

Minwa Fu Hokekyo Dowa

(Volume 13 of 30 Volumes)

**by Rev. Kōge Matsumotos
Translated by Rev. Shokai Kanai**

**Assurance of Buddha-hood for
Devadatta, the Villain and
The Eight-Year-Old Dragon Girl
(Father and Mother Are Also Able to Become Buddhas)**

Chapter 12 of the Lotus Sutra

Devadatta

Chapter 1

Cousin Princes

Devadatta was one of Sakyamuni Buddha's cousins. Devadatta was well known as the worst guy whom all people in India disliked at the time. Why did he become such a bad guy? Let us find out!

Devadatta was the son of King Tenpijoe of Devadahha who was an older brother of Buddha Sakyamuni's mother, So he was one of Buddha's cousins. Another cousin, Ananda, was a son of Sakyamuni Buddha's father's younger brother. The three of them were cousins and also princes. Ananda was the most devote servant for Sakyamuni Buddha while Devadatta was the worst person. But he was not the worst at first.

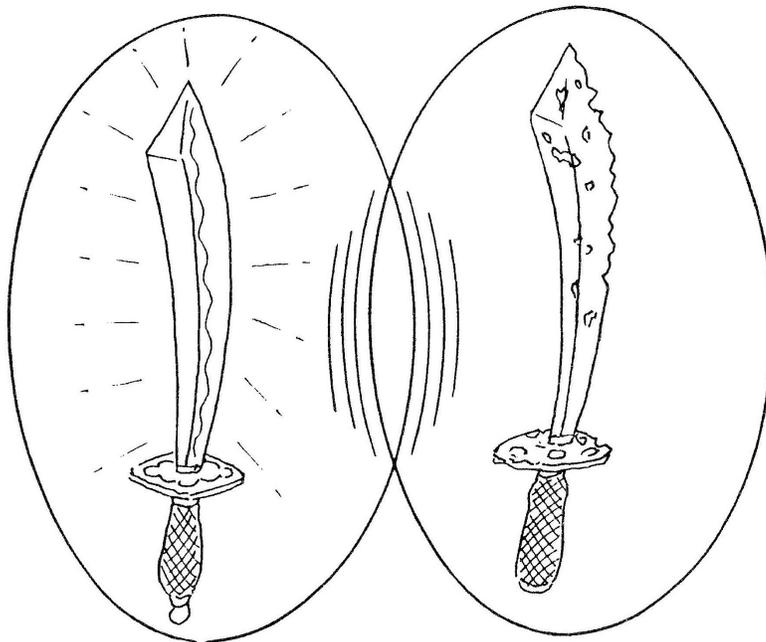
Then, why did he become the worst person whom all the people in India hated?

A) Rust comes from Iron

Once Sakyamuni Buddha said, “Rust comes out of iron and destroys the iron, just as mishaps come out of the mouth and destroys the body.”

Why did the rust of Devadatta’s mind destroy him and turn him into the worst person? We must think hard. You should be careful so that no rust comes out of your mind. Be careful what you say to not destroy yourself. Be obedient to the sutra and trust in the sacred title of the Lotus Sutra, “Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo.” Live right!

Now, let us think about why Devadatta became that bad guy.



B) Play Like a Big Brother

It is said that Devadatta was a few years older than Sakyamuni Buddha. When Devadatta was three or four years old, he wished to have a younger brother or sister very much. The young boy thought only about having a younger brother or sister every day. It was before his younger sister, Yashodhara was born.

Then, his cousin Siddhartha was born. Devadatta was so happy to have a cousin. He would act as a big brother and was very joyful! The baby was so cute! You know how babies are so cute! Soon after Devadatta returned to his home from Kapilavastu where he met his cousin, he wished to see the cousin again.

Siddhartha, who was born as a prince of Kapilavastu, lost his mother, Queen Maya. So the people in the palace felt very sorry for the prince and took care of the overwhelmed infant.

For Devadatta it was boring. He wished to play with his baby cousin. “Even though he is a prince, a kid should play with kids. It would be happy and good for him.”



C) Unhappy Symptom

Nevertheless, both of them were princes, so they studied hard and learned martial arts. They had friendly challenges and increasingly grew into the higher martial art ranks.

The unhappy symptoms began when the beautiful Princess Yashodhara appeared in front of the challengers.

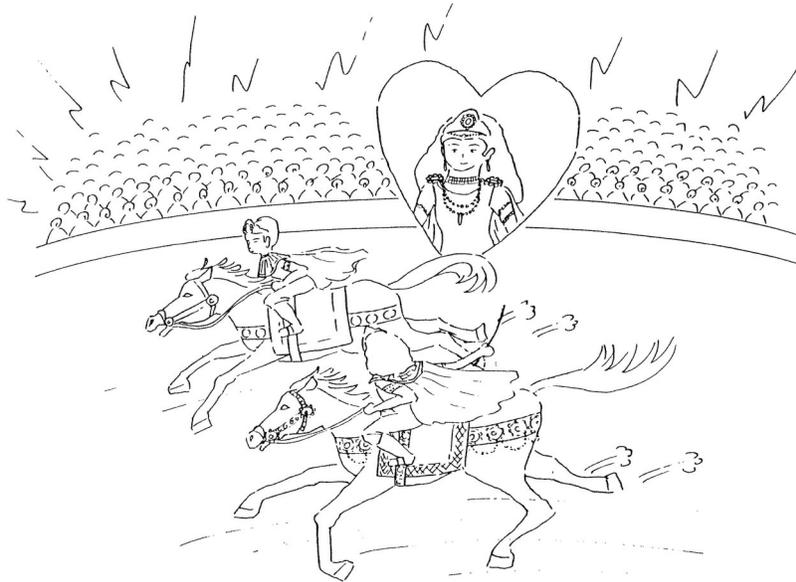
Prince Siddhartha was low-key and always worried about something. On the other hand, Prince Devadatta was a little arrogant because he was older and liked to show off. Therefore, Princess Yashodhara was naturally found of Siddhartha.



Devadatta had complicated feelings because he secretly wished to marry the beautiful princess Yashodhara who was actually his lovely younger sister. Therefore, Devadatta proposed to have a competition; he insisted whoever won the competition gets to marry her.

D) Rival of Love

Although Prince Siddhartha did not want to get his future wife through such a competition, he accepted the challenge because he was thinking about his cousin Prince Devadatta's feelings. In the end, Siddhartha won the competition and married Princess Yashodhara.



Meanwhile, Prince Devadatta resented the fact that he lost. Since this incident, the friendly cousin princes became rivals. Of course, Siddhartha had never thought of Devadatta as his enemy, but Devadatta made Prince Siddhartha his enemy.

Not only that, after the marriage of Prince Siddhartha and Princess Yashodhara, they had an heir, so they were very happy. But Prince Devadatta could not help his feelings of jealousy and hatred of Siddhartha. It is a real human karma.

Chapter 2

Renounce Prince-hood

After many years of mental uneasiness, because he had an heir of the Kapilavastu Kingdom, Prince Siddhartha decided to renounce his prince-hood. He left his lovely son and wife at the palace and turned to the homeless life of a monk in order to be free from the cycle of birth and death. Hearing this news, Prince Devadatta reconsidered his jealousy and hatred toward his cousin Siddhartha.

While he regretted why he had so much hate for him, Devadatta also decided to renounce his worldly livelihood and became a monk of Brahmanism. This was a big, basic difference between Siddhartha and Devadatta. Since Devadatta repented, he should go to the place where Siddhartha was and practice together with Him.

But he joined Brahmanism instead.



A) Sakyamuni Buddha and Brahman Monk

Since Devadatta was a prince, he was treated well and honored among the monks in Brahmanism. Soon he became famous and became a front runner for the propagation of Brahmanism.

On the other hand, Siddhartha served his master, Alala Karan, as well as other hermits and scholars for several years at first and tried to attain Enlightenment. He was not satisfied with their teachings and practices. So He left them and decided to practice all kinds of asceticism by himself in the woods for another several years.

Although He was trying to attain salvation from the cycle of birth and death, He realized that it was impossible through these ascetic practices. He went bathing to wash off twelve years' worth of dirt and dust in the Nairanjana River. He sat and meditated under a Bodhi tree at Gaya. He at last attained Enlightenment which is the freedom from the cycle of birth and death.



B) Devadatta Becomes Sakyamuni Buddha's Disciple

It soon came to Devadatta's ears that Prince Siddhartha had attained Enlightenment and became the Buddha. The cousin Devadatta threw away his honor and status as a Brahman priest and joined the Buddhist sangha to be one of Buddha's disciples.

However, he unfortunately created more trouble. I feel sorry and pity for him. He always had bad luck. Sakyamuni Buddha must be very glad that Devadatta joined the Buddhist sangha after repenting his wrong doing toward his cousin Siddhartha!



仏弟子になったダイバ

C) Devadatta's Dirty Mind Not Shed Off Completely

Even though Devadatta became a disciple, Sakyamuni Buddha was able to read his mind of arrogance and desire to show-off.



Devadatta gave several pieces of advice to his master Sakyamuni but for His sake, the Buddha could not accept any of them because they were not helpful for the salvation of human sufferings. Even though Devadatta was older than the Buddha and His cousin, Sakyamuni could not allow personal feelings to get in the way. Then

Devadatta began to complain and showed his dissatisfaction toward the Buddha.

As the Buddha's reputation began to build up daily, the people in India respected Him more day by day. Devadatta became envious. He could not control himself; he tempted 2,500 of Buddha's disciples and tried to break the Buddhist sangha in half. Because this happened, he could not meet the Buddha anymore.



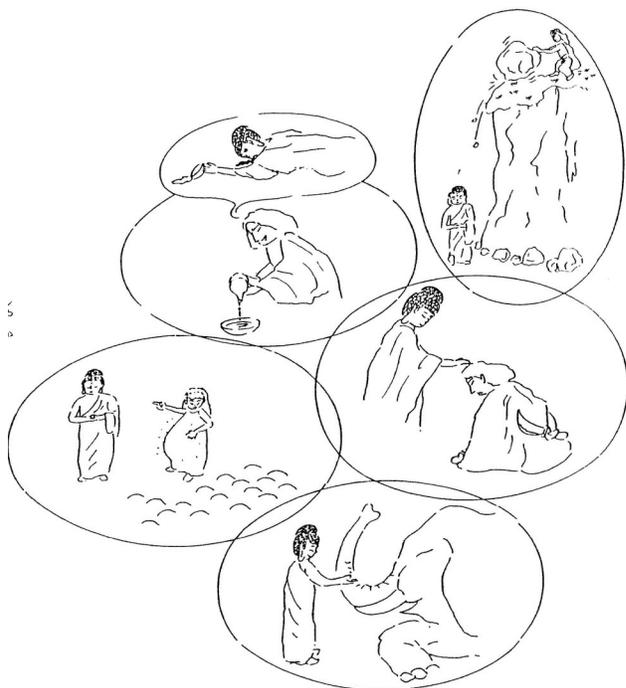
仲間をつれ出すタイバダッタ

D) Try to Assassinate the Buddha

The tempted 2,500 disciples were soon taken back by Sariputra. Then Devadatta got very angry! The fire of ambition to kill the Buddha burned within him. He planned to kill the Buddha and take over His place.

For example, he pushed a huge rock off the top of a cliff near the Buddha's path and attempted to kill Him. He sent some kind of poisoned food to the Buddha. He pretended repentance of his wrong doing and visited the Buddha in a monastery, approached the Buddha and tried to kill Him. His assassination plans all failed, and as the result of his own wrong doing he went into the great *avici** hell, the most severe one.

*Avici** means the worst hell in which beings suffer incessantly.



On the other hand, Sakyamuni Buddha never hated Devadatta who tried to kill Him. Instead, He said, “Because of Devadatta, I was able to attain Buddha-hood.” Shall we read that part in the Lotus Sutra?

Chapter 3

A Great King and A Seer

Thereupon the Buddha in the many treasures stupa in the sky above Mount Sacred Eagle said to the Buddhas gathered from the universe of the ten directions, Bodhisattvas, gods, men and all congregations:

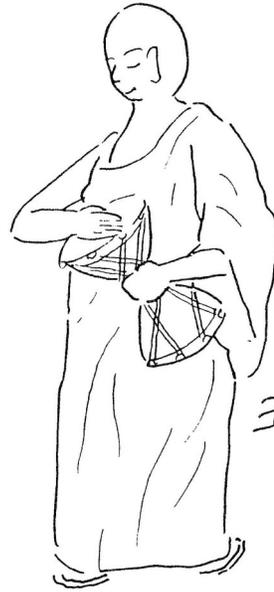
“This is a story about my many previous existences. I was a great king called Suzudan who was very compassionate and did not have much attachment to material things. In order to save suffering people, I offered anything I possessed, even any part of my body, and whatever people wanted. I did not spare even my own life. I always wished to save more people from the bottom of my heart.”

“Because of my sincere wish for happiness for all, the people of my country had no suffering but had long and happy lives. However, because of my strong wish to save more people, one day I abdicated from the throne in order to seek the Dharma. I entrusted the crown prince with the ad-



ministration of my country.”

“I beat a drum and sought the Dharma in all directions, saying with a loud voice, ‘Who will expound the Great Vehicle to me? If there is anyone, I will make offerings to him, and run errands for him for the rest of my life.’”



王位を太子にゆずった
須頭檀王 と

A) A Seer of Good Knowledge



One day a seer came to the king and said:

善知識の仙人

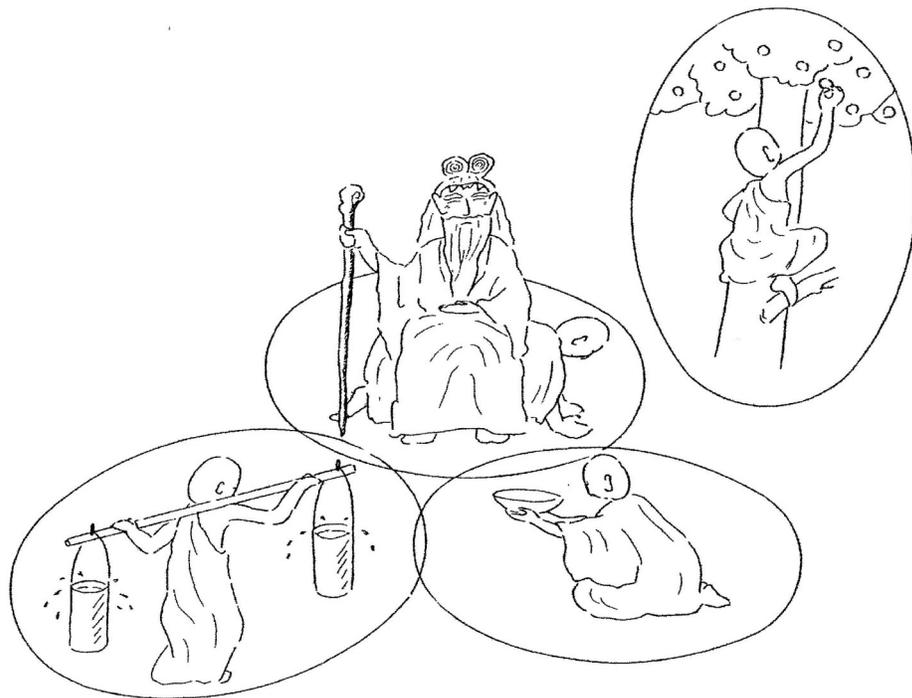
“I have a sutra of the Great Vehicle called the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma. If you are obedient to me, I will expound this sutra to you.”

“Having heard this, I danced with joy, and immediately became his servant. I offered him anything he wanted. I collected fruits, drew wa-

ter, gathered firewood, and prepared meals for him. I even allowed my body to be his seat. I never felt tired in my body or mind. I served him for a thousand years. In order to hear the Dharma from him, I served him so strenuously that I did not cause him to be short of anything. I finally obtained the Lotus Sutra and became a Buddha.”

Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha told about his previous existence from a long, long time ago. What do you think about it?

The compassionate king not only gave money and other material things but also seriously thought to save all people from the bottom of his heart. The king had served the seer for one thousand years and finally attained Buddha-hood. What does it mean? What is Sakyamuni

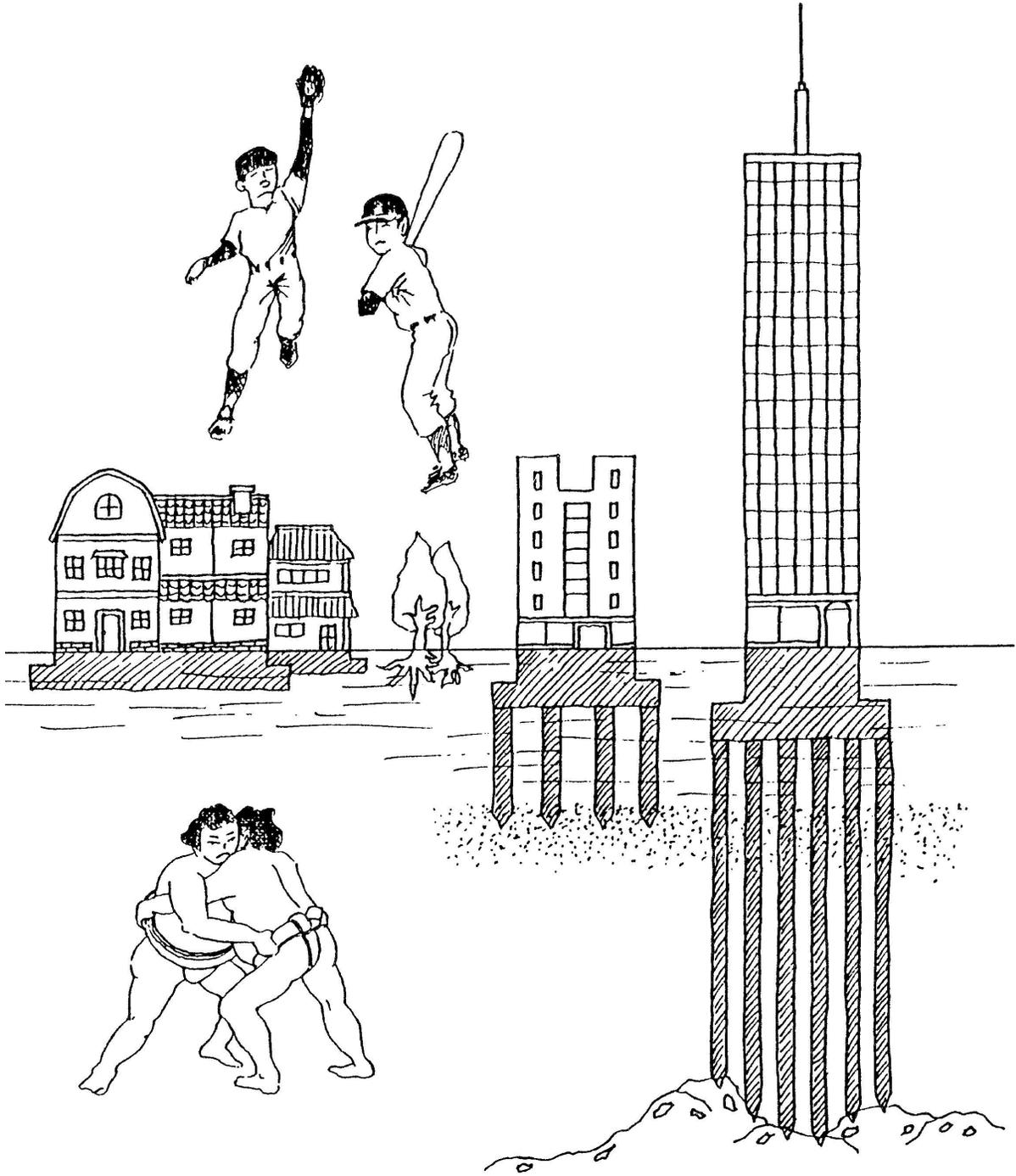


B) The People in the Top Ranks and also High-rise Buildings

Those people who are in the top ranks like some *sumo* wrestlers and professional baseball players practiced very hard with their teeth firmly shut and never becoming egotistic. The higher rank people seem to practice harder especially when they were young. They followed their coaches' advice and practiced many more times than other people and as if their lives depended on it. Not only did they work during their regular training time but even after other people left, they cleaned the tools and the instruments, and also maintained the grounds. They even did odd jobs earnestly. They practiced the basics regardless of whether someone was watching or not, and began to build up their skill.

It is true even for skyscrapers. The builder must drive in posts very deep underground and must solidify a firm foundation. Without such a firm foundation, such high-rise buildings cannot stand still. We cannot see the foundation, but the basics are very important for everyone and everything.

Therefore, while you are young, you must brush-up your mind, have strong a determination and a gentle mind, so you will be a dependable person when you grow up. Nobody will care about you if you behave



C) The King Was Sakyamuni and the Seer Was Devadatta

Sakyamuni Buddha told an unbelievable explanation:

“The king at that time was Me in a previous life. The seer at that time was Devadatta in a previous life. Devadatta whom you know well was My teacher. He caused Me to obtain the Dharma and to become the Buddha. He caused Me to have compassion, loving-kindness and impartiality.”

“Listen well to Me. You think that Devadatta was an evil man, but frankly speaking he was My teacher in our previous lives long, long ago. I owe him a lot. Because of that relationship, both of us were born as cousin princes. We were raised as friendly rivals.”

“Unfortunately when we grew up, although Devadatta did various mischievous acts towards Me, I was able to become the Buddha who can save many people and become well-known now. I appreciate him a lot!”



D) The Benefactor Becomes the Rival to Test the King

Sakyamuni Buddha said that Devadatta was born as my cousin into Sakya Clan in order to check whether I had really attained the Dharma taught by Devadatta in my previous existence or not. So he might be checking on Him.

As I said before, there must be an indistinguishable and deep relationship from person to person. For instance, a benefactor or a rival in one's previous life could be born as a parent and a child, siblings or relatives. Or a husband and a wife in a previous existence may be born as a parent and a child. Or a parent and a child in a previous existence might be born as a child and a parent. Or two good friends in a previous life may be born in the same family. There are many possibilities among us.

Now, Sakyamuni Buddha affirmed that the benefactor in his previous existence was born as a rival to test His Enlightenment little by little. He declared, "Because of Devadatta's compassion, I was able to become the Buddha and become well known, so now I am able to save many people."



E) Pardon and Pray

The Buddha said to not just pardon the wrong doing-person but because of the person, He was able to become the Buddha. It is a very hard thing to say. Devadatta attempted to assassinate the Buddha, to break up the Buddhist sangha, to take over the sangha, and to perform other wrong acts. The Buddha not only excused him but praised him for his good deeds so that he will become a Buddha in the future!



Therefore, if you have someone who is always unkind to you or treat you wrongfully, you should wish him or her to awaken his or her own Buddha nature or character to become a Buddha. Then you may not get angry because that person might be the person who saved your life in your previous life.

Not only that, Sakyamuni Buddha gave assurance that Devadatta will become a Buddha in the future.

What's a generous thought!

How He was profound and compassionate!

How wonderful the Buddha's teaching is!



Let us read the Lotus Sutra about an evil-minded person attaining Enlightenment.

Chapter 4

Evil-Minded Person Attains Enlightenment

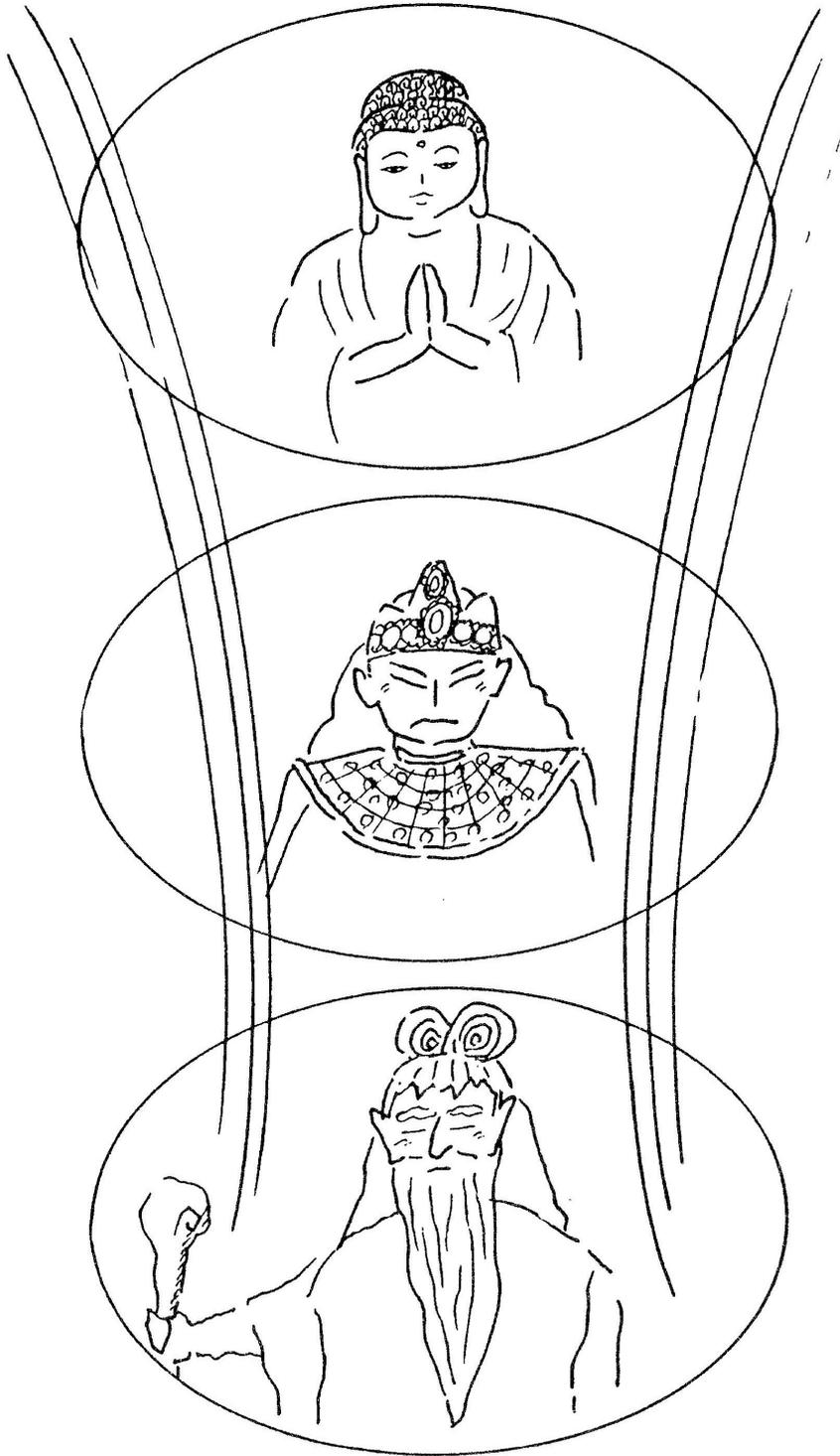
Sakyamuni Buddha said to the pure minded people gathered around the Great Many Treasures Stupa:

“Listen attentively! After Devadatta repented all of his wrong conducts in his next lives during innumerable kalpas, he will become a Buddha. He will be called Heavenly-King Tathagata. The world of that Buddha will be called Heavenly-Way. That Buddha will live for twenty intermediate kalpas.”

“Hearing that the evil person will attain Enlightenment, as many living beings as there are sands in the River Ganges will obtain *Arhat*ship* who have nothing more to learn; another group of innumerable living beings will aspire for the *Pratyakabuddhas** who have learned the causes of all things, and another group of living beings as many as there are sands in the River Ganges aspire for unsurpassed enlightenment and obtain the truth of birthlessness, that is the *Bodhisattva* who seeks Buddha-hood. And after practicing the Way of Bodhisattva, they will reach the stage of irrevocability to the worldly matters (Buddha-hood). Thus, their wishes to become Buddhas will be fulfilled.”

Arhat means one who is free from all craving and rebirth.*

Pratyakabuddha means self-claimed enlightened Buddha.*



A) The Treasures Stupa for Heavenly-King Tathagata

“After the Parinirvana* of Heavenly-King Buddha, a stupa of the seven treasures sixty *yojanas** tall and forty *yojanas* wide and deep should be erected to enshrine the ashes of his perfect body. Gods and men will bow to the stupa; offer various flowers, incense, garments, music and songs of praise to the stupa.

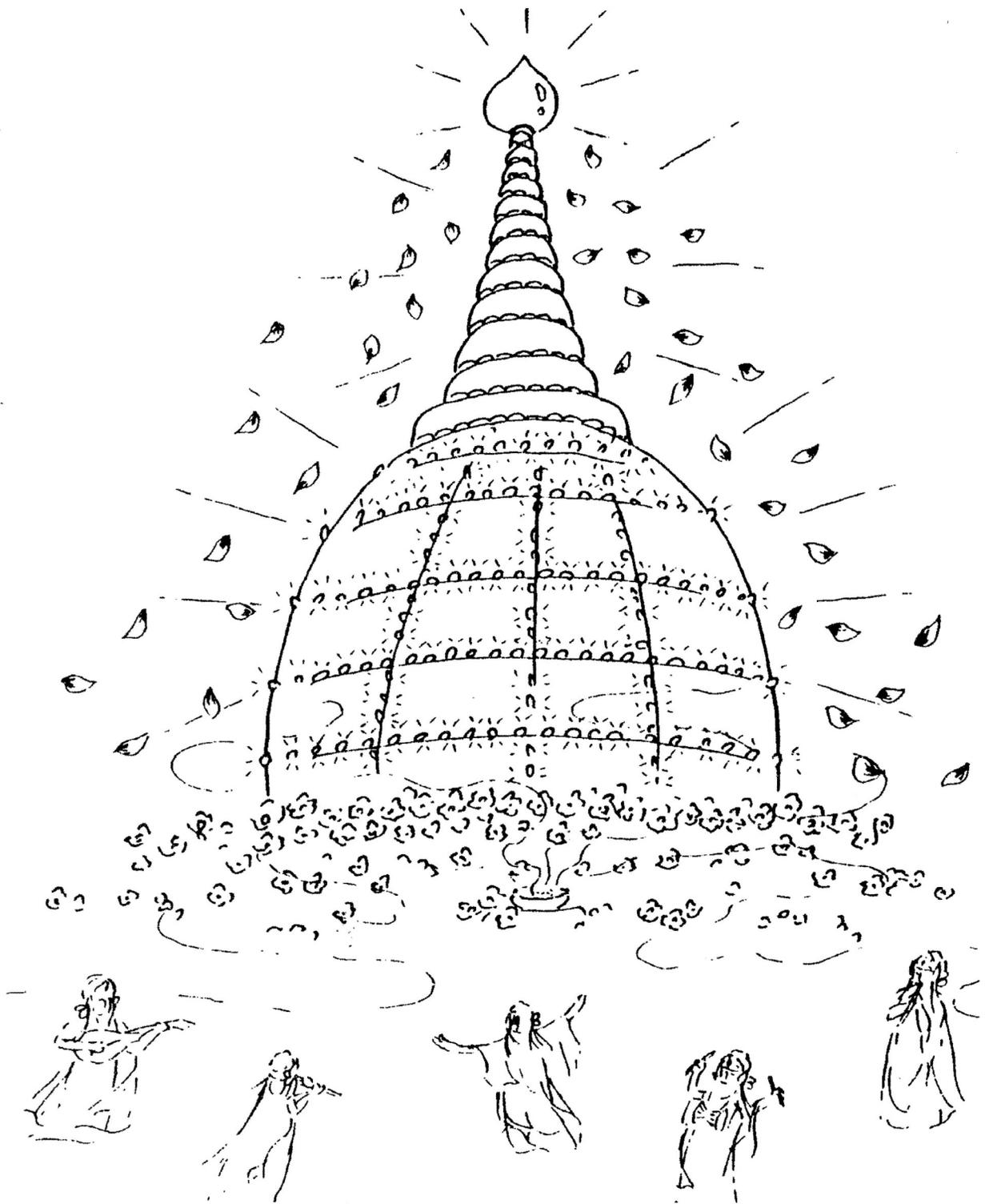
Parinirvana means complete extinction, the death of the Buddha.*

Yojana is a unit of distance. It is about 160 km.*

He said to the great multitudes:

“Good men or women in the future who hear this chapter of Devadatta of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma with faithful respect caused by their pure minds, and have no doubts about this chapter, will not fall into hell or the region of hungry spirits or the region of animals. They will always be able to hear this sutra at the places of their rebirth. Even when they are reborn among men or gods, they will be given wonderful pleasures. When they are reborn before the Buddhas, they will appear in lotus-flowers.”

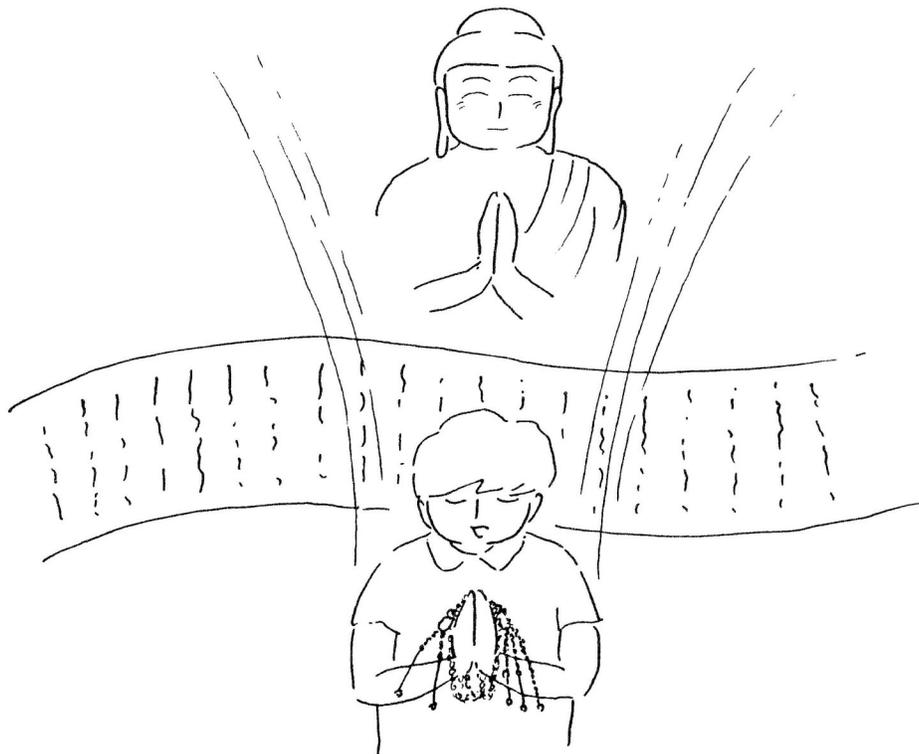
Thus, the Buddha assured the attaining of Buddha-hood by even the evil-minded people.



B) Faith, Self-examination and Repentance

Sakyamuni Buddha declared that the evil-minded Devadatta who was disliked by all the people in India had been a seer and taught Him the Lotus Sutra in their previous lives. Because he taught the sutra to Sakyamuni, He was able to practice the teachings of the Lotus Sutra, to attain Buddha-hood and to expound the teachings to the people. So Sakyamuni's enlightenment has heavily dependant on the previous existence of Devadatta.

Thus, the congregation at Mt. Sacred Eagle felt like excusing Devadatta who tried to murder Sakyamuni Buddha because he had been Sakaymuni's



teacher in his previous existence. But he must repent all of his wrong conducts during the countless repetition of birth and death. He is now in the lowest hell among the ten great hells due to his sins of trying to assassinate the Buddha, to harm Him and to disturb the peace of the sangha. When he realizes his own evil conducts and repents, he will be able to become Heavenly-King Tathagata because of the merit of teaching the Lotus Sutra to Sakyamuni Buddha.

All right?

The Buddha Dharma is wonderful, warm hearted and full of compassion!

It is Buddha's real wish: "How shall I cause all living beings to enter into the unsurpassed Way and quickly become Buddhas?"

Chapter 5

Female Attains Enlightenment

By the way, when Sakyamuni Buddha finished the story about the great evil-minded Devadatta's attaining Buddha-hood after repentance of his wrong conducts, a Bodhisattvas called Accumulated-Wisdom who was accompanied by Many-Treasures Tathagata said to his master, "Shall we go back to our home world? You have accomplished your great purpose to come to the Saha-World and listen to Sakyamuni Buddha's Dharma directly from Him on the evil-minded man attaining Buddha-hood."

Sakyamuni Buddha said to Accumulated-Wisdom:

"Good man, wait for a while! A Bodhisattva called Manjusri who is My attendant is coming here. See him, talk about the Wonderful Dharma with him, and then go back to your home world!"

Thereupon Manjusri appeared sitting on a one-thousand-petal lotus-flower as large as the wheel of a chariot. He had sprung up from the palace of Dragon-King Sagara in the great ocean, gone up to the sky, and traveled through the sky towards Mt. Sacred Eagle, descended from the lotus-flower, respectfully greeted the both Buddhas in the statue, then came to Accumulated-Wisdom Bodhisattva and exchanged greetings with him.



A) Manjusri Bodhisattva and Accumulated-Wisdom Bodhisattva

Well, it is time now to begin the conversation between Manjusri Bodhisattva and Accumulated-Wisdom Bodhisattva. It must be very interesting!

They both sat side by side. At first Accumulated-Wisdom Bodhisattva asked a question to Manjusri Bodhisattva:

“You went to the place of the dragon-king for propagation. How many living beings did you lead into the Way to Bodhi there?”



Manjusri answered, “The number is immeasurable, incalculable, inexplicable and unthinkable. Wait for a while! You will be able to see them.”

No sooner had he said this than innumerable Bodhisattvas who were sitting on jeweled lotus-flowers, sprang up from the sea, came to Mt. Sacred Eagle, went up to the sky, and stayed there. All these Bodhisattvas had been led into the Way to Bodhi by Manjusri. The congregation at Mt. Sacred Eagle was surprised to see them all and was at a loss of words to say.

B) Possessor of Wisdom, Virtual and Brave

Manjusri said to Accumulated-Wisdom, “Now you see the living beings taught by me in the sea.”

Thereupon Accumulated-Wisdom Bodhisattva praised him:

“Well, you are indeed great! Possessor of Great Wisdom and Virtue! You were also brave in saving innumerable living beings at the cost of your life. You expounded the truth of the reality of all things,

revealed the teaching of the One Vehicle, and led those innumerable living beings into the Way to Bodhi quickly. You must work very hard! Please let us know how you did it!”

Manjusri was satisfied with his praise and said, “Thank you for your comment. I have done nothing special. In the sea I expounded only the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma.”



Accumulated-Wisdom asked Manjusri again:

“The sutra is exceedingly profound and wonderful. This is the treasure of all the sutras. It is rare in the world. Do you know anyone who had followed this sutra so strenuously that he has already been qualified to become a Buddha quickly?”

C) Eight-Year-Old Daughter of Dragon-King

Manjusri answered with a different tune:

“Yes, this sutra is the treasure of all sutras. It is the Dharma for everyone at any place. If anyone is obedient to the teaching and have faith in it sincerely, he or she will be able to become a Buddha for sure. That is why it is said to be the treasure of all sutras.”



“At Dragon Palace there is a girl who aspired to attain Bodhi soon after she heard the Lotus Sutra. She practiced the teachings of the sutra intensively and understood the causes of the sufferings of the people, then practiced the Way of Bodhisattva; soon she was able to save the suffering people. She is a daughter of Dragon-King Sagara among those whom I

taught. She is eight years old. She is very obedient and has a pure mind. She keeps all the treasures of the profound and hidden core expounded by the Buddha. What she tells to others inspires them to attain Bodhi and reach the stage of irrevocability. She is eloquent without hindrance. She is com-

D) Accumulated-Wisdom Bodhisattva's Doubt

That's extraordinary! Accumulated-Bodhisattva never thought or was taught that a female could attain Buddha-hood. He could not believe what Manjusri had just said. Inclining his head, he asked Manjusri:

“As far as I know, even when Sakyamuni Buddha sought Bodhi, He was once a Bodhisattva, for innumerable kalpas. He accumulated merits by practicing all austerities around the world. The Bodhisattva made efforts to save all living beings at the cost of his



life. It was after doing all this that He attained Buddha-hood. How can the eight year old daughter of a Dragon-King be able to attain Enlightenment?”

No sooner had he said this than the daughter of Dragon-King riding on a lotus flower petals appeared in front of Sakyamuni Buddha in the treasure stupa. She worshiped His feet with her head, retired, took one step back and praised Him with gathas:

E) Daughter of Dragon-King Meets Sakyamuni Buddha

“You know the sins and merits
Of all living beings.
You illuminate the worlds of the ten quarters.
Your wonderful pure and sacred body
Is adorned with the thirty-two major marks
And with the eighty minor marks.

Gods and men are looking up at you.
Dragons also respect you.
None of the living beings
Sees you without adoration.

Only you know that I am qualified to attain Bodhi
Because I heard the Dharma.
I will expound the teachings of the Great Dharma
And save all living beings from suffering.”

Thus said the eight-year-old daughter of the Dragon-King. Accumulated-Wisdom Bodhisattva was speechless with admiration. But there was a person who did not under-



F) Sariputra Was Dissatisfied

It was Sariputra, the wisest among the Buddha's disciples who did not understand the attainment of Buddha-hood by a female.

Thereupon Sariputra who could not contain himself talked to the eight year old daughter of Dragon-King:

“Say, the daughter of Dragon-King! I understood that you listened to the Lotus Sutra, had faith in it soon, aspired Bodhi, and practiced the teachings of the sutra. How can you say you are able to attain Enlightenment before long? You cannot do that! Nobody can believe you! Do you know why? It is because the body of a woman is too defiled to be a recipient of the teachings of the Buddha. How dare the daughter of Dragon-King of Palace of Ocean be able to become a Buddha! The enlightenment of the Buddha is far off. It can be attained only by those who perform the Bodhisattva practices with strenuous efforts for innumerable *kalpas*. It is impossible for a woman to become a Buddha!”



G) The Five Impossibilities for Women

A woman has five impossibilities. She cannot become 1. The Brahman-Heavenly-King, 2. King Sakra, 3. King Mara, 4. A wheel-turning-holy-king, and 5. A Buddha. How can it be that you, being a woman, quickly become a Buddha,” said Sariputra in anger.



The wisest Sariputra said this logically but he was unmanly talking to an eight-year-old girl. He was not behaving like a man or the wisest among the disciples. But the daughter of Dragon-King talked with a fluent tongue, so Sariputra might have forgotten her age.

H) Serenity of the Eight-Year-Old Daughter of Dragon-King

How amazing is the eight-year-old Daughter of the Dragon-King! If this was a normal case where an eight-year-old girl was told, “The body of a woman is too defiled,” again and again by many adults, she will be upset, and she may say things like, “Don’t make me stupid!” However, the eight year old daughter of Dragon-King had a self-possessed attitude and offered a beautiful gem on both her palms to Sakyamuni Buddha.

The beauty of the gem is hard to explain by just saying “it’s so beautiful and shining venerably!” It is said that it looks like a gem that combined all the heavenly jewels of the shining heart of the daughter. Sakyamuni Buddha accepted the gem from the eight year old daughter full of satisfaction. He has received her sincere and praiseworthy heart that is willing to save many suffering people. So the Buddha showed His assurance for her to become a Buddha.



Chapter 6

Two Boys and King Asoka

By the way the following story is the time one day when Sakyamuni Buddha was begging for food on a street, where two children were playing with mud. When they saw the Buddha begging for food and approaching toward them, they made a few mud dumplings in a hurry and gave them to the Buddha. Seeing the incident, a man scolded the kids, “Hey, what are you doing? You should not give that kind of mud dumplings!”



However, the Buddha scolded the man instead of the children!



Value on One's Sincere Heart

The children wanted to give some food to the Buddha but they had nothing edible. So they made the mud dumplings with their whole-hearts and offered them to the Buddha. The gifts were very valuable! On the other hand, even if an expensive gift is given, without one's heart, it is worthless if the gift is given with the expectation of something in return.

The two boys liked the Buddha more after that. They wished to help the Buddha in more different ways. Their wishes were answered a hundred years later. One of them was born as King Asoka who ruled all of India (in 269 to 232 B.C.) He did great works to spread Buddhism around the world. He held the Third Buddhist Council. He erected stupas and stone pillars in memory of the Buddha all over the country and dispatched missionaries abroad. When you go to India and Nepal, you will see the pillars and scriptures engraved on them. People of these countries honored the pillar wholeheartedly.



Chapter 7

Transforming a Woman into a Man

Questions and Answers together with the Daughter of Dragon-King

Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha received immediately the gem that the daughter of Dragon-King offered as her sincere vow to propagate the Lotus Sutra. Then, the daughter faced both Accumulated-Wisdom Bodhisattva and venerable Sari-putra and asked:

“I offered a gem to the World Honored One. Did He receive it quickly from me or did He take his time?”

Both of them answered, “Very quickly! But we are a little jealous.”

Sariputra was honestly confessed, “A little jealous!” He did not hide his true feelings. That is good because he was honest!

Then, she tried to clear her mind and said as follows:



しつ
していろ!!



A)There is No Difference between Males and Females in Attaining Buddhahood

She said, “Look at me with your supernatural powers! I will become a Buddha quicker than the speed of Buddha receiving the gem. So look at me!” No sooner had she said that, the congregation saw that the daughter of the Dragon-King changed into a man* all of a sudden, went to the Spotless World in the south, sat on a jeweled lotus-flower, and attained perfect Enlightenment. The congregation saw that she expounded the Lotus Sutra at the Spotless World in the south.

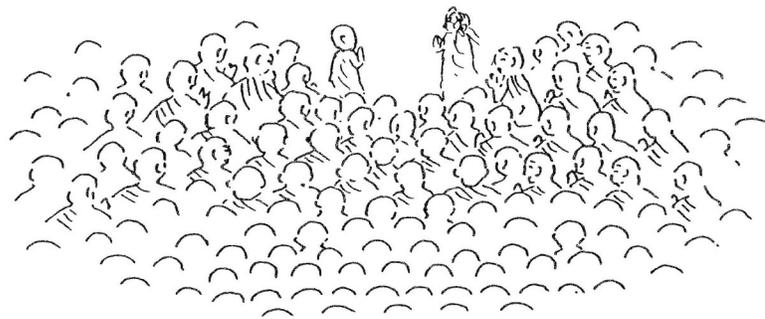
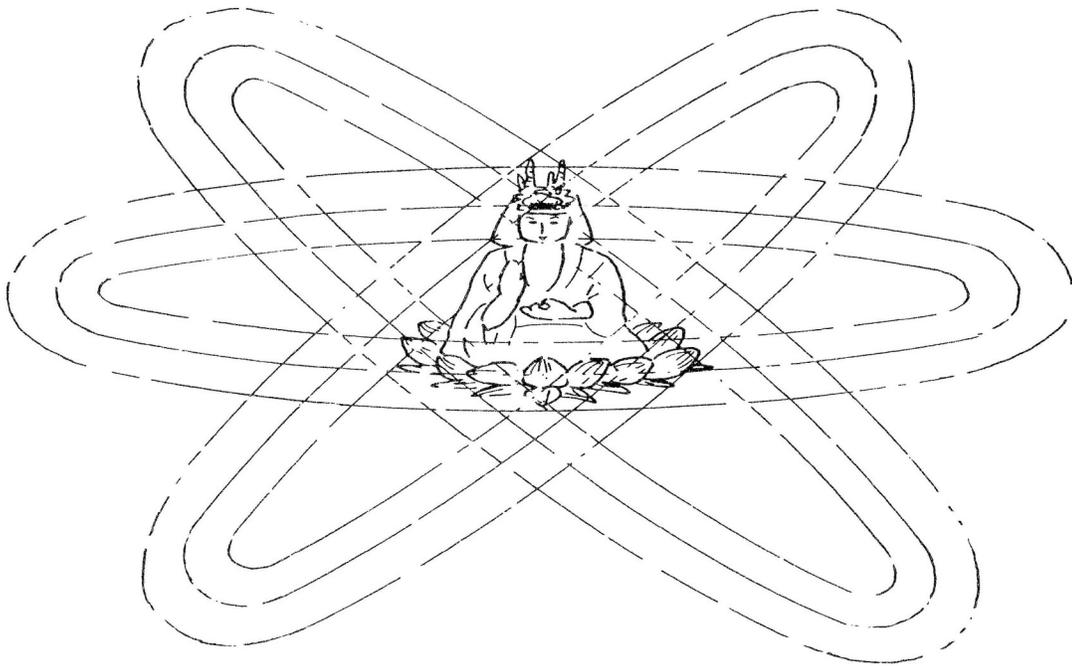
*Note: *Twenty-five centuries ago, people had not believed that a woman could attain Buddhahood. In order to make them understand quicker, she took the form of a man to make the point that whether you are a woman or a man, you can become a Buddha. Anyone has the potential to become a Buddha, whether you are male or female, young or old, good or bad.*

The people in the Spotless World celebrated the woman who attained Enlightenment. At that time the world quaked in the six ways. Three thousand living beings of the Saha-World reached the stage of irrevocability, and another group of three thousand living beings aspired for Bodhi, and obtained the assurance of their future attainment of Enlightenment.

The Accumulated-Wisdom Bodhisattva, Sariputra, and all other living

beings in the congregation had strong impressions of happiness and put their palms together honoring her, and received the Dharma faithfully and in silence from the bottom of their hearts.

Please remember it!



B) It Is Not Reason or Logic but Peace of Mind

You do not need reasoning or logic to understand the teachings in the Lotus Sutra. But, you must have an obedient mind to the teachings of the Buddha. Believe in “the rebirth of the soul” and “the equality of the soul.” Then, chant the spirit of the Lotus Sutra that is “Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo.”

Any evil-minded bad person can repent one’s wrong doing when he or she comes across the Lotus Sutra.

If any woman realizes “the transmigration of the soul” and “the equality of the soul,” she is already living in the world of the Lotus Sutra of “the pure soul.” Therefore, she is all right to think that she is not defined as a male or a female but associate herself with “the soul of the Buddha.”

Therefore, if there is someone who does something mean to you or bad to you, pray for that person: “Oh, the Buddha! Please make him or her have a gentle mind sooner. Make the person realize that everyone will repeat birth and death and that we are all equal companions.”



C) Do Not Hate Anyone but Take Care of the Soul

Don't forget that! All right!

Hate the wrong conduct but don't hate the person who does that!

Do not hate anyone but respect everyone's soul!

There is no difference between good or bad or between males or females.

We are all Buddha's children embraced by Buddha's compassion!

