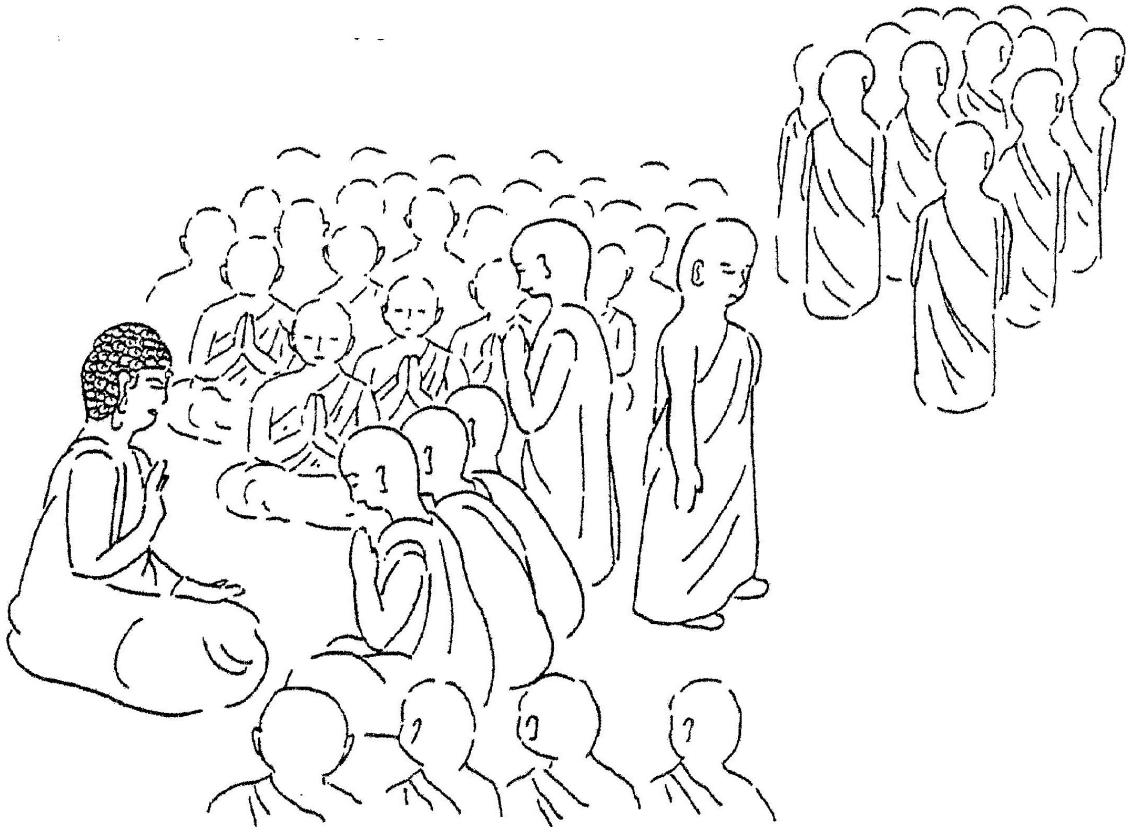
Representing the congregation, Sariputra who was the wisest among the Buddha's disciples thought that something very important would happen and requested Sakyamuni Buddha to reveal the most precious truth. But the Buddha refused his request. He would not talk any more until the arrogant people left the place. (Volume 3)



C) The Arrogant People Are Gone

Nevertheless, since Sariputra requested three times with enthusiasm, the Buddha said, “How can I leave the Dharma un-expounded?” When He had said this, five thousand people among the congregation rose from their seats and retired because they thought that they had already obtained what they actually had not yet, and that they had already understood when they actually had not yet. The World Honored One kept silent and did not stop them. (Volume 3)

If people were not obedient, they do not listen and do not understand



the truth. Therefore, it would be a waste of time for the Buddha to stop them.

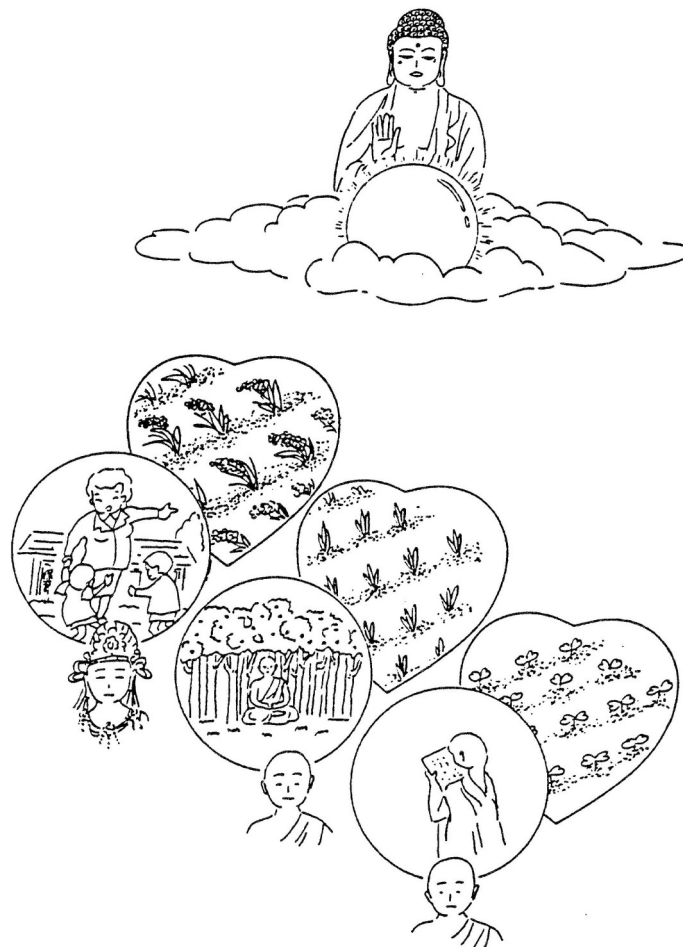
If you are obedient, whatever your past was and however you were sinful; the Buddha will give you compassion and lead you to the right way. But He will not pardon you if you are arrogant. It is hard to save one who does not have any relation to the Dharma. Therefore, the Buddha never held them back.

Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha was waiting for the arrogant people to leave the place. Now that this congregation has been cleared of the twigs and leaves, only the sincere people are at the Mountain. (Volume 3)

D) Everyone Is Able to Become A Buddha

Finally, the Buddha started to reveal the real truth. But nobody understood what the real meaning of his talk was except Sariputra.

Therefore, He made up his mind to reveal parables for the congregation to understand the Dharma easily in order to lead them to Buddhahood. It is because the Buddha wished all people without exception would attain enlightenment. We are very grateful!



E) Many Parables

At first, “Who owns the great white ox carts?” was revealed, followed by “Never dreamed of being a billionaire,” where the four great Sravakas showed their appreciation to the Buddha in the parable. In the story of “Glorious rain for grasses and trees,” the Buddha emphasized His equal compassion to all different species. In “Magic city and the Tathagata,” Sakyamuni Buddha revealed the existence of many Buddhas and their original mother worlds in the ten directions of the universe and gave Buddha-names to all disciples who understood the Dharma and had faith in the Buddha’s teachings.

Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha gave assurance to His disciples in the levels of the Sravakas and the Pratyekabuddhas to attain Buddha-hood.



Finally, He began to talk to the Bodhisattvas in this volume, The Teacher of the Dharma.

Chapter 2

Medicine-King Bodhisattva and the Eighty Thousand Great Bodhisattvas

The ones who appeared in this volume were Medicine-King Bodhisattva and the eighty thousand great Bodhisattvas.

Thereupon Sakyamuni Buddha said to Medicine-King Bodhisattva in the presence of the eighty thousand great Bodhisattvas:

“Medicine-King! Do you see the innumerable living beings in this great multitude gathered here at Mount Sacred Eagle?”



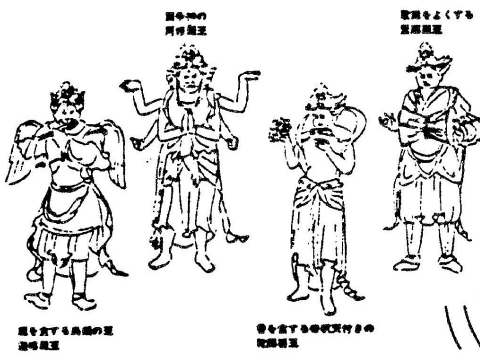
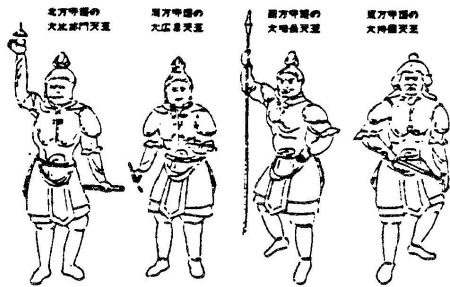
A) Great Multitude

They are gods from around the world who promised to protect the Buddha Dharma, dragon-kings who dwell wherever water exists and also promised to protect the practitioners of Dharma, *yakusas* who used to eat human flesh until they listened to Buddha's teachings but repented their wrong doing and promised to protect the Buddha Dharma. They are all here to listen to the teachings of the Lotus Sutra. Besides them there are *gandharvas* who are fond of incense, *asuras* who do not like liquor but who like to fight, *garudas* who are the kings of birds, *kimnatas* who are good at singing and dancing, and *mahoragas* who looked rich because of their big abdomens; they are all among the congregation. And also there are lay people, animals, trees, other plants, even the cloud, waters, winds and all living beings including Buddha's disciples in Sravaka-hood or Pratyekabuddha-hood.

“You see all these living beings in this great multitude, don't you?”

“If, in my presence, any of them rejoices, even on a moment's thought, at hearing even a *gatha* (poem) or a phrase of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma, I will assure them of their future Buddhahood, by saying, ‘You will be able to attain Enlightenment.’”

Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha promised to give assurance of becoming Buddhas to all people who gathered at Mount Sacred Eagle and who have sincerely trusted in the Lotus Sutra. It is a matter of course; He has been telling us, “Everyone is able to become a Buddha” since a long time ago.



法華經



B) Not Only People but also Non-Human Beings such as Trees and Rocks After the Buddha's Extinction

The subjects that the Buddha promised were not only human beings but also all beings and things on this Saha-world. He said that even the trees and the rocks are able to become Buddhas.

Furthermore, Sakyamuni Buddha is not only talking about all living beings during His life-time but also He talks about all living beings after His extinction. He left the teachings of the Lotus Sutra for us, too; therefore, we must listen to Him and tighten our belt.

The Buddha said to Medicine-King Bodhisattva:

“If, after my extinction anyone rejoiced, even on moment's thought, at hearing even one *gatha* (poem) or a phrase of the Lotus Sutra, I also will assure him or her of the future attainment of enlightenment.”

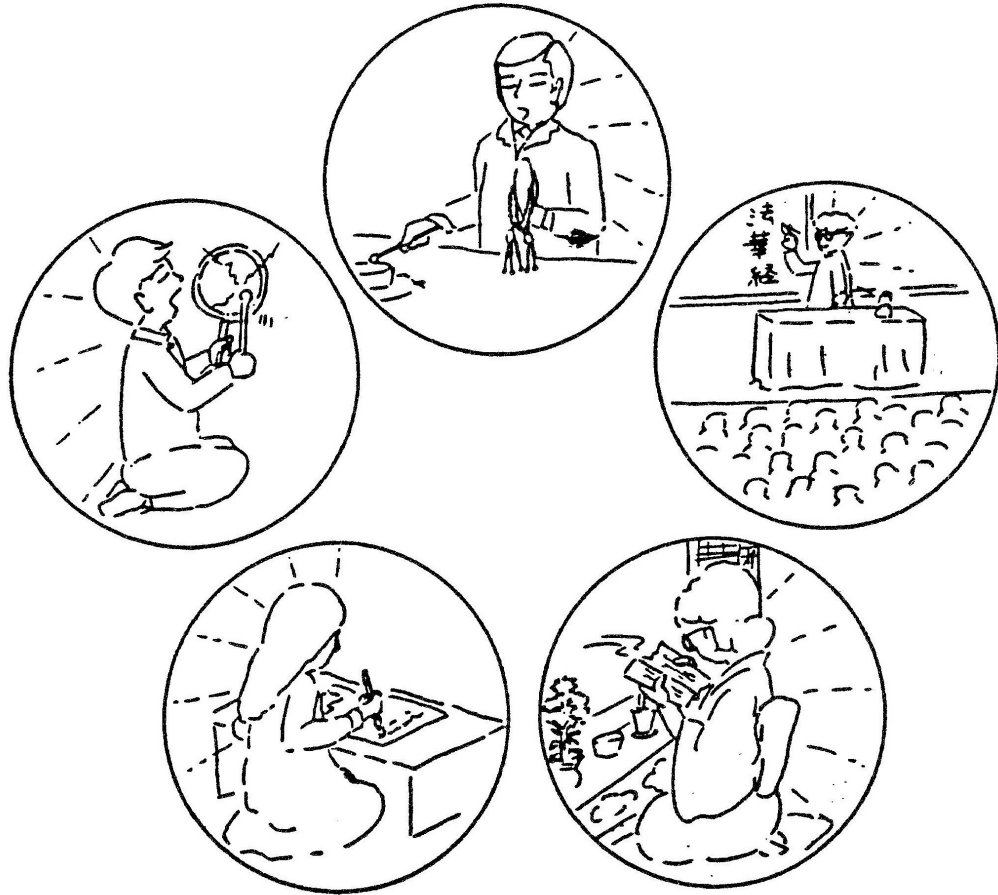


Therefore, what is the most important for us is to be obedient and sincere. If you are sincere and honest, Sakyamuni Buddha will protect you for sure.

C) Tathagatas as the Form of Human Beings

The Buddha continued to talk of more important messages:

“Medicine-King! After my extinction, if anyone keeps, reads, recites, expounds and copies even a phrase of the sutra, and respects a copy of this sutra just as he respects Me and offers flowers, incense, or just joins his palms together respectfully toward it, Medicine-King, know this, he should be considered to have appeared in this world of men out of his compassion towards all living beings, although he had already made offerings to ten billion Buddhas and had become a Tathagata in his previous existence.”



D) Ones Who Become Buddhas ...

“Medicine-King! If anyone asks you who will become a Buddha in his future life, answer that such a person as previously stated will. Why is that? It is because they are the good men or women who read the Lotus Sutra by their eyes, recite vocally by their mouths, expound it to the people, copy even a phrase of the sutra, and honor the copied sutra as if it is the Buddha.” Thus, the Buddha told the Bodhisattva how to answer the question, “Who will become a Buddha?”

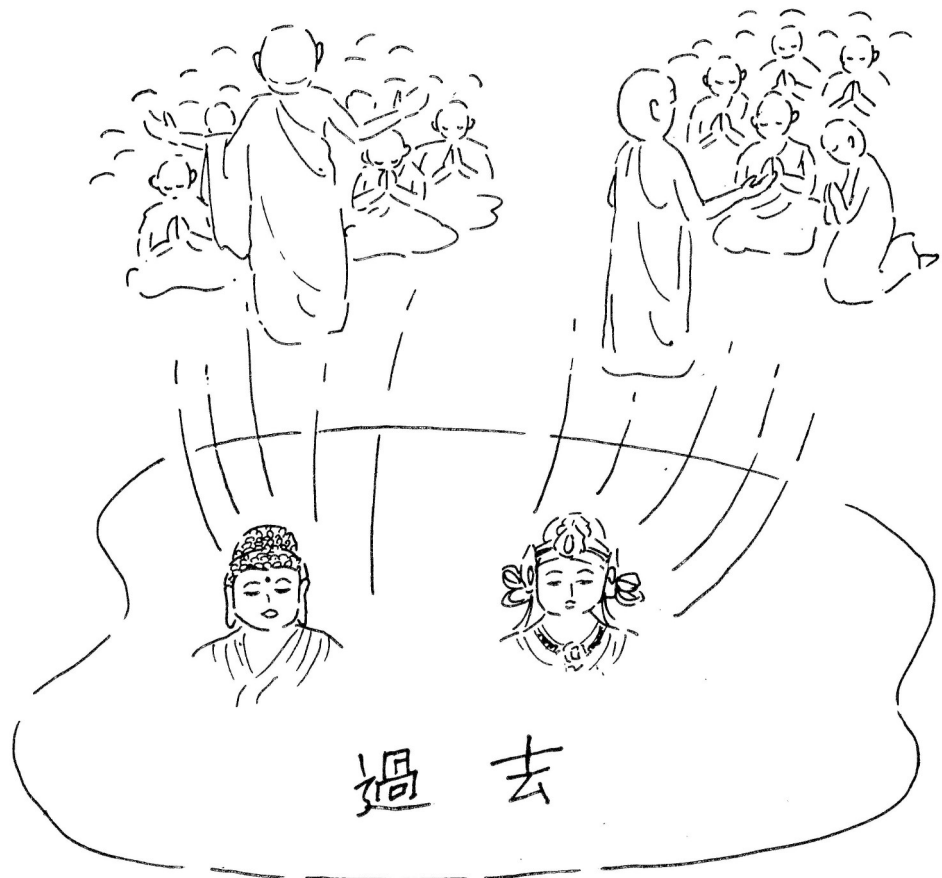
“These people, men and women, will be honored and respected by all people around the world. It is the same with the congregation who gathered here at Mount Sacred Eagle to honor and respect Me now.”



E) The Original Vow Is to Save the People

“Medicine-King! Know this! These good men or women are great Bodhisattvas. They should be considered to have appeared in this world by their original vow to expound the Lotus Sutra out of their compassion towards all living beings, although they already attained Buddha-hood to become Tathagatas.”

“Consider that the good men and women who expound the Lotus Sutra even to one person in secret or who expound the sutra to many people after my extinction and try to save suffering people, know this, ‘They are my messengers.’ They are dispatched by Me for sure.” Thus, the Buddha proved that we are the Buddha’s messengers.



F) The Heaviest Sin in this World

Sakyamuni Buddha still continues to talk to Medicine-King Bodhisattva:

“An evil man who speaks ill of Me in My presence with evil intent for as long as a *kalpa* is not as sinful as the person who reproaches laymen or monks with even a single word of abuse for their reading and reciting the Lotus Sutra.”

“Why is that? The reason is that after the Buddha has gone, a man, a woman or the ordained or the lay person who reads the Lotus Sutra with their eyes, recites it vocally with their mouth, explains its meanings and copies it with their hands in order to expound the sutra is the teacher of the Dharma.”



G) The Teacher of the Dharma Is the Buddha's Messenger

“Medicine-King! Anyone who reads and recites the Lotus Sutra, know this, will be adorned just as I am. Because I will shoulder him and he is the real 'Messenger of the Tathagata.' Wherever he may be, bow to him! Join your hands together toward him with all your heart, respect him, make offerings to him, honor him, and praise him. Offer him flowers, incense, garments, food and various kinds of music! Make him the best offerings that you can!”

“Why is that? It is because he is expounding the Dharma with joy, he will be glad to see you and other people listening to him with joy and with the people trusting you. So he will expound the Dharma harder and joyfully. Then more people will come to listen to him and more people will attain Buddha-hood. If someone speaks ill of him, it is the same as speaking ill of the Buddha.”



Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha explained the difference of praising the teacher of the Dharma and speaking ill of the teacher for Medicine-King Bodhisattva and others to understand easily.

Chapter 3

Sakyamuni Buddha Also Had Suffered

By the way, you may think that the Buddha had no sufferings at all, because He is surrounded by many people who make various offerings to Him and who had overcome all sufferings. As you know, He was born as the prince of the Sakya Clan, but He lost his mother seven days later after His birth. So He was raised by Queen Maya's younger sister, Maha-Pahaprajapati. She loved Him and raised him to boyhood and adulthood lovingly. But she could not take the place of the prince's mother. The aunt is an aunt and not His mother.

So He wanted to find out “Why did my mother passed away? What will happen after one's death?” He wondered a lot. One day He left His lovely baby and wife in the palace and renounced the worldly living style to try to find out the causes of death.



A) Various Obstacles

He spent twelve years searching for freedom from all sufferings (birth, old age, disease, death, and others) and finally attained Enlightenment. Before it happened, He was deserted by His fellow companions of ascetic practices through a misunderstanding. Even after He became the Buddha, He was betrayed by his disciples, one of His envious relatives had tried to smash Him by pushing down a huge rock from a hill, and a woman tried to disrespect Him by putting a big bowl in her belly and covered it with her garment saying, “This is Buddha’s baby!”

Someone made a wild elephant drunk with violence to try and step on the Buddha. The elephant dashed to the Buddha but kneeled down in front of the Buddha instead.

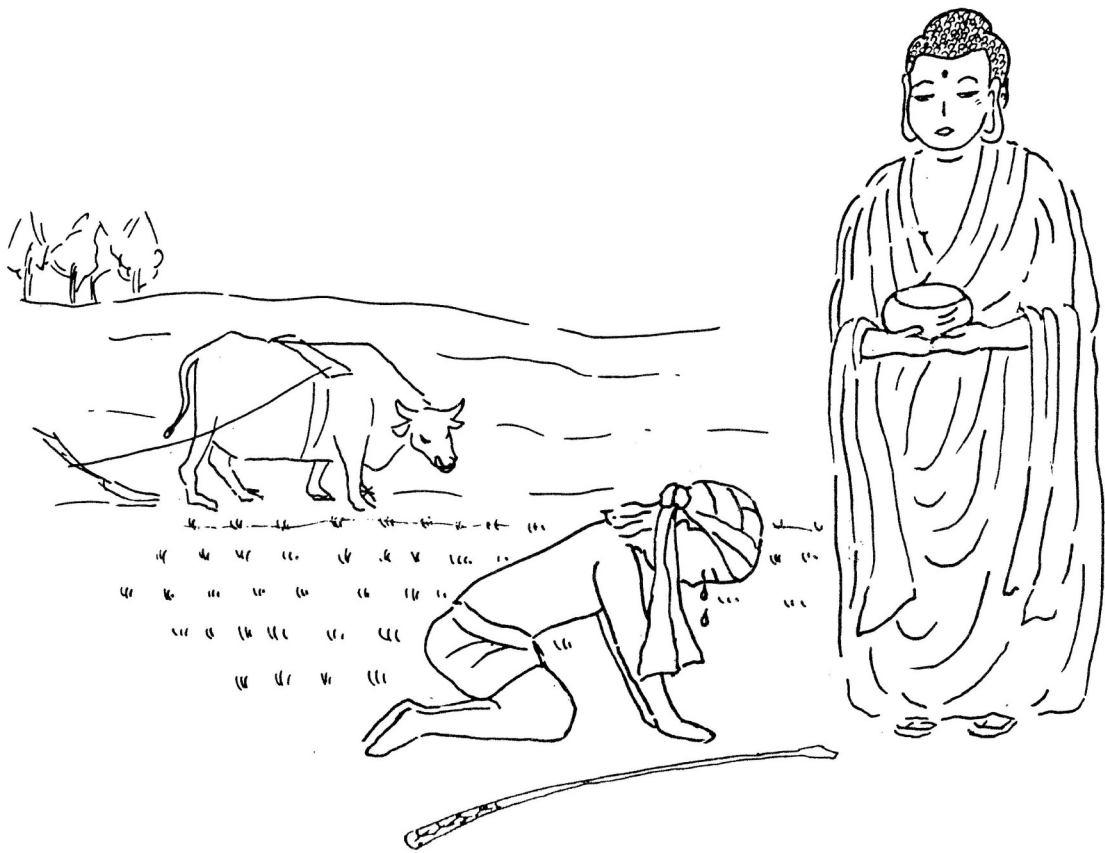


B) My Whip Is Practice

One day, a farmer challenged Buddha by saying, “Why don’t you produce your own food by whipping an ox and cultivating the soil to produce food instead of begging for food?”

The Buddha responded quietly to engrave on his memory, “My whip is endurance, my seed to plant is Buddha Dharma, and my food to harvest is Enlightenment.”

The farmer, Padasha, repented with tears and became a Buddha disciple right away.



C) Overcoming Sufferings

Many people look happy, but they also have some sort of inexpressible suffering. Therefore, young people should work hard through thick and thin.

Those youngsters who have experienced sadness, with tears running down their face, who faced a situation so vexing they felt as if their bowels burst, or encountered heart-breaking hardship will be able to overcome sufferings and be able to understand other people's sufferings when they grow up.

Therefore, if you are raised in overindulgence without any hardship, acting selfishly, and behaving as your wish, you may be in a big trouble when you grow up.



Chapter 4

Ultimate Truth of the Tathagata's Hidden Core

Thereupon Sakyamuni Buddha said again to Medicine-King Bodhisattva:

“I will tell you clearly now. The Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma is the most excellent sutra that I have ever expounded. I have expounded many sutras during the last forty odd years. There are about 84,000 sutras and their explanations after my Enlightenment. Most recently, I expounded the Sutra of the Innumerable Meanings, that is, the prelude of the Lotus Sutra, and then the Lotus Sutra and finally the Nirvana Sutra which I am going to expound after the Lotus Sutra. The great purpose of these sutras is to reveal the Lotus Sutra, that is, the ultimate truth of the universe. But the Lotus Sutra is the most difficult to understand.”



“Medicine-King! This sutra is the store of the hidden core of all Buddhas. It is protected by all Buddhas. It has not been expounded explicitly. Do not give it to others carelessly. Expound it only to those who are sincere, obedient, patient and unselfish. Expound it to those who help others even at the cost of their lives. It is not the case that anyone will do.”

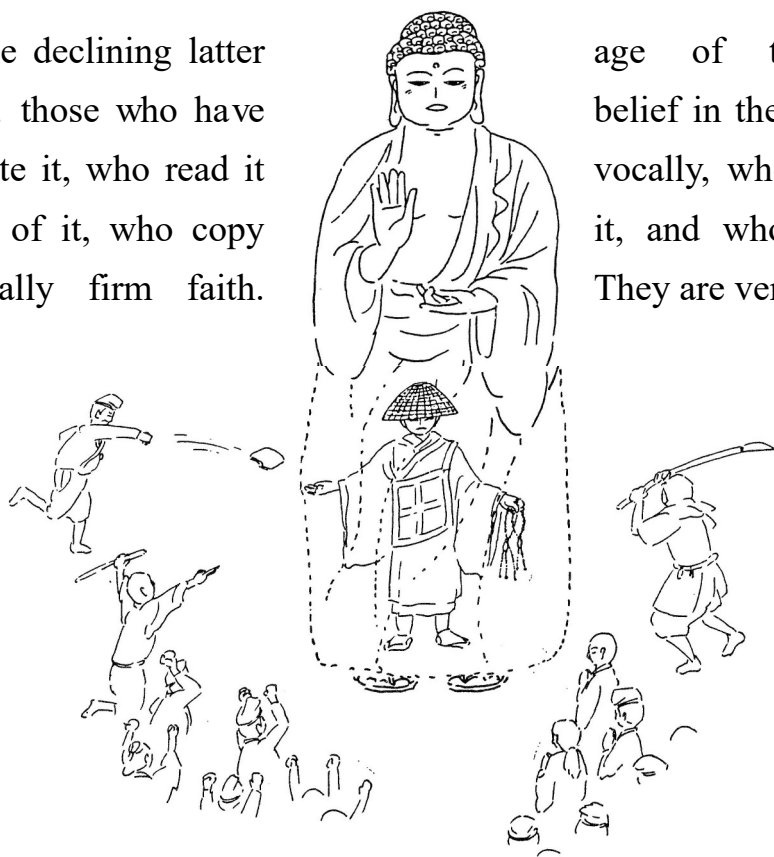
A) Proof to be a Dharma-Teacher Is the Person Being Resented and Hated

“The reason why the Lotus Sutra cannot be given to others carelessly is that when the teacher of the Dharma expounds the sutra, he will be persecuted by the people who have resentment and hatred, and the teacher must endure these persecutions.”

“Even if at the time of the Buddha’s existence, I was resented, hated, and unpleasant things that I could not recall now what had happened. After My extinction, you must have strong courage in order to preach the Lotus Sutra. If you expound it even at the cost of your life, I will protect you with my robe of the Tathagata.”

“In the declining latter (*Mappo*), those who have who recite it, who read it meaning of it, who copy have really firm faith.

age of the Dharma belief in the Lotus Sutra, vocally, who explain the it, and who expound it They are very obedient.



B) The Person Who Lives together with the Tathagata

“In the declining latter age of the Dharma, those who believe in the Lotus Sutra can overcome all hardships. They are the people who volunteered to save as many people as possible. Besides that, they plant and accumulate limitless good seeds even though sacrificing their personal joy.”

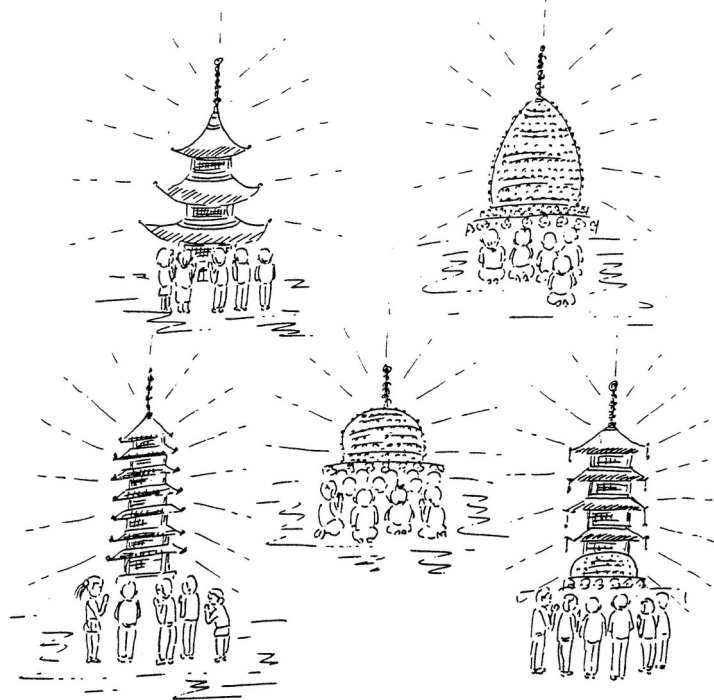
“Medicine-King! Know this! They are considered to sleep with the Tathagata, to get up with the Tathagata, and to live with the Tathagata. They are very lucky fellows! They may not understand it in this material world, but the Buddha will pat their heads as people full of good merit in the Buddha Land.



C) The Great Stupa Is the Buddha Himself

“Medicine-King! Erect a great stupa of the seven treasures in any place where the Lotus Sutra, the Only One Truth, is expounded, read, recited or copied, or in any place where a copy of this sutra exists. The stupa should be tall, spacious and adorned. You need not enshrine any ashes of the Buddha in the stupa. Why not? It is because it will contain My perfect body and spirit. The stupa is the soul of the Lotus Sutra.”

“The people in the declining latter age of the Dharma, offer flowers, incense, and honor it by putting their palms together after seeing the stupa, bows to it, and know this, they will attain Enlightenment for sure. They are the wisdom of the Buddha.



On the other hand, those priests, nuns, lay men and lay women who think that they have practiced Buddhism for a long time, if they had never seen the great stupa of the Lotus Sutra nor if they have never heard the teachings of the sutra, Medicine-King know this, they have thin opportunity to become Buddhas, and it will be hard for them to attain Enlightenment.”

D) What Is the Most Honor in Being Born in This World?

To meet the Lotus Sutra is the most honor in being born in this world. Those who hear the Lotus Sutra are the people who had practiced the sutra in their previous lives. They are lucky people who may be able to become Buddhas in this world. Therefore, even if a person who had committed sinful acts before meeting this sutra, because of the causation of meeting the Lotus Sutra, if he cherished the relationship with the sutra, felt joyfulness and practiced it, he will be able to attain Buddha-hood by opening the compassionate door in his mind.

The most honored and happy matter is not to be rich, famous, have a big house or live in luxury. Instead, it is to meet the Lotus Sutra.



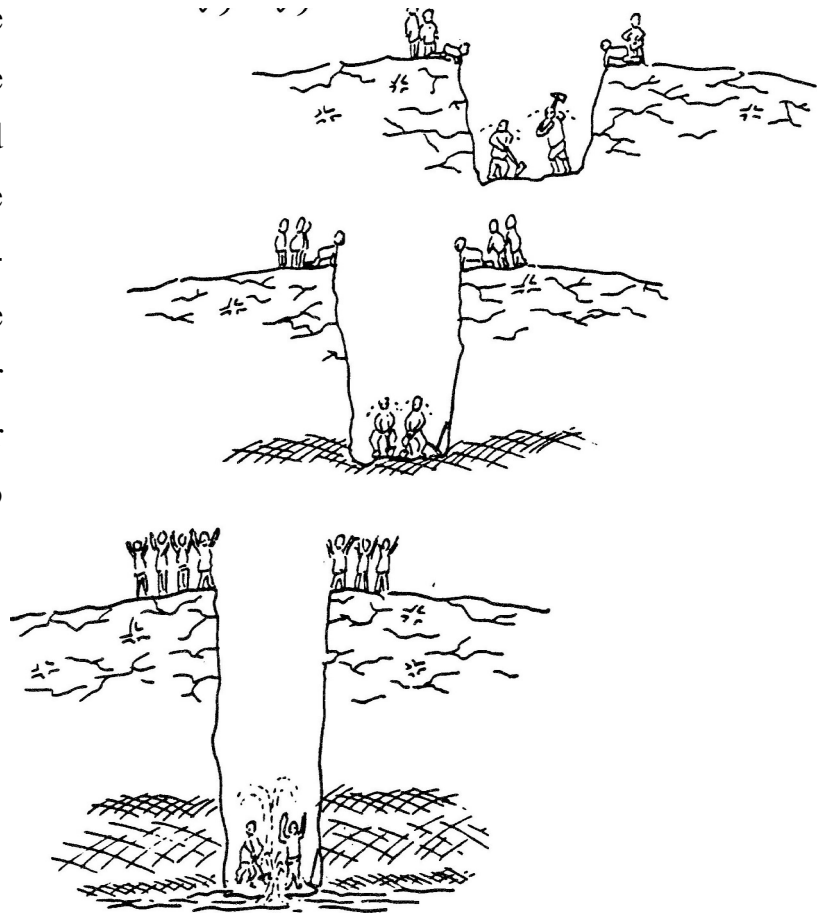
Chapter 5

A Well on a Plateau

Sakyamuni Buddha gave a parable for Medicine-King Bodhisattva and others to understand the sutra easily:

“Suppose a man on a plateau felt thirsty and sought water. He dug a hole in order to get water. As long as he saw the dug-out lumps of earth were dry, he knows that water was still far off. He went on digging for the sake of his children, family and others; and then found the dug-out lumps of earth were cold and wet. When he finally found mud, he was convinced that water was near. In the same

manner, know this, the Bodhisattvas who have not yet heard, understood or practiced this sutra are still far from Enlightenment. They are just like the dry mud because their practices are only for their own salvation but not to help others.”



A) The Never Dry-out Water of the Tathagata

On the other hand, if you read, explain and copy the sutra for the sake of others and try to help the troublesome people, you are the Bodhisattvas in action. “The Bodhisattvas who hear, understand, think over, and practice this sutra, will approach Buddha-hood. Why is that? It is because Enlightenment which all the Bodhisattvas should attain is expounded only in this sutra. This sutra opens the gate of expedients and reveals the seal of the truth. All Bodhisattvas became Tathagatas in the ten directions by practicing the teachings of the Lotus Sutra. The store of this sutra is sound and deep. No one can reach its core. Now I show it the Bodhisattvas in order to teach them and cause them to attain Buddha-hood.”

Various teachings expounded in the preceding sutras before the Lotus Sutra are the expedient, that is to lead the people to understand the high

level teachings of the Lotus Sutra. The lower level teachings are meant to clean up the contaminated mind. Only the Lotus Sutra reveals the universal truth for you to reach the Enlightenment.



B) Buddha Does Not Like Doubt and Arrogance

“Medicine-King! The Bodhisattvas who, having been surprised at hearing this Lotus Sutra doubt and fear it, know this, are beginners in Bodhisattva-hood. The Sravakas who, having been surprised at hearing this sutra, doubt and fear it, know this, are men of arrogance.”

Thus, the Buddha clearly mentioned that He does not like people in doubt and arrogance.

Sakyamuni Buddha is going to explain the conditions of the teachers of the Dharma who try to expound the Lotus Sutra in the Declining Latter Age of Dharma (*mappo* era).

He also explains about the proof of the teachers of the Dharma who expound the sutra after His death. It is very marvelous that the proof of His response makes the expounders courageous and enriches their minds. It is like the Buddha is a ceaseless, compassionate water that never dries out even if you use it again and again. It is very favorable.



Chapter 6

Resolution for the Teacher of the Dharma

Sakyamuni Buddha continued to talk to Medicine-King Bodhisattva:

“Medicine-King! I shall tell you what kinds of resolution the good men and women, who live after My extinction, should have if they wish to expound the Lotus Sutra especially in the Declining Latter Age of the Dharma when the people fall into disorder.”

“They should enter the full affectionate room of the Tathagata (to open wide the doors of your minds), wear the robe of the Tathagata (to overcome any hard ordeals), sit on the seat of the Tathagata (to have strong patience, trust the people’s Buddha nature, lead them to the right way and not to be attached to results), and then expound this Lotus Sutra (to shine on the darkness of the disordered world). They should do these things and then without indolence expound the Lotus Sutra.”



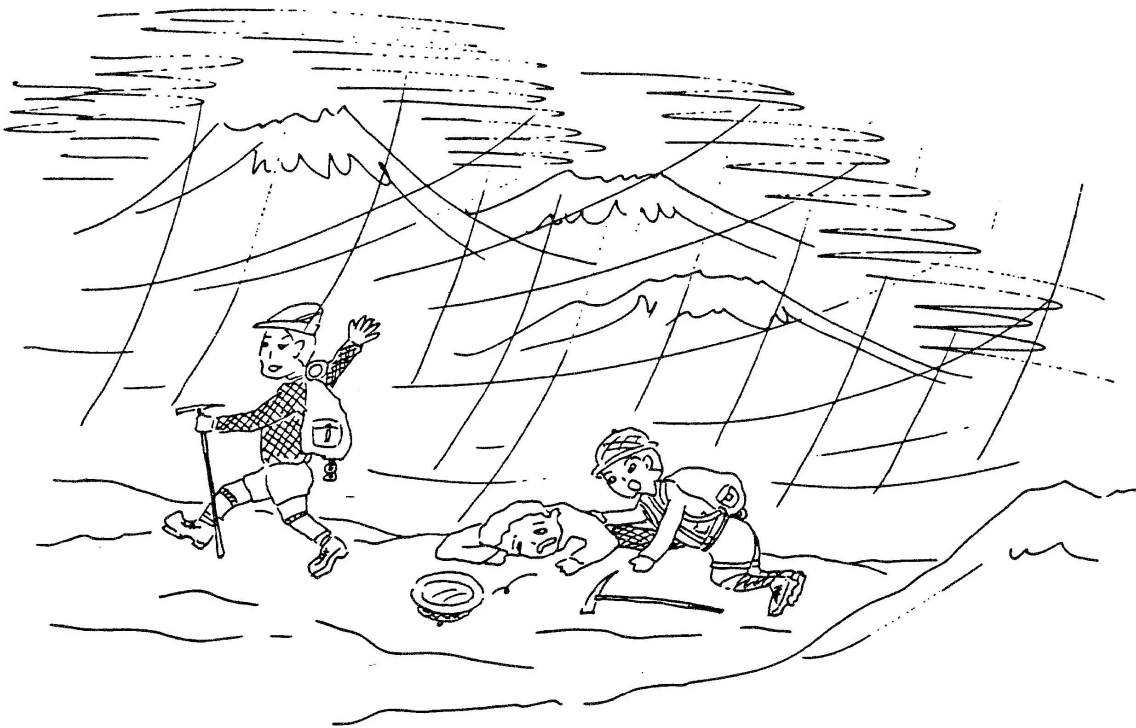
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Even if you could say, “Open the door of the affectionate room of the Tathagata,” it is hard to do so. Anyone may do it for his or her own sake while wishing for someone’s compassion, but it is really hard for you to do it for others unselfishly. It is easy to say but hard to do.

A) A Person Who Discarded His Fallen Friend

Suppose three men encountered a snowstorm while mountain climbing. What would you do if one of them fell in the snow because of tiredness?

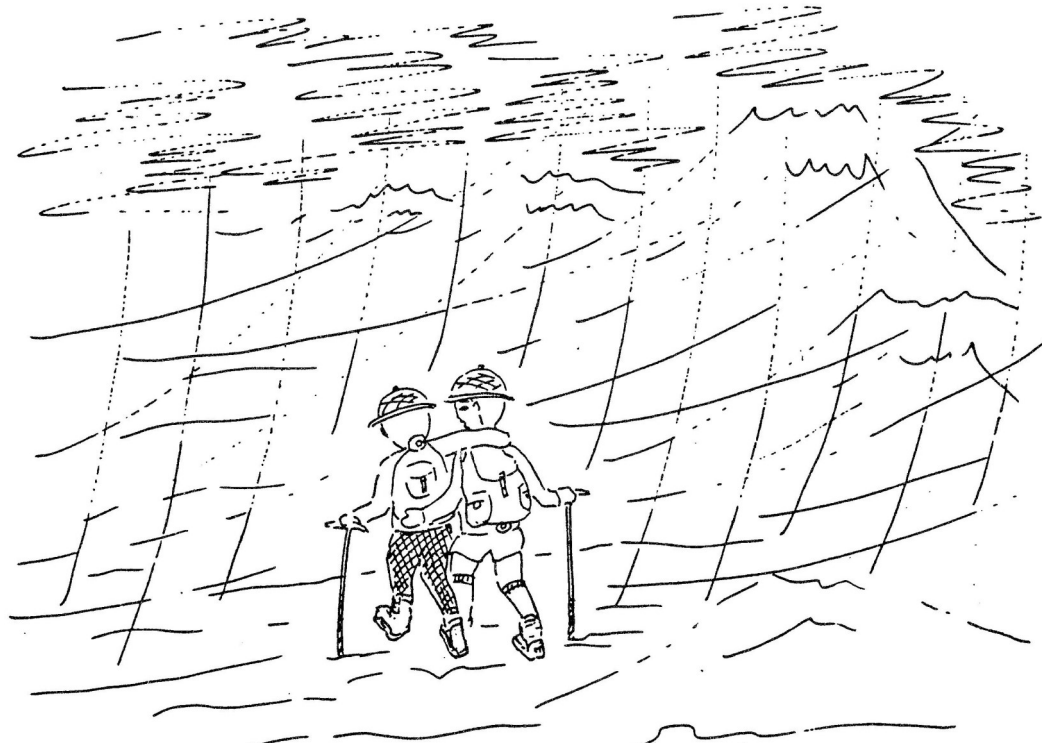
One who is supposed to be wise said, “We can’t help him. It is important for me to go down safely in this snowstorm.” Thinking only for his own sake, he left his two friends there. If the compassionate door of his mind was open, he could never do that.



B) Could Not Leave Him Alone

On the other hand, after thinking over, the other man who could not leave the fallen friend, decided to help him descend the snow covered mountain together. With their bodies trembling from the cold, the other man placed the friend's arm on his shoulder and held the friend's body close to his, and shouted to the friend to keep him in good spirits. They walked step by step to come down the mountain.

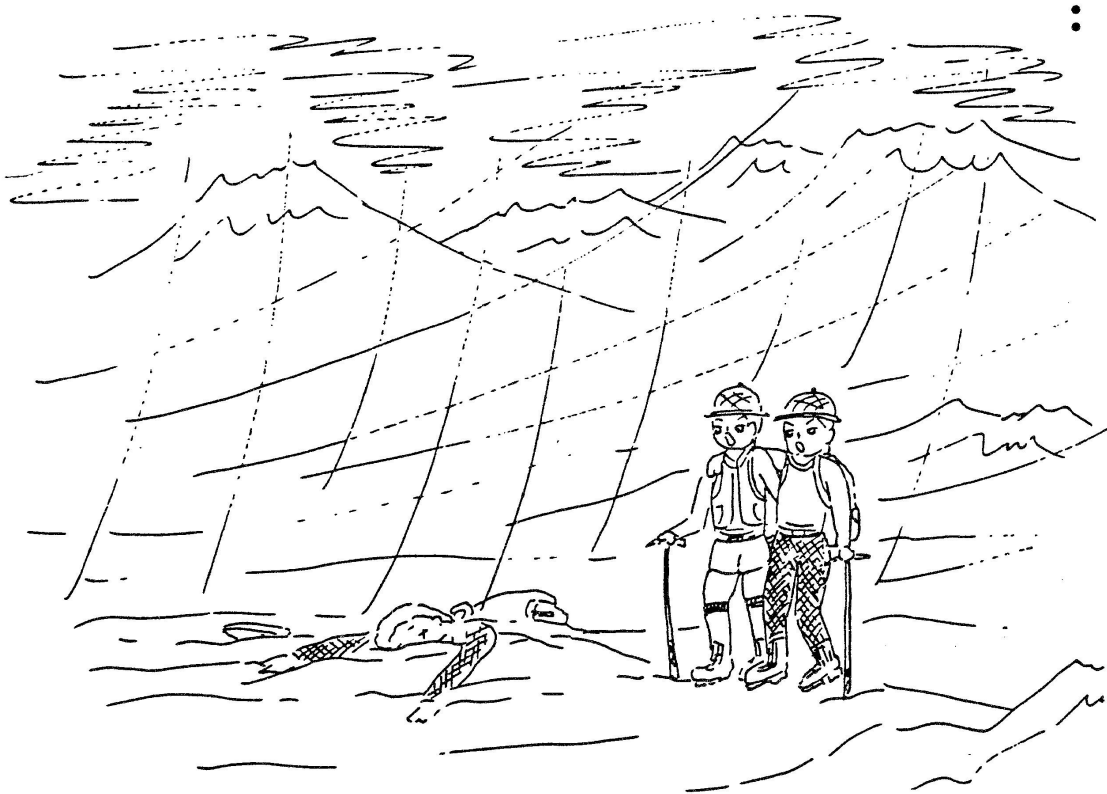
He thought that both of them might fall in the snowstorm but could not leave the friend alone in the snowstorm.



C) The Person the Buddha Discarded

Surprisingly, they found their friend who left earlier by himself was dead in the snowstorm on the way to the base camp.

It is too bad! The Buddha did not protect the man who thought only for his own sake and was too selfish.



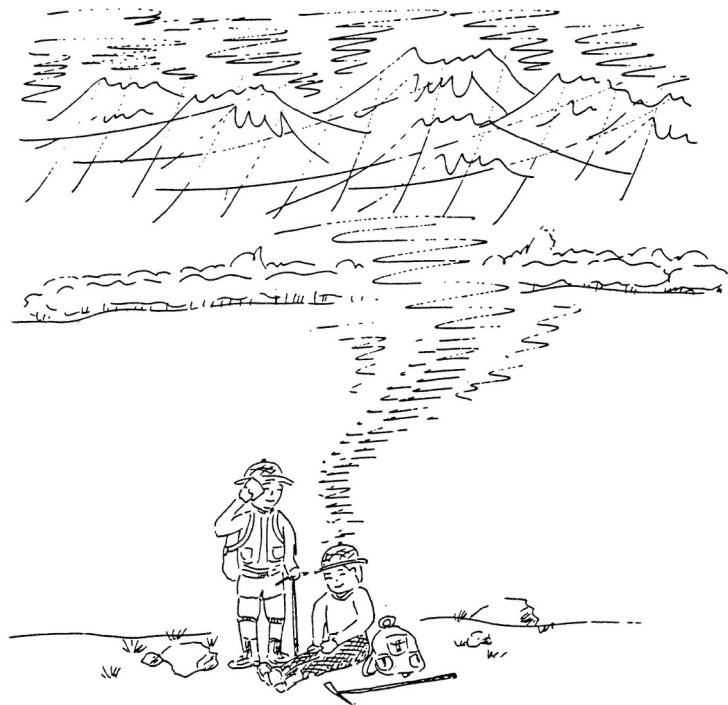
D) The Buddha Protected ...

On the other hand, the Buddha guarded the man who helped his friend even though his life was also in danger. He carried his friend courageously with his compassionate door of his mind open and came down the mountain together step by step.

The Buddha put His hand on the head of the man to praise him and saved them.

There are many cases where one tries to help another, but he is saved by him or her, instead.

One cannot live by himself alone. You must keep that in your mind. Not only human beings, but also all things in nature. We live because of the blessing of everything in nature.



Chapter 7

The Buddha Dispatches His Manifestation

Finally, Sakyamuni Buddha mentioned very important messages to Medicine-King Bodhisattva and the other eighty thousand Bodhisattvas:

“Medicine-King! Although I shall be in another world after my extinction, I will manifest men and women by my supernatural powers, dispatch them as the expounders of the Dharma, and have them collect people to hear the Dharma from him. I also will manifest monks, nuns and men and women of faith by my supernatural powers, dispatch them and have them offer to the teacher of the Dharma and hear the Dharma from him.

These people manifested by My supernatural powers will hear the Dharma from him, receive it by faith, follow it, and not oppose it. After these people offer to the teachers they will invite other people to listen to the teachers.”

“If there is a teacher who expounds the Lotus Sutra, even sacrificing his life in the Declining Latter Age of Dharma (*mappo*), if anyone speaks ill of him, or threaten him with swords, sticks, tile-pieces or stones while he is expounding this sutra, think of me, and I will dispatch protectors to him.”

“If he lives in a retired and clean place to read the sutra by himself, I will show him My bright shining body, so he understands that I am always watching him and protecting him.”

“If he forgets a phrase of this sutra, I will let him remember by supernatural powers.”



Chapter 8

Lucky People Who Can Meet with the Real Teacher of the Dharma in the Declining Latter Age of the Dharma

The people who are able to meet with the teacher of the Dharma in the defiled society of the Declining Latter Age of the Dharma are very lucky, because they are able to hear the right teachings, to purify their minds and to experience the way of the Bodhisattvas. Therefore, if you can listen to the teachings of the sutra, and practice them, you may see as many Buddhas as the number of sand particles of the River Ganges.

Sakyamuni Buddha explains in the Lotus Sutra about three thousand years ago how wonderful it is to meet the real teacher of the Dharma in the Declining Latter Age of the Dharma.

Thus, it is hard and we have to strain to finish the work of meeting the real teacher in our defiled society of the declining latter age of the Dharma.



A)Who Is the Real Teacher of the Dharma in the Declining Latter Age of the Dharma?

Then, what on earth and who is the real teacher of the Dharma in the declining latter age of the Dharma?

The Lotus Sutra says that the real teacher who expounds the sutra in this defiled society of the declining latter age of the Dharma will face countless numbers of people who speak ill of him so hatefully, curse him, and have grudges against him. Besides these abusive conducts, they will throw tile-pieces or stones against him, beat him with sticks, and threaten him with swords.

The sutra predicts that he will be chased away from his residence, or have fire set on his house, or be exiled to an island or an isolated place and that he may face his death as a result of expounding the Lotus Sutra.

These are the conditions for the real teacher of the Dharma in the declining latter age! These are severe, aren't they? If you want to live an easy life, you'd better not to be the teacher! It will be too much for you!

However, if one thinks about the joyful moment when the Eternal Sakyamuni Buddha will pat his head with His hand after his death and go to the spiritual realm of the Buddha Land, those persecutions on this earth are nothing for him. He can endure these severe hardships.



B) Compare with Tortures in Hell

Even if you have lived joyfully as you wish in this life, if you would fall into hell and *Enma* or the lord of the realm of the dead would punish you, it is much better for you to have faith in the Lotus Sutra and to rely on the sutra and to live according to the teachings of the sutra. Then you may become the first to have the fellow feeling together with the Buddhas.

Is there such a person in in this defiled society of the declining latter age of the Dharma?

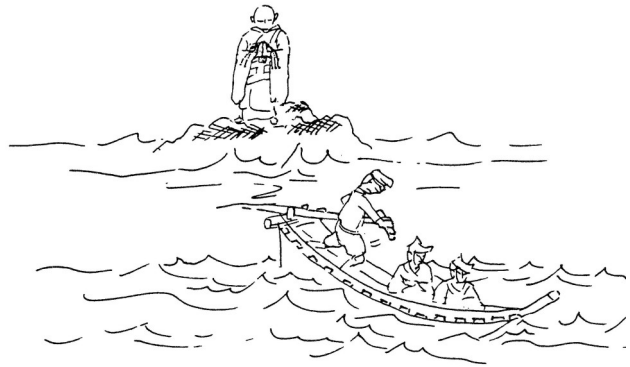
Yes, there was only one person!



C) The teacher of the Dharma Who Sacrificed His Life on the Lotus Sutra

There was only one! That person was exactly whom so many people hated, threw stones, tile-pieces, beat with sticks, chased away from his home, exiled to an isolated island and peninsula, and almost beheaded. It was he who expounded the Lotus Sutra in the declining latter age of the Dharma and lived all his life as the practitioner of the sutra just as it was predicted in the Lotus Sutra. He who behaved as a mother loves her children tried to save as many people as possible compassionately. It was he who understood the spirit of the Lotus Sutra and saved the people. He was the real teacher of the Dharma.

Yes, it was “Nichiren.” He was the one who made the Sakyamuni Buddha’s teachings fit for us in the declining latter age of the Dharma.



D) The Teacher of the Dharma Who Saves the People in the Declining Latter Age of the Dharma

Sacrificing his life in order to save the people in the declining latter age of the Dharma, Great Bodhisattva Nichiren had strong faith and trust in the Lotus Sutra. If you put your palms together and honor Sakyamuni Buddha, the Lotus Sutra and Nichiren, you will be protected by the Buddha, and He will dispatch his protective deities to you. So recite the sutra and chant the title of the Lotus Sutra, “*Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo!*”

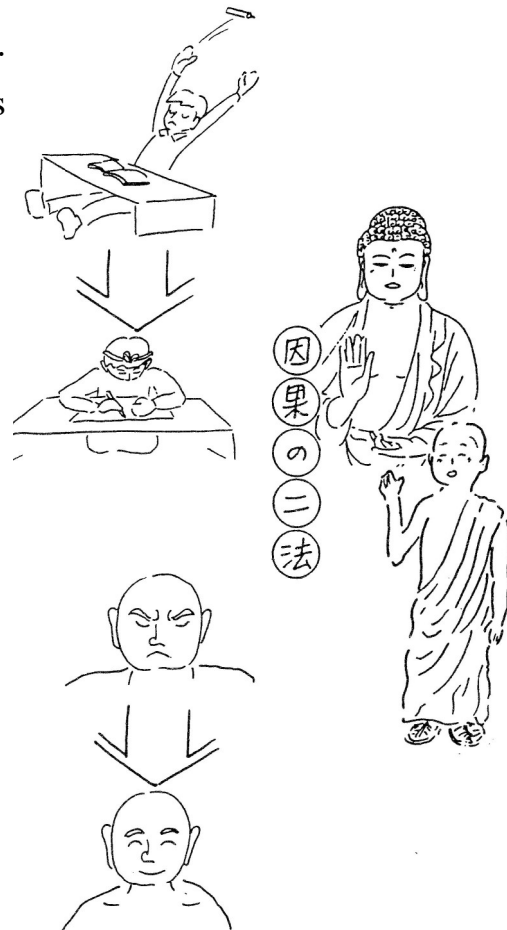
Take pride in practicing the Lotus Sutra such as keeping, reading, reciting, explaining, and copying it. If you continue to do so, you will have a calm mind, no longer be impatient, and not feel hatred. You will feel sorry for the person whom you might have hated before.



E) Persist in Anything and a Gentle Mind

If you practice the Lotus Sutra, you will have an unbelievably calm mind without noticing it, you will feel pity to the person whom you used to be irritated by and hated, and you will be unbelievably very patient.

Not only that, you will not be attached to results but accept the result of the law of cause and effect, and you will have a smiling face. Then later, you will have the limitless compassion of the Tathagata like a limitless spring water. The worldly water may dry out when a drought continues, but the Tathagata's compassionate water will never dry out. Therefore, you will become Buddhas for sure.



F) Cherish, Believe in, and Avoid Attachment

Do you understand ? Please do not forget it!

Don't be like a man who does not have concern for others and only cares about himself.

Open up your door of the compassionate mind! Be ready to live for world peace and happiness for all people!



Go through your life with a gentle and compassionate mind, having the strong power of patience, trusting others, and avoid attachment!

Sakyamuni Buddha is always watching you! Watching you in the rainy days, windy days, hot days, and cold days. Watching you while you sleep and while you are awake!



Do not forget!