

Minwa-Fu Hokekyo Dowa
(Volume 17 of 30 Volumes)

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The Buddha Is Eternal
(Parable of an Excellent Physician)

Chapter 1

The Most Important Volume in the Lotus Sutra

It is now time to talk about the most important and respected teachings among all Buddhist scriptures. It is about the Eternal Life of Sakyamuni Buddha, “The Duration of the Life of the Tathagata.”

The Duration of the Life of the Tathagata is the most important among all sutras. It is like our brains or hearts. Therefore, the Lotus Sutra said that it is the great King of all the scriptures of Buddhism.

Why is it that much more important and great? Let us find out!

B) Sakyamuni Buddha's Answers

At last the Buddha revealed the most important message.

By the way, the first half of the Lotus Sutra is called, "*Shakumon*," or the provisional teachings while the last half is called, "*Honmon*," or the essential teachings. The provisional teachings refer to the Dharma revealed by the historical physical Buddha as a provisional Sakyamuni Buddha. The essential teachings refer to the Dharma revealed by the Eternal Buddha who has attained Enlightenment five billion dust particle *kalpas* ago.

Therefore,
it is very natural
that the listen-
ers are quite
different from
the ones in the
historical Bud-
dha's situations.



Chapter Two

Appearance of the Eternal Buddha

The congregation in the provisional teachings were Sakyamuni Buddha's current disciples, Maitreya and Manjusri Bodhisattvas and other great Bodhisattvas from the ten directions of the universe. The congregation in the essential teachings are the great golden-colored Bodhisattvas from underground together with His current disciple and all other Bodhisattvas who have been there before. They are all watching the Buddha together at the assembly in the sky with big expectations about what He will talk about from the most profound teaching.

A) Four Appeals from the Buddha and Four Acceptances by the Listeners

Thereupon the World-Honored One solemnly and absolutely declared to the congregation gathered in the sky above Mount Sacred Eagle:

“Maitreya Bodhisattva and all of you gathered here! Listen to Me attentively! Understand My sincere and infallible words by faith! Understand My sincere and infallible words by faith! Understand My sincere and infallible words by faith!!” Thus, the Buddha repeated three times. “



He must be about to tell us a very important message that we cannot guess the contents of! What will He talk about? My heart leaps up in anticipation! How about you? He mentioned again if we were to believe a handsome black-haired twenty-five-year-old man who points to men a hundred years old and say, "They are my sons" or if men a hundred

years old who point to a young man and say, “This is our father.” If we doubt the Buddha’s golden words, we may fall into hell. To avoid such a mishap, Maitreya requested the Buddha, “Please explain all causes and effects, so that we may be able to remove our doubts and that the good men in the *mappo* era have no doubts when they learn these words of Yours.” The Bodhisattva was waiting together with the great multitude holding their breath. They, too, must be excited to listen to what He would say.

Listening to Maitreya Bodhisattva and the great multitude’s sincere request repeated four times all together, Sakyamuni Buddha decided to talk about the great message never revealed before.

B) The Dharma-Buddha from the Five Hundred Dust Particle Kalpas Ago

Thereupon the World-Honored One, seeing that they repeated their appeal once more, even after repeating it three times, said to them:

“Listen to Me attentively! I will tell you about My hidden core and supernatural powers. The gods and men in the world think that I, Sakyamuni Buddha, left the palace of the Sakyas at the age of nineteen, practiced ascetics for many years and sat at the place of enlighten-

ment not far from the City of Gaya, and attained Enlightenment at the age of thirty years old. But it is wrong! To tell you the truth, good men, it is many hundreds of thousands of billions of *nayutas* of *kalpas* since I became the Buddha. I am not the new and shallow Buddha whom you are thinking!" Thus, Sakyamuni finally revealed "The Original Eternal Buddha."

Even Maitreya Bodhisattva could not understand but had faith in what He said!

The Buddha continued, "Suppose someone smashed five hundred thousand billion *nayuta* worlds into dust which were each composed of one thousand worlds, and went to the east carrying the dust with him. When he reached a world at five thousand billion *nayuta* worlds from this world, he put a particle of dust on the world. Then he went again to the east, and repeated putting a particle of the dust on the world at a distance of five hundred thousand billion *nayuta* worlds each until the particles of dust were exhausted. Good men! Do you think that the number of worlds he went through is conceivable, countable, or not?"

C) Maitreya Bodhisattva Gave Up!

Maitreya said to the Buddha:

“World-Honored One! Those worlds are innumerable, uncountable, inconceivable! No one could count them even by his wisdom. Those worlds are innumerable.” Maitreya Bodhisattva gave up!

But the Buddha continued, “Good Men! Now I will tell you clearly! Suppose those worlds, whether they were marked with the particles of dust or not, were smashed into dust. The number of the *kalpas* which have elapsed since I became the Buddha is five hundred thousand billion *ayuta* larger than the number of dust particles thus produced. All this time I have been living in this Saha-World, and teaching the living beings of this world by expounding the Dharma to them.”

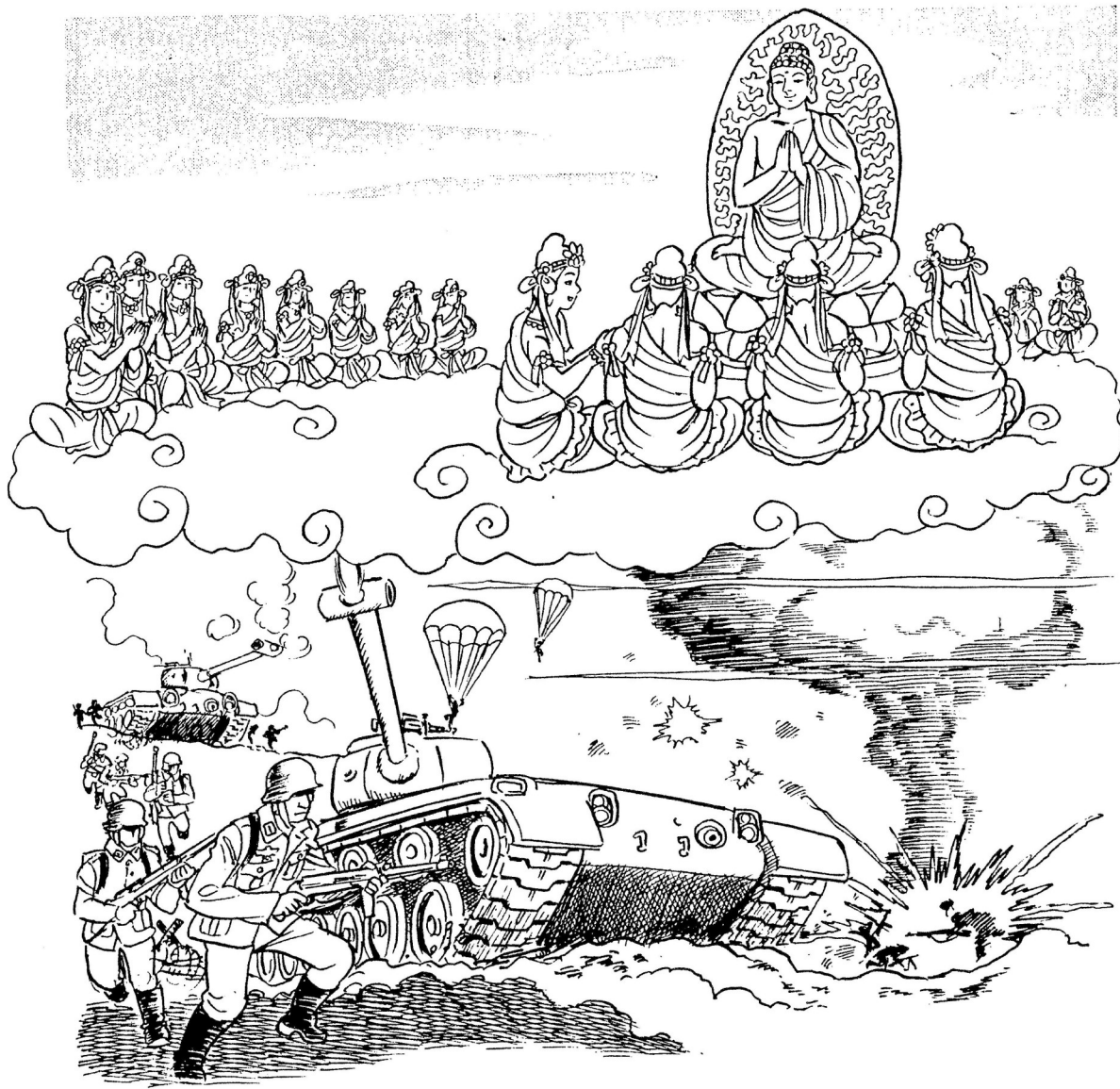
D) Relationship between the Master and His Disciples, A Time to Become A Disciple and Having Determination or Not

Sakyamuni Buddha told the most important message, “Therefore, these great Bodhisattvas from underground are all My disciples since that time long ago. They are all My original disciples. Therefore, these

great Bodhisattvas already have been assigned to expound the Lotus Sutra in the defiled world in the *mappo* era since the original time of their becoming My disciples. They are brave and have strong determination to expound the sutra.”

Regarding this matter, Nichiren Dai’Shonin said in his writing, Three Doctrinal Aspects: “We should not look at just the current visible relationship between the Buddha and His disciples in the present, but we should see the time of planting the Buddha seed, how the seed has grown, when the seed is ripened and why the seed received the benefit of liberation from all sufferings. It is very important to understand these matters.”

The Buddha continued, “All this time I have been living in this Saha-World, and teaching the living beings of this world by expounding the Dharma to them. However, some evil people start wars because of their strong desires and destroyed the beautiful sky, land and ocean. To save these defiled people, I gave various names to Myself, for instance, the Burning-Light Buddha. I also sent My replicas to other worlds with different names. The names of the Buddha, their assigned pure-lands, and their life spans are all different. It is because of the different situations of these worlds. I also expound the unsurpassed Dharma to the living beings of the other worlds. There is no place where I will not appear.”



E) The Prince as the Manifested-Buddha and then The Reward-Buddha after the Enlightenment

The Brahma Heavenly gods or *Bon-ten*, the lord of the gods in Trayastrimsa Heaven (originally a Hindu god or *Tai-shaku*), and the Bodhisattvas from other worlds at the assembly in the sky have no doubt about the profound relationship between the Eternal Original Sakyamu-

ni Buddha with the great Bodhisattvas from underground.

But some of the congregation felt lonesome. It is because that Maitreya, Manjusri, and other Bodhisattvas thought that they knew everything about Sakyamuni Buddha since His Enlightenment. They thought that they were always together with the Buddha for many years. However, suddenly these countless number of great Bodhisattvas appeared from underground. Therefore, they felt something strange as if their Sakyamuni Buddha was taken away by these great Bodhisattvas.

But soon after, the multitude of the assembly realized that they were lucky because the Eternal Original Buddha appeared in front of them as a physical human being just like them. He appeared to show the people if they were obedient and practiced righteousness, they would receive rewards depending on their levels of practice and faith. They realized that the Buddha appeared as the prince of the Sakya Clan. They realized that they were lucky to receive the Buddha Dharma directly from Him as the Buddha's disciples for many years.



Chapter 3

Appeared in Different Names in the Different Worlds

Sakyamuni Buddha's great propagation continued:

“Good men! All the sutras that I expounded hitherto were for the purpose of saving all living beings. I told the stories of My previous lives in some sutras and the stories of the previous lives of other Buddhas in other sutras. I showed My replicas in some sutras and my transformations in other sutras. I described My deeds in some sutras and the deeds of others in other sutras. All that I say is an expedient to increase their understanding to the level of the One Vehicle.”

“It is because living beings vary in their natures, desires, deeds, thoughts and opinions. Therefore, I expounded the dharma with various stories of previous lives, with various parables, similes and discourses, to cause all living beings to plant the roots of good.”

A) No Increase or Decrease of the Number of Souls

“Through the Buddha’s Eyes, the souls of human beings never disappear or appear from this Saha-World. The Buddha sees the triple worlds as it is. The living beings have neither birth nor death, that is, do not appear or disappear. Sakyamuni Buddha has never died in the past, nor will he be born in the future.”

“Through the human’s defiled eyes, people see birth and death as sufferings because they have attachment to birth and death. Therefore, they are afraid to die.”

“There is nothing that remains as it is forever in this world. There is no joyfulness forever nor sadness forever. How beautiful and good a fragrance a flower is, it cannot keep the beauty and scent forever. Everything in our community is not just for you but also for everyone in society. Because people see things with their physical eyes filled with defiled desires, they see things as if, “everything belongs to them and things are eternal, blissful and like paradise.” Because of these illusions, people do not try to see the Way of Bodhisattvas honestly. Therefore, the Buddha expounded various Dharma with various stories of previous lives, with various parables, similes and discourses, to cause all living beings to awaken in the truth and for them to plant the roots of good.”

B) Five Dejections out of Our Bodies

In the first place, regarding the beauty of our physical bodies, appearance is not very important. Gentle and thoughtful people with a warm heart are more beautiful.

Why? It is because even if we look at beauty, we push out five dirty things out of our bodies such as eye mucus from the eyes, earwax from the ear, snot from the nose, saliva from the mouth, stool and urine from the bottom of our bodies.

The round eyes, the cute nose, the beautiful lips, the ears with nice earrings and a nicely proportioned body are not as important when they become sick. Sooner or later their appearance will change. It is the law of Everything Is Constantly Changing. Try to shine your minds instead, then your aura will have a bright color. If you keep up your soul, you will be shining always even if you become sick or advanced in age. Your body will shine with a beautiful aura.

C) To Save the People with Expedients

The Eternal Buddha has always been praying for you since the eternal past just like the eternity of the universe.

Thereupon the Buddha says, “Good men at this assembly! I say to you of little virtue, ‘I shall pass away.’ Why is that? It is because, if they see Me forever, they will not plant the roots of good, but become poor and base, and cling to the five desires such as sex, material items, money, karma, and fame so much that they will be caught in the nets of wrong views. If they think that I am always here and do not think that I will pass away, they will become too arrogant and lazy to realize the difficulty of seeing Me, and they will not respect Me. Therefore, I say expediently, ‘Know this! It is difficult to see a Buddha who appears in this world.’ Why is that? It is because some men of little virtue cannot see Me even during many billions *kalpa* years.”

Those who can see the Buddha are only those who are unselfish and devote themselves to their societies and have deep faith in the Lotus Sutra. The Buddha continued to explain in more detail:

“Those who hear this and know that it is difficult to see Me, will adore Me, admire Me, and plant the roots of good. On the other hand, there are many people who have practiced the Dharma for a long time, but they are not able to meet the Lotus Sutra.



They are not ready to receive the sutra yet because of less virtue. Therefore, I say to you, 'I shall pass away, although I shall not.'" It is the method of expedient. Thus, the Buddha explained in detail and compassionately.

D) To Save the People with Expedients

The Eternal Buddha has always been praying for you since the eternal past just like the beginning of the universe.

Thereupon the Buddha says, "Good men at this assembly! I say to you of little virtue, 'I shall pass away.' Why is that? It is because, if they see Me forever, they will not plant the roots of good, but become poor and base, and cling to the five desires such as sex, material items, money, karma, and fame so much that they will be caught in the nets of wrong views. If they think that I am always here and do not think that I will pass away, they will become too arrogant and lazy to realize the difficulty of seeing Me, and they will not respect Me. Therefore, I say expediently, 'Know this! It is difficult to see a Buddha who appears in this world.' Why is that? It is because some men of little virtue cannot see Me even during many billions *kalpa* years."

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D) Everybody Is Buddha’s Child and Manifestation-Buddha

Are you able to understand this? Sakyamuni Buddha who is now revealing the Lotus Sutra is the real Eternal Buddha. As I explained before, the first half of the Lotus Sutra was the provisional teachings from the stand point of the historical physical Buddha, as the manifestation of the Eternal Buddha. On the other hand, the last half of the sutra began from The Appearance of Bodhisattvas from Underground, and it was revealed by the stand point of the spiritual Eternal Buddha. Especially in Chapter 16 of the Lotus Sutra (The Duration of the Life of the Tathagata), Sakyamuni Buddha revealed the doctrine called the Hidden Core Buried Under the Words. It is a very important doctrine.

What is Sakyamuni Buddha trying to make us understand?

Sakyamuni Buddha, although He himself is the Original Eternal Buddha, appeared as a physical human being just like us. He renounced His prince-hood, practiced self-denial very hard for many years and finally attained Enlightenment to become Sakyamuni Buddha. He was very close to us. He was the same as any human being. Therefore, we who have the same physical body can also become Buddhas if we practiced hard. Isn't it what Sakyamuni Buddha is trying to show us? In other words, He is encouraging us to be born on this earth and to practice the Dharma and to become Buddhas in this world. We should have confidence in it!

Let us read the next parable carefully, so you will be able to understand better.

Chapter 4

The Parable of the Excellent Physician

Let us study the last parable of the Seven Parables of the Lotus Sutra.

“There was once an excellent and wise physician. He was good at dispensing medicines and curing diseases. So, he was very busy and traveled often to save sick people. He had many children, ten or twenty.”

A) Ignorant Children Took Poison

One day he went to a remote country on business and told his sons to not touch any of his medicine. After he left home, the sons took some of the medicine, which was actually poisonous to them. The poison passed into their bodies, and the children writhed in agony, rolling on the ground. At that time the father returned home. Some of them had already lost their right minds while the others still had not. All the sons saw their father in the distance and had great joy. Their father was shocked to see his poisoned, sick children.

“What did you do?” He felt so sorry. They begged him on their knees and said, “You came back safely. We were ignorant. We have forgotten what you told us not to do but took the medicine by mistake. Forgive us and please cure us, and give us back our lives!” The crying children told their father.

B) Even though the Remedy was Given

“How dare you do such a stupid thing!” Seeing his ignorant, suffering children, the father consulted books of prescriptions, and collected good herbs having a good color, smell and taste so that the ignorant sons would take the medicine. He compounded the medicine by pounding and sieving the herbs, and gave it to them, saying, “This is a very good medicine. It has good color, smell and taste. Take it! It will remove the pain at once and you will not suffer any more!”

The sons who had not lost their right minds saw that this medicine had a good color and smell, took it at once, and were cured completely. But the sons who had already lost their right minds did not consent to take the medicine given to them, although they rejoiced at seeing their father come home and asked him to cure them, because they were so perverted that they did not believe that this medicine having a good color, smell and taste would cure them. Even though the father insisted them to take it, they did not try it and turned their backs to their father.

These poison-stricken children refused to take the remedy because they thought, “How can we trust him? We thought medicine is good for the body, so we took it, but it was actually poison. We are all right without the medicine as long as our father is here with us.” There is an old saying that “A child does not know the parent’s thought.” They are spoiled. As they were raised, they became selfish without effort. They try to take advantage of childhood.



C) Father's Will

The father, the excellent physician, thought, "These children are pitiful. They are so poisoned that they are perverted. Now I will have them take the medicine with an expedient!"

He said to them, "Know this! Now I am old and decrepit. I shall die soon. I am leaving this good medicine here. Take it! Do not be afraid that you will not be cured. This excellent remedy is good for any sickness. It has good color, smell and taste! Take it sooner! Even if something happened to me, there is nothing to worry about if you accept my words!"

Having thus advised them, he went to a remote country again. When he probed how his children were doing, they seemed to not take the medicine yet. Then he sent home a messenger to tell them, "Your father has just died!"

Having heard that their father had passed away from this world, leaving them behind, they



felt extremely sorry. They were shocked just like cold water poured on their heads, and that made them awaken to repent and recalled their father's last words, "Take it sooner! It has good color, smell and tasted! Do not be afraid to take it!" They took it and were completely cured of the poison.

D) Meeting with the Father and the Children

"It is strange! Sufferings, sadness, sickness and being out of one's mind have all disappeared! They all became obedient and bright children. It is strange that their father who was gone is now standing in front of them and smiling. The children were so delighted and thanked their father."

Sakyamuni Buddha said to the Bodhisattvas among the great multitude, "Good men! What do you think of this? Do you think that anyone can accuse this excellent physician of falsehood?"



E) As Might Be Expected Bodhisattvas

“No, World-Honored One!” answered the Bodhisattvas. “It is because of the expedient and the father’s strong wish to save all his children, the ignorant children never tried to take the medicine and never realized their fault. They may be destroyed by the fire of the worldly desires. The Buddha, satisfied with the Bodhisattvas’ answer, said:

F) I Am Like the Father

“I am like the father. Therefore, in order to save the perverted people, I expounded various teachings in the form of the expedient. So, I said, ‘I shall pass away.’ These teachings are expedients to save the ignorant people with the Lotus Sutra. No one accuses Me of falsehood by saying the Buddha passed way.”

Sakyamuni Buddha must be relieved after saying these words. It is because the excellent medicine is for the people in the *Mappo* era, when the Great Bodhisattvas from underground will lead them by giving the wonderful medicine. They will establish this beautiful blue earth to be the Buddha Land. The remedy is for them.

Chapter 6

The *Jiga-ge*, the Hidden Core of the Lotus Sutra

Thereupon Sakyamuni Buddha expounded the *Jiga-ge* (the *gathas* that summarized Chapter 16 of the Lotus Sutra) to the countless number of the Bodhisattvas and disciples accompanied with the great Bodhisattvas from underground. The Buddha wishes to repeat what He had said, and sang in *gathas*. These *gathas* of Chapter 16 of the sutra contains the essence of the Lotus Sutra. Through this chapter, Nichiren Dai'Shonin discovered the most important doctrine called "The Three Great Mysteries of Teaching (*Sandai-hiho*) that is buried mysteriously under these words of the *gathas*.

A) The Doctrine Buried Mysteriously Under the Words

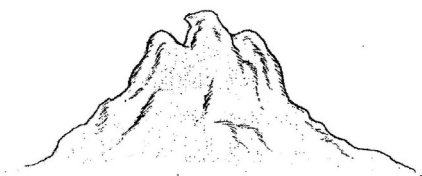
The first is the Most Venerable One Revealed in the *Honmon* Section (the teachings revealed by the Eternal Buddha) of the Lotus Sutra. It is called *Honmon no Honzon*. Nichiren Dai'Shonin revealed the Great *Mandala Go-Honzon*. It shows that all replicas of the Eternal Buddha, all Bodhisattvas educated by the Buddhas in the ten directions of the universe and all various gods honor the Eternal Original Buddha and their devotion to the Buddha. The *go-honzon* indicates their vow to the Buddha for helping to save the people in the *Mappo* Era.

The second is the *Daimoku*-chanting found in the *Honmon* Section of the Lotus Sutra. It is called *Honmon no Daimoku*. *Daimoku* means the Sacred Title of the Lotus Sutra, "Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo."

Nichiren Dai'Shonin said the Wonderful Medicine of good color, smell and taste is the *daimoku*! Therefore, if you chant the *daimoku*, you will be saved from all sufferings just like a baby grows by taking the breast milk of the mother. It is the spirit of the Original Buddha! The Buddha gave His spirit to us in the form of the wonderful medicine!

The third is the Precepts Platform Prescribed in the *Honmon* section of the Lotus Sutra. It is called *Honmon no Kaidan*. Nichiren Dai'Shonin mentioned it is the place where the Great Mandala *Go-honzon* is enshrined and the people chant the *daimoku*! It is the place of the Buddha Land where it is peaceful and will never be destroyed. It is the Buddha Land of the Original Buddha where it is peaceful and filled with gods and men.

Thus, the Eternal Original Buddha revealed the doctrine of the Three Great Mysteries to save all mankind in the following *gathas*.



B) Always been expounding the Dharma

Shall we begin to read the gathas?

“It is many hundreds of thousands
Of billions of trillions *kalpas*
Since I became the Buddha.

For the past innumerable kalpas
I have always been expounding the Dharma
To many hundreds of millions of living beings
In order to lead them into the Way to Buddha-hood.

In order to save the perverted people,
I expediently show my Nirvana to them.
In reality, I shall never pass away.
I always live here and expound the Dharma at Mt. Sacred Eagle.

Although I always live here
With the perverted people
Like the twisted, the proud, and the greedy,
I disappeared from their eyes
By my supernatural powers.

When they see me seemingly pass away,
And make offerings to my ashes,
And adore Me, admire Me,
And become devout, upright and gentle,
And wish to see Me with all their hearts
By calling My name and praying
At the cost of their lives,
I reappear on Mt. Sacred Eagle with my Sangha,
And say to them,
“I always live here eternally,
I show My extinction to you expediently
In order to save all of you, living beings
Although I never pass away.”

C) Adore the Buddha and Admire the Buddha

“I also expound the unsurpassed Dharma
Not only in this Saha-World,
But to the living beings of the other worlds.
If they respect Me, believe Me and wish to see Me.
I will appear at any place in a matter of seconds
Overcoming time and place.

However, the people think
That I disappeared from this world.
I see the perverted people sinking
In an ocean of suffering.
I am watching over them with compassionate eyes.
In order to correct their misunderstanding



And to save them all,
I disappeared from their eyes
And cause them to admire Me.
When they adore Me,
I appear and expound the Dharma to them.

When the people become obedient
And put their hands together to adore Me
And ask Me to save them from the suffering ocean
And request Me to extinguish the fire of illusion,
And adore Me,
I shall give My hands to scoop you up from the ocean
And extinguish the fire of the illusion,
And lead you to the peaceful Buddha Land
And let you listen to Me expounding the Dharma.”

D) The Buddha Knows Everything

The Buddha’s super natural power is great. He sees and knows everything. He knows when, where, and what we are doing. He knows who is suffering and how we are suffering. You can deceive someone but not the Buddha.

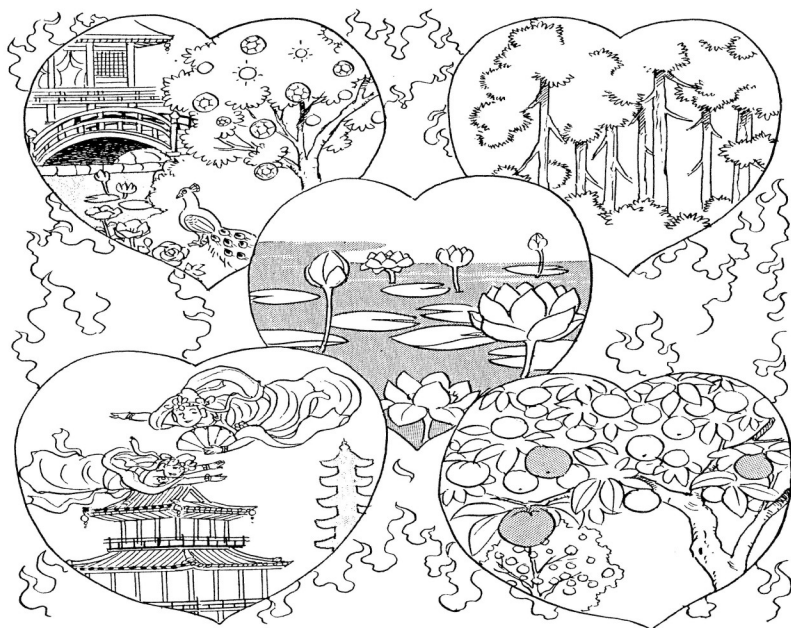
The Buddha can see through your mind; what you are doing for what purpose. He knows what you are thinking for what purpose. Even if you do not know, He knows!

Therefore, the Buddha can save any suffering and sadness when you adore Him and admire Him. The Eternal Buddha has been here since five hundred thousand particle *kalpas* ago expounding the Lotus Sutra.

E) Even If the Fire Destroys the World

The land where the Buddha and various gods protect the people and where the people give prayers is the pure land and is never destroyed even if a great fire destroys everything with the fire of illusion and selfish strong desires. The beautiful gardens and green forests are decorated with the pure minds of the people. The trees bear a lot of fruits of the One Vehicle of the Wonderful Law. The water of the ponds is filled with the lotus

flowers that are never stained with dirty water. The gardens are adorned with various treasures of the jeweled trees. The



stately buildings are also adorned with various treasures. The angels are beating heavenly drums making various kinds of music, and raining *mandarava*-flowers on the great multitude and the Buddha.

“This pure world of the Buddha is indestructible.
But the perverted people think:
‘It is full of sorrow, fear and other sufferings.
It will soon burn away.’

Because of their evil karmas,
These sinful people repeating birth and death in the six realms
Will not be able to hear even the names of
The Three Treasures of the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha
During many kalpas.”

To those who have accumulated good roots such as offering various things, continued practices of the Dharma and helped many people will meet the Buddha. They are lucky people!

“To those who have accumulated merits,
And who are gentle and upright,
And who see Me living here,
I say:
‘Duration of My life is immeasurable.’”

“To those who see Me after a long time,
I say, ‘It is difficult to see a Buddha.
Because of their evil karmas,
These sinful people will not be able
To hear even the names of the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha
During many kalpas.
Because of arrogant and prejudice minds,
They cannot meet the Sacred Title of the Lotus Sutra
And cannot see the expounders of the sutra

Who is the original disciple of the Eternal Buddha.”

“The light of My great wisdom knows no bound,
Shines all over the universe,
There is no place where the light does not reach.
The duration of My life is innumerable kalpas.
It is called the Buddha’s Wonderful Power!”

F) No Doubt If You Have Wisdom

“All of you, wise men!
Have no doubts about this!
Remove your doubts, have no more!
My words are true, not false.

As the physician, who sends a man expediently
To tell his perverted sons
Of the death of their father in order to cure them,
Was not accused of falsehood although he was still alive.”

Just as we read the parable, the excellent physician compounded herbs and made a wonderful medicine and left it at home for his poisoned, sick children. Since they did not take the remedy, the father went to the remote country and sent a messenger to tell them that their father died even though he had not passed away. It was an expedient for the sons to take the wonderful medicine of good color, fragrance and taste. After the children recovered from the illness, the father appeared in front of the children.

“In the same manner, I am the father of the world.
I am saving all living beings from suffering.
Because they are perverted,
I say that I pass away even though I shall not.”

No one accused the father of falsehood, as the Eternal Buddha who has the virtues of the lord, the father and the teacher. He left the Wonderful Medicine for those people who are suffering like the hell because of the five worldly desires. The Buddha is always thinking about how to save these suffering people!

G) Always Think Intensively

The Buddha knows who is practicing the way and who is not, and who clings to the five desires so much that they will fall into the evil region.

They are all Buddha’s children. He is always thinking deeply how to save all children. How soon can they take the wonderful medicine?

Sakyamuni Buddha concludes the verse of the Duration of the Life of the Tathagata as follows:

“I am always thinking:
How shall I cause all living beings
To enter the unsurpassed Way
And quickly become Buddhas?”



Chapter 6

Showing the Way

What shall I do?

Let's think that "The Eternal Original Buddha" was born as a human being in the Sakya Clan, became the Buddha and led us all His life as "Sakyamuni Buddha" for the sake of all living beings on this earth. The Dharma-Body of the Eternal Buddha was born as a prince of Kapilavastu Palace to save all living beings. However,! (This section is not missing but it is the way written on the original book.)

A) His father and Mother as the Messengers of the Eternal Buddha

King Shuddhodan and Queen Maya were chosen as the parents of Prince Siddhartha Gautama. Therefore, they must have a profound relationship as soul mates. His most lovely mother passed away seven days after the prince's birth.



Siddhartha was born as the prince of Kapilavastu without knowing anything about the profound relationship at first. Actually, He was born as the Corresponding-Body of the Original Buddha. At the age of nineteen He renounced the worldly life and entered the homeless life of a monk. Eleven years passed, and at the age of thirty He was rewarded as the result of His long years performing self-denying practices and became the Reward-Body of the Original Buddha. Since that time, He expounded the expedient Dharma as a Provisional-Body and saved the people especially before revealing the Lotus Sutra.

Now Sakyamuni Buddha started to expound the Original Teaching as the Eternal Original Buddha in the last half of the Lotus Sutra for the sake of the people in the *Mappo* era.

Thus, He said, “How shall I cause all living beings to enter into the unsurpassed Way and quickly become Buddhas?” He is always thinking “How shall I make My children take the wonderful medicine?”

B) Every Person Is the child of the Original Buddha.

He said, “My children!” We are all Buddha’s children. It means that we were born as corresponding-children of the Original Buddha. It also means that we should follow His missionary works. We must practice

the Dharma and become the Reward-Body of the Original Buddha. What shall we do?

Nichiren Dai'Shoni answered the question in the Three Great Myster-

C) Lead by Holding the Hands of the Great Original Bodhisattva

Have faith in the Most Venerable One (*Honzon*) and chant the wonderful medicine of the Sacred Title of the Original Teaching (*Daimoku*), “*Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo*” sincerely every day. It is the shortest way to receive the reward to reach the Reward-Body in front of the Original Precept Platform (*Kaidan*). There, we can see and hear the words from the Original Buddha!

Therefore, have strong confidence as the original Buddha's children and take the wonderful medicine of good color, smell and taste, that is “*Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo!*” Then your mind will be shinned and become peaceful as the Buddha satisfies you.

Regarding this matter, Nichiren Dai'Shonin said, “The most joyful matter is to meet the Original Sakyamuni Buddha when I die. And I wish to save those people who persecuted me by trying to assassinate me, exiled me, set a fire on my hut and tried to execute me. Why I wish

them to be saved? Because they were the ones who made me to be a real practitioner of the Lotus Sutra. It says that the real expounder of the Lotus Sutra will face these persecutions.



D) Forget Oneself but do it For Others

I have already told you many times that the essence of the Lotus Sutra is to work for others! When you do it for others, eventually it comes back to you! This is what the original Buddha wishes to let you know!

If all people on this earth think that they are all Buddha's children and act for others, there should be no war! There should be no bombings on oil refineries and no black smoke that contaminates the air and water. There should be no deaths of tens of millions of Buddha's children.

The Buddha must be crying as His eyes fill with tears and worry, "How shall I cause all beings not to have such strong desires, anger and ignorance?"

E) Wrapped with Compassion of the Lord, Master and Parent

Please do not forget!

All people on the earth are Buddha's children!

Gods, human beings, and animals are all Buddha's children!

The sinful and the innocent are all Buddha's children!

The Original Buddha is our lord, master and parent!

Have strong determination
To build the Buddha Land on the earth
That is to visualize the Most Venerable *honzon* in your mind,
To chant the sacred title, *Daimoku*, of the Original Teaching
And to establish the *Kaidan*, the precept platform of the Original
Teaching.

As revealed in the *gathas*,
“In reality this word of Mine is peaceful.
It is filled with gods and men!”

