

Minwa Fu Hokekyo Dowo

(Volume 12 of 30 Volumes)

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The Great Treasures Stupa in the Sky

(The Difficulty of Retaining the Sutra)

Chapter 11 of the Lotus Sutra

Beholding The Stupa of Treasure

Chapter 1

Believe and Think

In the preceding Volume, *The Teacher of the Dharma*, Sakyamuni Buddha says, “Construct a great stupa in any place where the people, in the Declining Latter Age of the Dharma or *mappo* era, have faith in the Lotus Sutra, call the name of the Buddha, practice the Dharma even at the cost of their lives and read the sutra. You need not enshrine any ashes of the Buddha in that stupa. Why not? It is because the stupa will contain My perfect body and spirit.”

Do you remember? Each word of the Lotus Sutra is a manifestation of the Eternal Buddha, whose teachings are beneficial to all living beings. None of the words can be omitted. Therefore, it is important for you to believe it sincerely. Then you will understand the Buddha’s wish, “How shall I cause all living beings to enter into the unsurpassed way and quickly attain Buddha-hood?”

Please do not say, “I can’t believe it!” or “It is ridiculous!” But have faith! As you begin to believe it, you may wonder what the Buddha is trying to say. Then you will understand the reasons. “Oh, I see! That’s what it means!” You will rejoice even after a moment’s thought. Tears of joy may fall from your eyes.”

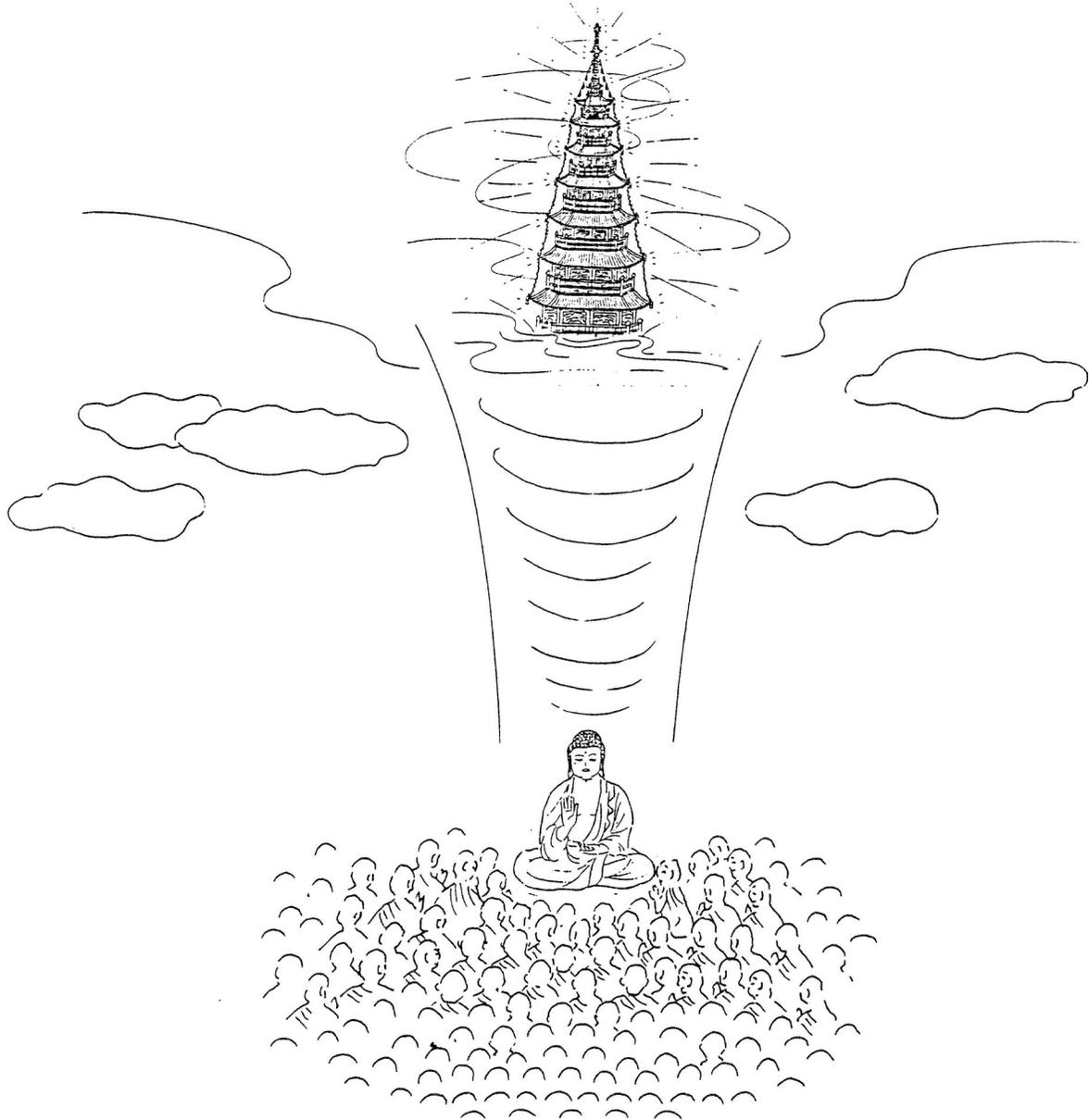
Let's start this volume!



Chapter 2

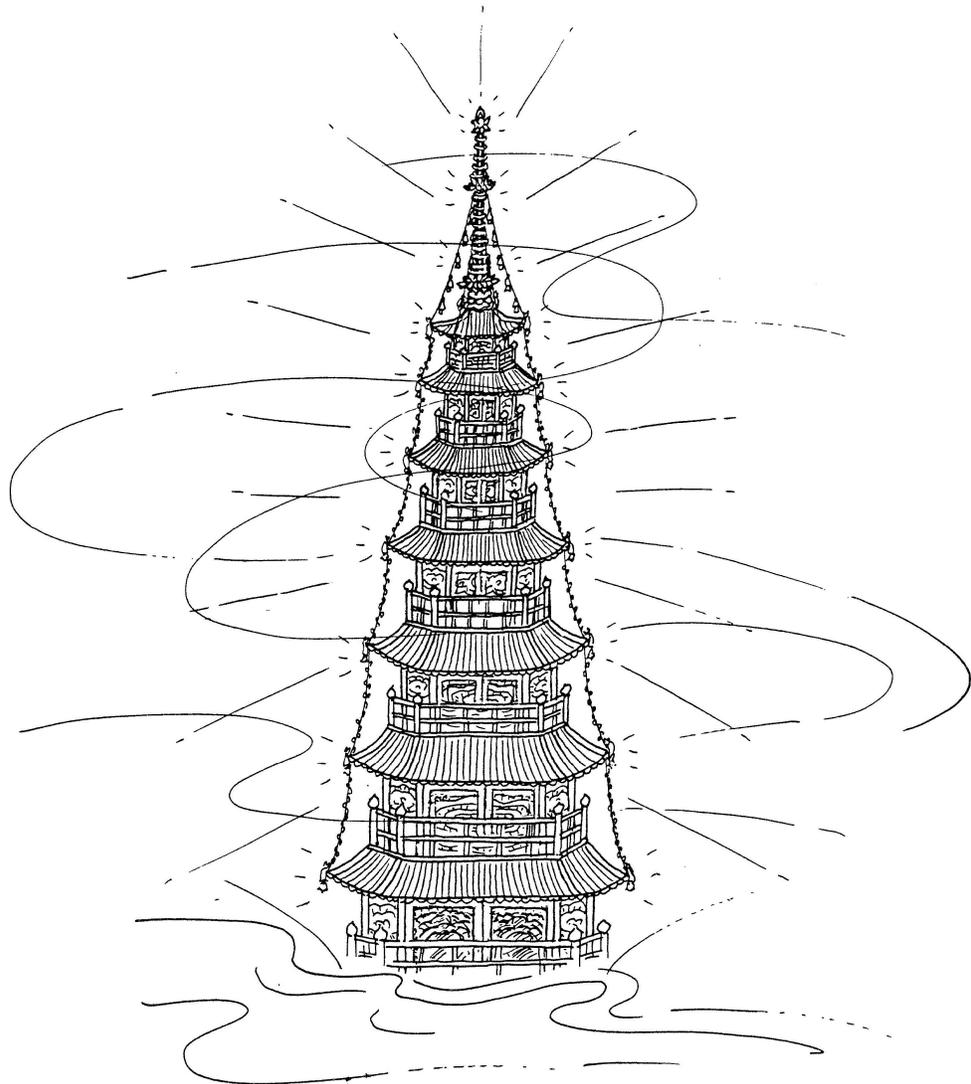
The Huge Stupa Sprung Up

Thereupon, a beautiful, dazzling and huge stupa suddenly appeared from underground and hung in the sky above the Buddha who was preaching at Mt. Sacred Eagle.



The stupa came out without any sound. How can I describe it? The stupa was five hundred *yojanas** high and two hundred and fifty *yojanas* wide and deep. *Yojanas* means the distance covered by the royal army marching on foot in one day. It may be much higher than Mt. Himalaya, so you cannot see the top of the stupa. The beautiful, huge, great stupa firmly floats in the sky without any movement at all. How about the width and depth? They are half the height, so it may be longer and deeper like the Great Wall of China. It is hard to explain how beautiful it is. The stupa is hanging in the sky but it is stable and not moving one bit.

*Yojanas** is a unit of distance about 160 km.



Dazzling Beauty

The congregation listening to Sakyamuni Buddha was surprised to see such a spectacle. They put their hands together in honoring poses and were astonished at the huge size and beauty of the stupa. Words cannot express what they saw!

“It was adorned with various treasures around the world. It was furnished with five thousand gold railings with countless chambers inside. It was adorned with innumerable banners and streamers, from which jeweled bells were hanging down. It was invigorating and refreshing.”

“Not only that, a fragrance was sent forth from the four sides of the stupa to all corners of the world. Many canopies, adorned with streamers, and made of the seven treasures – gold, silver, lapis lazuli, shell, agate, pearl and ruby – were hanging in the sky. It is said that the top of the stupa reached to the heavenly palaces of the Four Great Heavenly-Kings in the sky.”

Chapter 3

Gods and Human Beings All Honored the Stupa

The four Heavenly Kings venerated the stupa. They were the Heavenly-King of the North, the Heavenly-King of the East, the Heavenly-King of the South and the Heavenly King of the West. Not only did these Heavenly-Kings offer *mandalaba* flowers to the great beautiful stupa but also thirty-three other heavenly beings did as well.

Seeing the offerings by these heavenly beings, thousands of billions of living beings who gathered at Mt. Sacred Eagle also offered flowers, incense, streamers, canopies, dances by those who were good at dancing, and songs by those who were good at singing, to the stupa of treasures, venerating the stupa, honoring it, and praising it as if it was a competition.

Everyone praised in unison, “How wonderful and beautiful the great stupa is!” “We have never seen such a stupa!” “This huge stupa is floating in the sky but not swinging at all!” “Why is it there?” All of them were wondering these things while tilting their heads and looking up to see the stupa.

Thereupon at this time, a loud voice of praise was heard from within the stupa of treasures:



A) Great Sound Vibrating Around the World

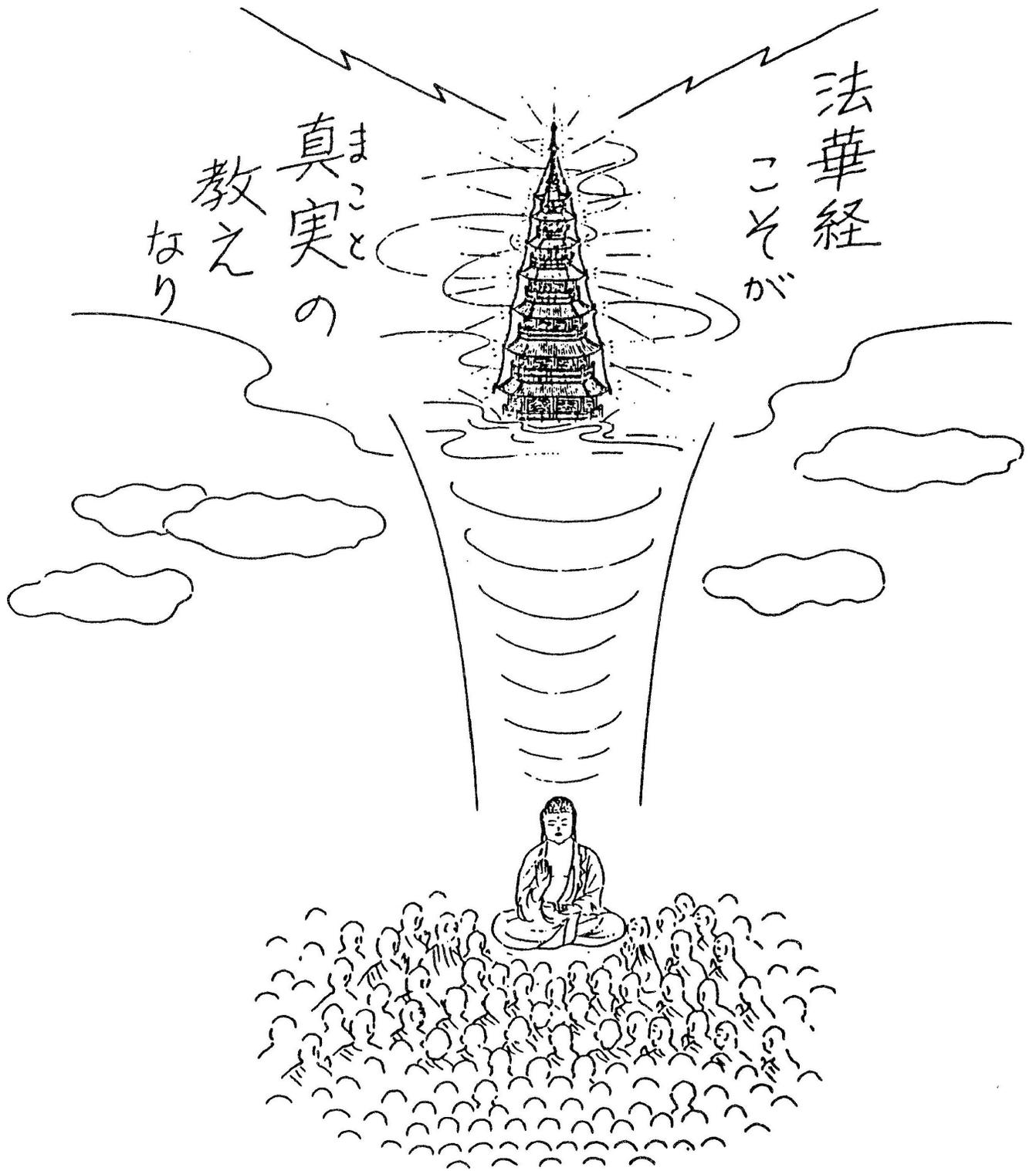
“Excellent, excellent! You, Sakyamuni, the World-Honored One, have expounded to this great multitude the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma, the Teaching of Equality, the Great Wisdom, the Dharma Upheld by the Buddhas. So it is, so it is. What you, Sakyamuni have expounded is all true.”

Sakyamuni Buddha expounds the Lotus Sutra: 1. in order to cause all living beings to understand the Buddha’s compassionate teaching for everyone, just like the rain falls equally to everyone, 2. in order to cause all living beings to understand that he or she who believes in the Dharma correctly and expounds it thoughtfully to others is a great Bodhi-sattva, and 3. in order to cause all living beings to understand that the Buddha is always protecting the people who practice the sutra. Thus, all Buddhas have revealed the Lotus Sutra, the Only One Truth in the universe and the real teaching that transcends time and place.

“That’s it! No need for any words to correct the Buddha’s teachings!”

“The Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma that Sakyamuni Buddha has revealed is the real truth and has no faults!”

Thus, the Many Treasures Buddha in the stupa said very loudly just like a roaring sound heard around the world.

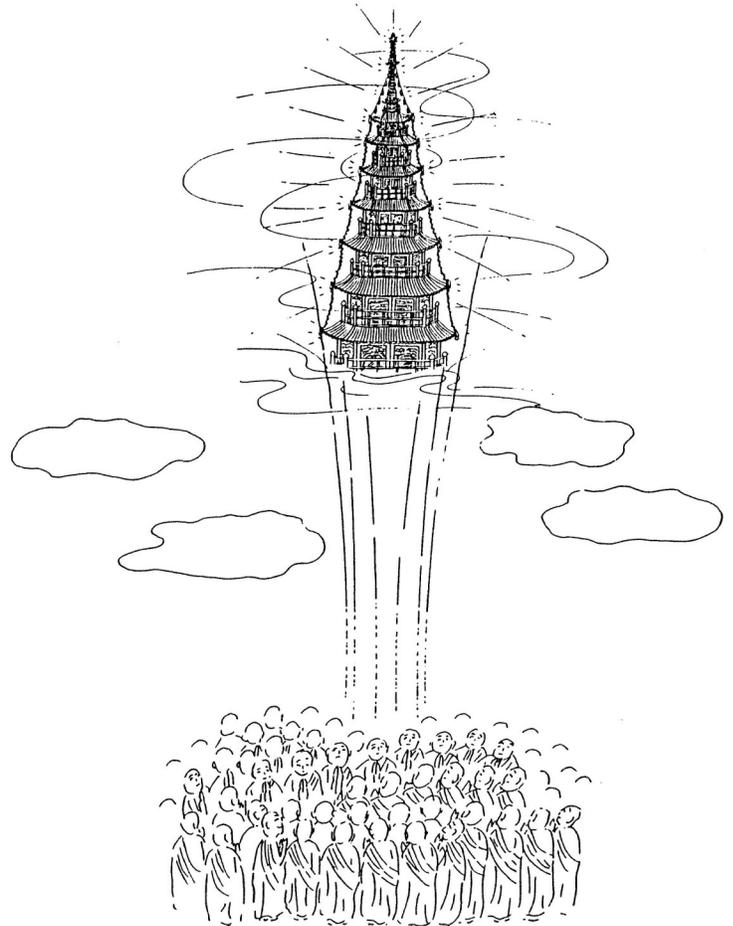


B) Tears of Joyfulness

I can image how the congregation was shocked, as if they were petrified with surprise. In any case, not only were they surprised to see the beautiful, shining, great stupa appear in the sky but also they heard the roaring and solemn voice just as the loud voice rang out through the world.

The voice said, “What you, Sakyamuni, have expounded is all true with no mistakes in a single word or a phrase. It is the profound universal truth transcendent of time and place.” Therefore, it was very natural for the congregation to be surprised.

Thus, the congregation was not able to sit still. They felt something great happening in their hearts with joyfulness. All of them stood up and put their palms together honorably and deeply bowed to the stupa. Then they sat and wondered how mysterious it is!



Chapter 4

Who Said that the Lotus Sutra Is All True?

“Thereupon a Bodhisattva called Great-Eloquence, having noticed that the gods, men and *asuras** of the world had doubts, said to the Buddha, ‘World-Honored one! Why did this stupa of treasure spring up from underground? Why was that voice heard from within the stupa?’ Thus, the bodhisattva asked the Buddha.”

Asuras is a devil who is fond of fighting by nature.*



Many Treasures Buddha Was the Buddha Who Proved Truthfulness

The Buddha said to Great-Eloquence:

“The perfect body of a Tathagata is in this beautiful great stupa of treasures. Once upon a time, there was a world called Treasure-Purity at the distance of many thousands of billions of *assamkya*s of worlds to the east of this world. In that world lived a Buddha called Many-Treasures. When he was not yet practicing the Way of Bodhisattvas, he made a great vow “If anyone expounds a sutra called the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma in any of the worlds of the ten quarters after I become a Buddha and pass away, I will cause my stupa-mausoleum to spring up before Him, so that I may be able to prove the truthfulness of the sutra and say ‘Excellent, excellent!’ in praise of Him because I wish to hear that sutra directly from Him.”

“Great-Eloquence! Many-Treasures attained enlightenment and became a Buddha. He was so delighted and made a strong impression. When he was about to pass away, he told the monks in the presence of the great multitude of gods and men, ‘If you wish to make offerings to my perfect body after my extinction, construct a great stupa of treasures for me!’”

“If anyone expounds the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma in any of the worlds of the ten quarters, that Buddha, by his supernatural power and the power of his vow, will cause the stupa of treasures enshrining his perfect body to spring up before the expounder of the sutra. Then he will praise the expounder of the sutra saying, ‘Excellent, excellent!’”



Captor 5

Wishing to See Many-Treasures Buddha With Great Ceaseless Impression

Great-Eloquence Bodhisattva found it difficult to explain in words, a feeling that he has never experienced in the past. It must be very normal, as Many-Treasures Buddha, who had passed away a long time ago, came to Mount Sacred Eagle in India from the distance of

many thousands of *asamkhyas* of universe in the east. The huge beautiful stupa suddenly sprang up from underground and hung in the sky where Sakyamuni Buddha was expounding the Lotus Sutra. Then the loud voice of praise was heard from within the stupa of treasures.



Thereupon Great-Eloquence Bodhisattva, hesitatingly asked Sakyamuni Buddha, “All of us who gathered at Mt. Sacred Eagle wish to see Many-Treasures Buddha in the stupa who has just accomplished his great vow.”

A) Two Conditions

The Buddha said to the Great -Eloquence Bodhisattva:

“There are two conditions for Many-Treasures Tathagata’s appearance before us. First, this place must be purified; Second, I must call back all Buddhas of My replicas who are expounding the Dharma in the worlds of the ten quarters. If all of you wish to see him, I must fulfil these requirements. Great-Eloquence Bodhisattva, please wait for a while. I (Eternal Buddha) shall collect the replicas of the Buddha who are now expounding the Dharma in the Worlds of the ten quarters.”

The bodhisattva was so glad to hear that and said to the Buddha, “We also wish to see Your replicas, bow to them, and make offerings to them.”

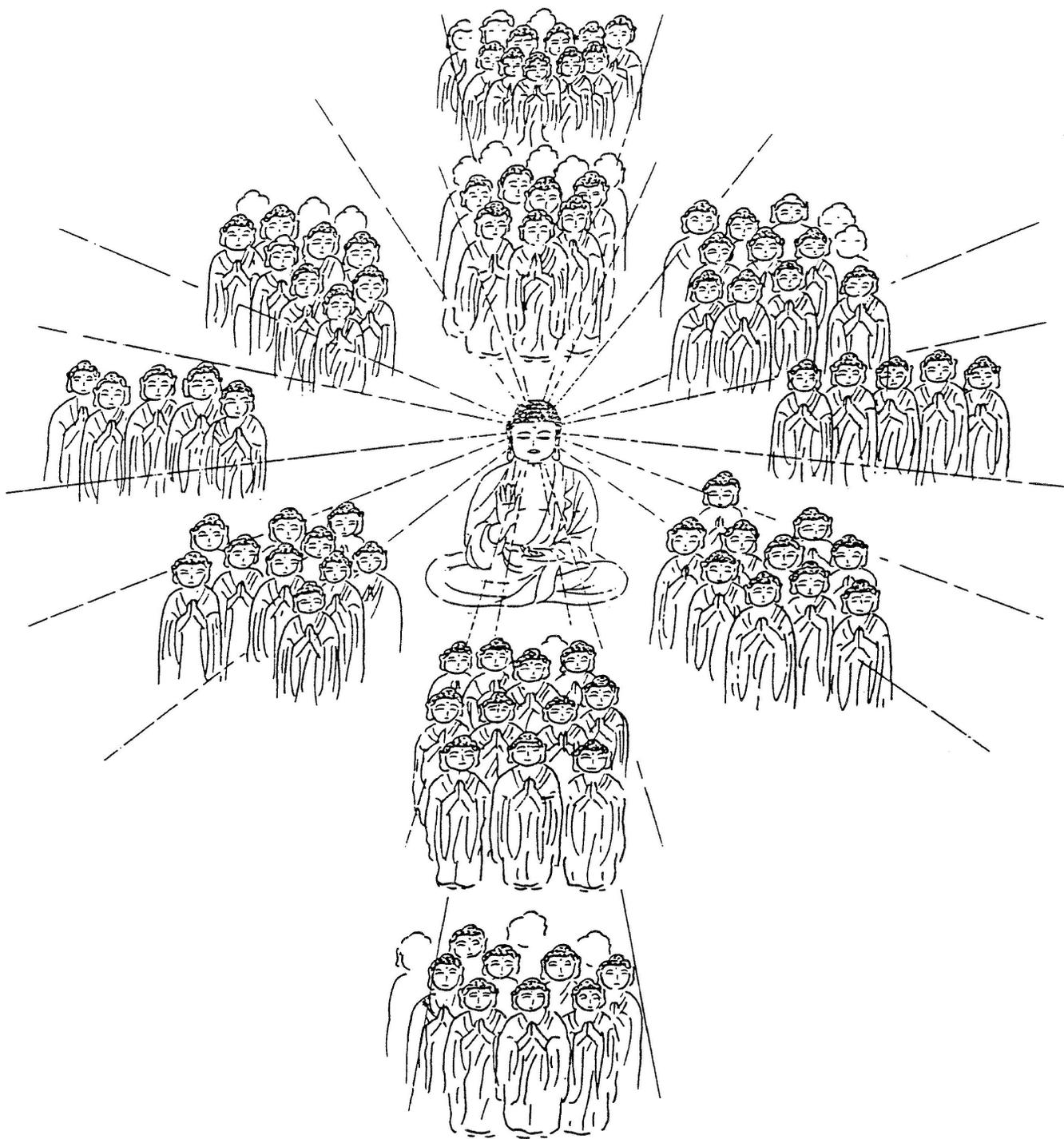


B) Illuming Replicas

“Thereupon Sakyamuni Buddha emitted a ray of light from the white curls between His eyebrows, and faced the east. The congregation saw the Buddhas of five hundred billion *nayuta* worlds, that is, as many worlds as there are sands in the River Ganges, in the east. There, the ray of light illuminated the replicas of the Buddha who are expounding the Dharma with loud and wonderful voice.”

“Then the ray of the light also illuminated the Buddhas in the east, the west, the south, the north; that is, the four directions and the four corners of the worlds.”

“Thereupon each of the Buddhas of the worlds of the ten quarters said to their Bodhisattvas under him, “Good men! Now I will go to Sakyamuni Buddha at Mount Sacred Eagle of the Saha-World. I also will make offerings to Many-Treasures Tathagata who proved the truthfulness of the Lotus Sutra and also make offerings to his huge stupa hanging in the sky.”



C) Saha-World Was Purified

At the same instant as the voice was heard, the Saha-World or the planet earth was purified!

How strange!

Responding to the ray of light of Sakyamuni Buddha at Mount Sacred Eagle, the replica-Buddhas in the worlds of the ten quarters said, "Now I will go to the Saha-World," their minds were reflected on the Saha-World and it was purified. How mysterious! Only the Buddha and the other Buddhas were able to understand. At that instance of their thought, the Saha-World was purified!

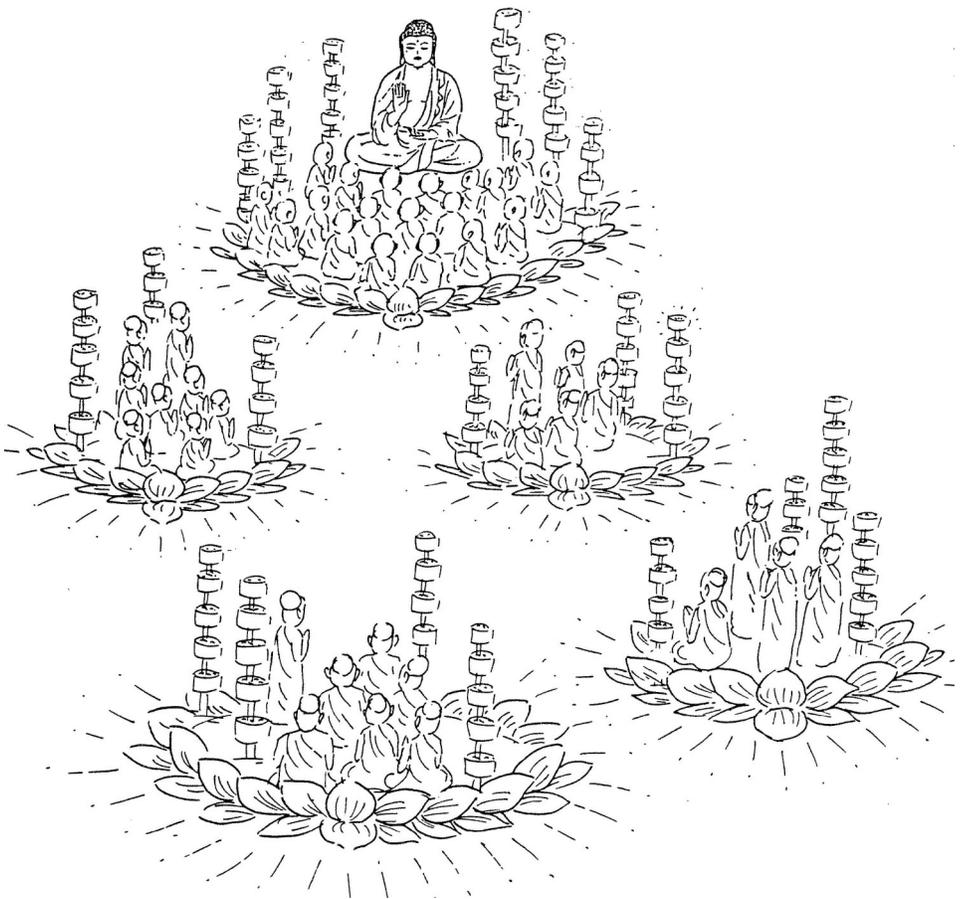
Not only that, Sakyamuni Buddha instantly eliminated all unsuitable people such as the people who complain about small matters, the people who have twisted their nature, the people who are not obedient to the teaching of the Lotus Sutra, the people who have no concern for others, the selfish people and the self-conceited people. They were all removed to some other place.



D) The Crowded Assembly

At that time each of the Buddhas, accompanied by one bodhisattva, arrived at Mount Sacred Eagle and sat crossed legged on the lion-like seats under the jeweled trees. There was a limit of one bodhisattva for each Buddha, so that more Buddhas were able to sit.

However, there were too few seats under the jeweled trees to receive all of the Sakyamuni Buddha's replicas who came from the worlds of one of the ten quarters. Seeing this, Sakyamuni Buddha purified two hundred billion *nayuta* worlds in each of the eight quarters neighboring the Saha-World to receive all the Buddhas of his replicas. Understanding the reason, the following people were removed to other worlds to make more spaces for the Buddha-replicas. They were the people in hell, the people of hungry spirits, the regions of animal-like behaviors, and the regions of fighting spirits, the people addicted to pleasures only, and the people with twisted minds were all emigrated to other worlds.

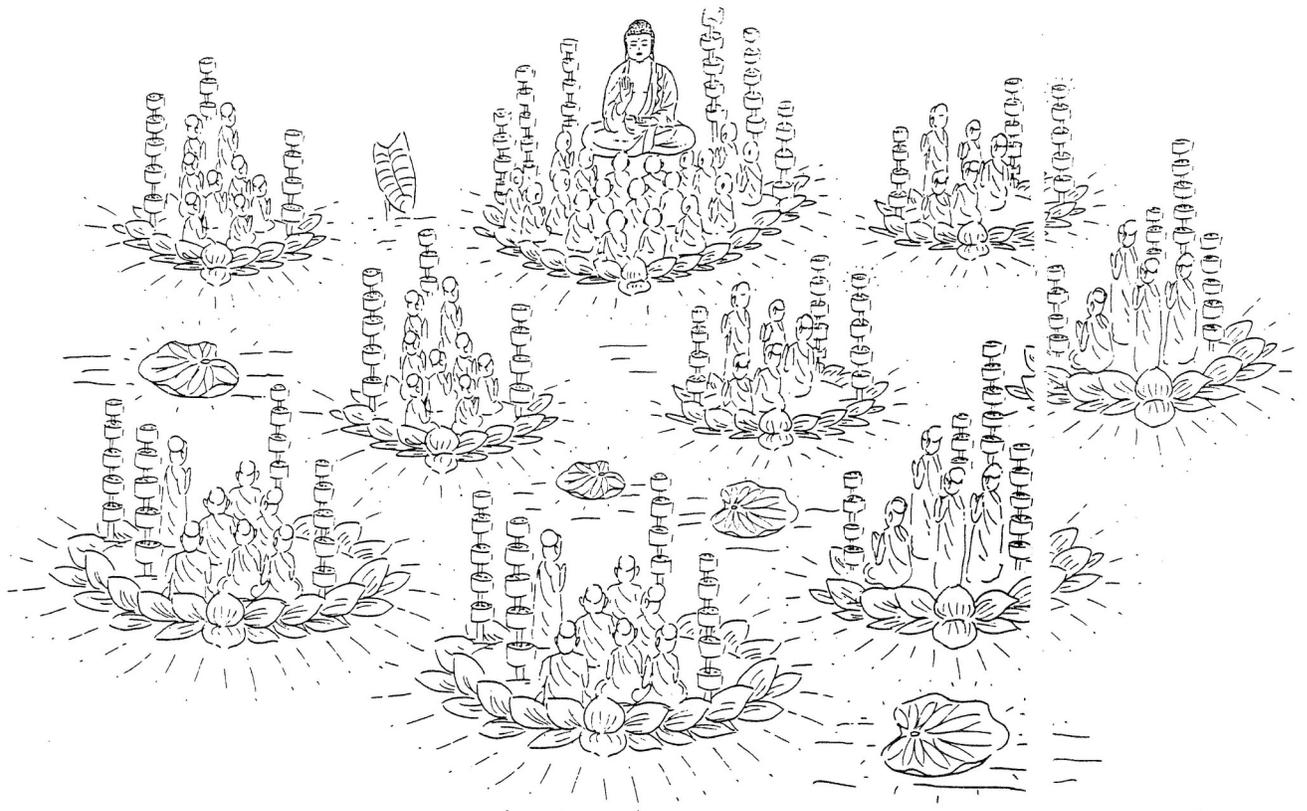


E) Triple Purification at the Assembly

Even though Sakyamuni Buddha purified two hundred billion *nayuta** worlds in each of the eight quarters neighboring the Saha-World to receive all the Buddhas-replicas, there were still not enough seats. So that Sakyamuni Buddha again purified in a hurry two hundred billion *nayuta* more worlds in each of the eight quarters neighboring the expounded worlds to seat all the Buddhas-replicas. The hells, the regions of hungry spirits, the regions of animals, and the regions of *asuras* or fighting spirits were again removed to other worlds.

*nayuta** is an Indian numerical unit of very many.

Thus, the congregation at Mount Sacred Eagle was comprised of purified people who had the power of patience and a strong determination of unselfish minds as well as the Buddhas replicas from the worlds of the ten quarters.



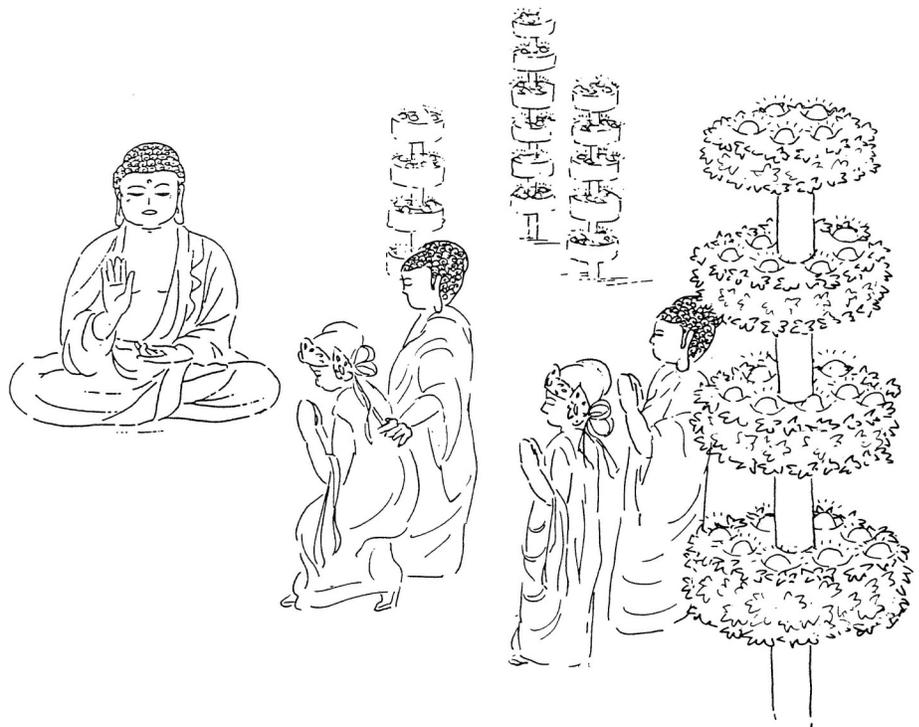
Chapter 6

The Two Conditions were accomplished

Thus, the Saha-World was purified three times. It is called the Triple Purification of the World. The Buddhas of the world of the ten quarters sat on the seats under the jeweled trees. The Saha-World and the four hundred billions *mayuta* worlds of each of the eight quarters which were amalgamated into one Buddha-world, were filled with those Buddhas.

The Buddha-replicas told their accompanied bodhisattvas to greet the Eternal Sakyamuni Buddha and inquire Him, “Are you in good health? Are you peaceful? Are the Bodhisattvas and Sravakas in this Saha-World (the earth planet) peaceful or not?” After inquiring they scattered jeweled flowers from their home-world to Sakyamuni Buddha.

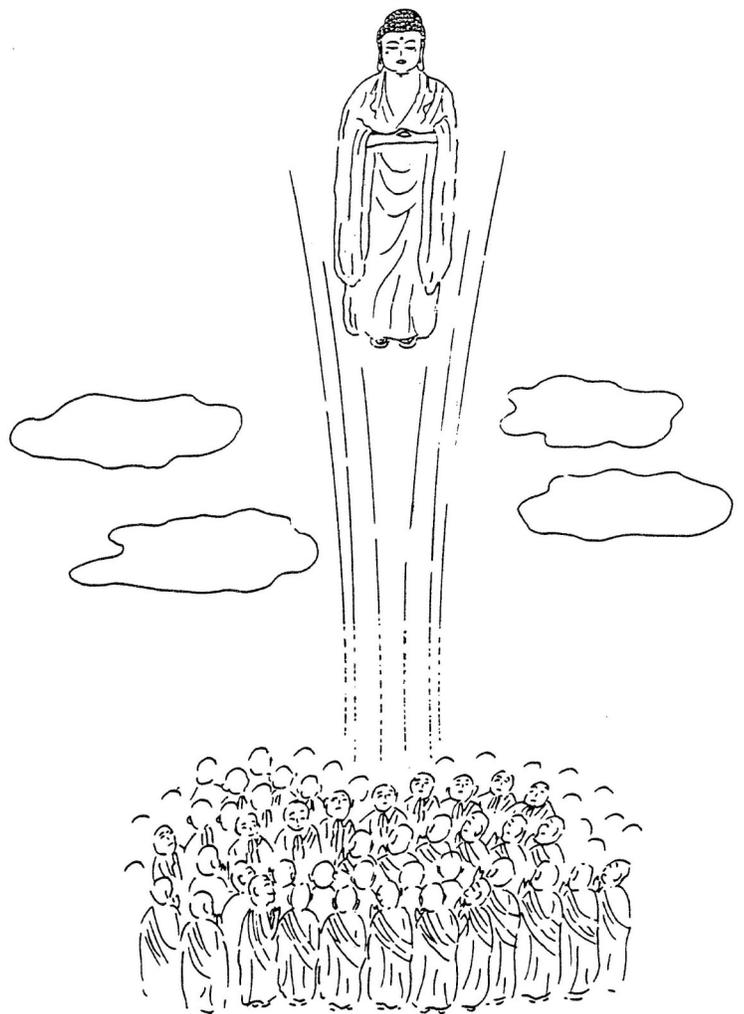
After the offering, they requested the stupa of treasures to be open.



A) Sakyamuni Buddha in the Sky

Thereupon Sakyamuni Buddha; having seen that every one of the Buddha-replicas had already arrived, sitting on the lion-like seats, having heard that they had told their attendants of their wishes to see the stupa of treasures opened, and also the two conditions to open the door of the stupa were satisfied; rose from His seat as the assembly watched, and went up to the sky.

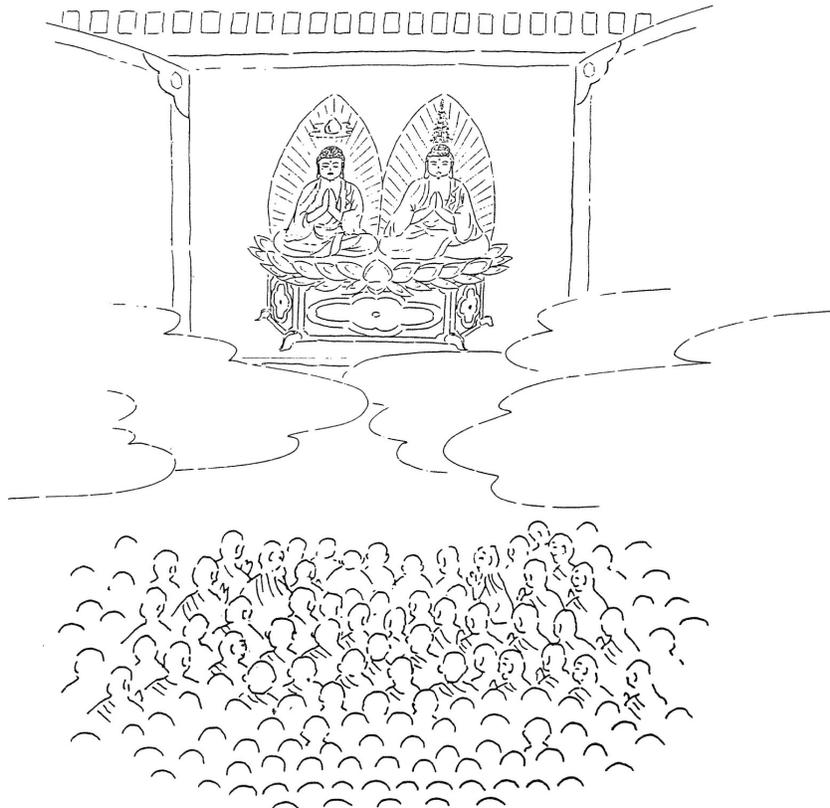
All people in the assembly were left at Mount Sacred Eagle, joined their palms together in honoring pose towards Him, stood up together and gazed up without blinking with all their hearts.



B) The Door of the Huge Treasures Stupa Was Opened

Now He opened easily the big door of the stupa of the seven treasures with the finger of his right hand as if it were nothing. But the opening of the door made a sound as large as that of the removal of the bolt and lock of the gate of a great city.

At that instant all the congregation saw golden colored Many-Treasures Tathagata sitting with his perfect and un-decayed body on the lion-like seat in the stupa of treasures as if he had been sitting in deep meditation for a long time. As soon as the door was opened the Buddha in the stupa saw Sakyamuni Buddha standing in front of the stupa and said with his beautiful voice respectfully as if they were glad to see each other after a long time.



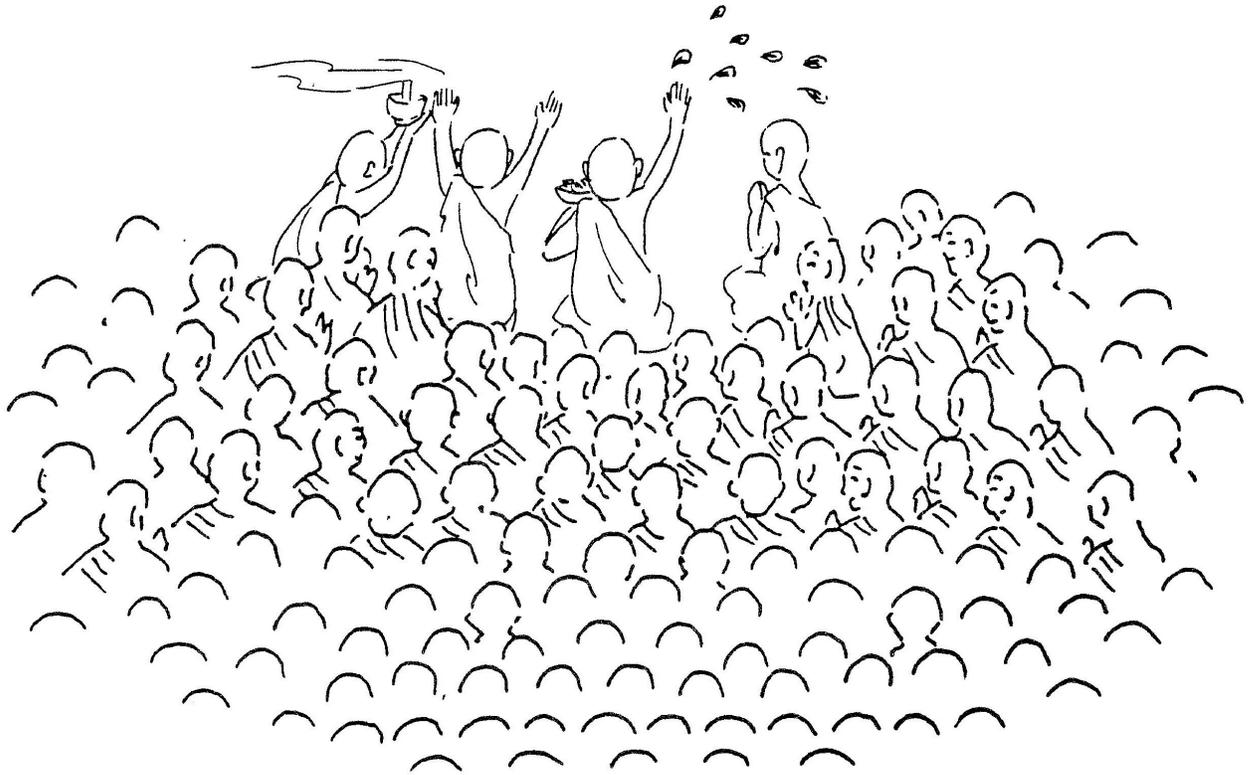
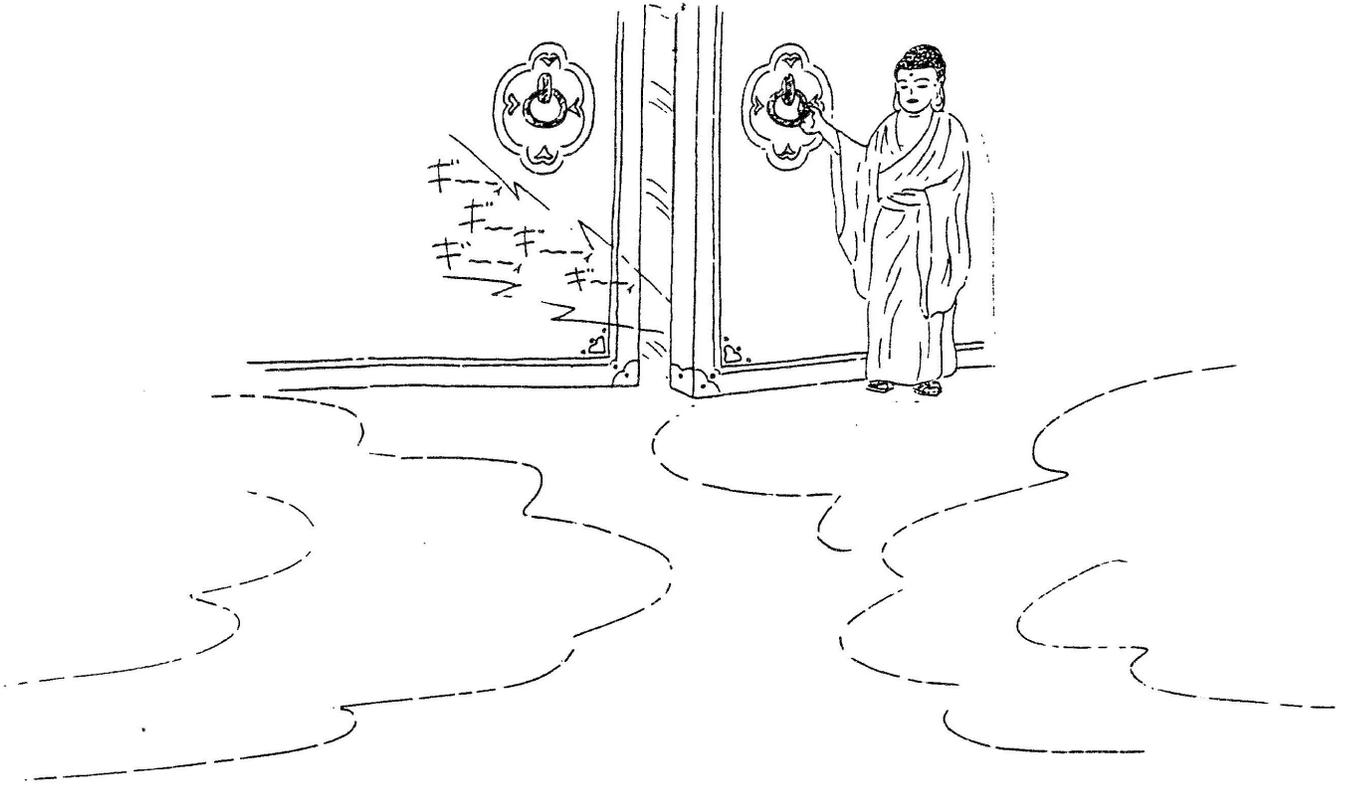
Chapter 7

In Order to Accomplish His Heartfelt Vow

“Excellent, excellent! You, Sakyamuni Buddha, have joyfully expounded the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma. I have come to hear this sutra directly from you. I appreciate you very much! I accomplished my great vow,” greeted Many-Treasures Tathagata. The multitude below the stupa was so surprised to see that happening.

The congregation watching them on the ground was very surprised. For they saw the huge, gorgeous treasures stupa come up from the ground, stay in the sky and heard a beautiful voice from inside the stupa. The voice was from the Buddha called Many-Treasures Tathagata who had passed away a long time ago. When Sakyamuni Buddha opened the door of the stupa, the congregation saw the golden shining Buddha inside the stupa and greeted Sakyamuni Buddha.

The congregation was shocked to see the Buddha in the stupa shining brightly with a golden color even though he had passed away many *kalpas* ago. The beautifully decorated stupa has just come out of the ground and hung in the sky. They felt as if they were dreaming. They strewed heaps of heavenly flowers of heaven to Many-Treasures Buddha and also to Sakyamuni Buddha. All of them were so excited and praised what they were watching and appreciated that they were able to make offerings to both Buddhas.



A) Half of the Seat for Sakyamuni Buddha

Thereupon Many-Treasures Buddha in the huge stupa of treasures pointed to his right side and offered half of his seat to Sakyamuni Buddha, saying, “Sakyamuni Buddha, please sit here!” His right side was the place of honor. I wonder why Many-Treasures Buddha gave half of his seat to Sakyamuni saying, “Sit here!”

Sakyamuni Buddha entered the stupa and sat on the higher seat without any hesitation just as it was His seat. The great multitude, having seen the two Buddhas sitting on the lion-like seats side by side in the stupa of the seven treasures, thought in their minds, “The seats of the Buddhas are too high. Sakyamuni Buddha! Please raise us up by Your supernatural powers so that we may be able to be with You in the sky!”

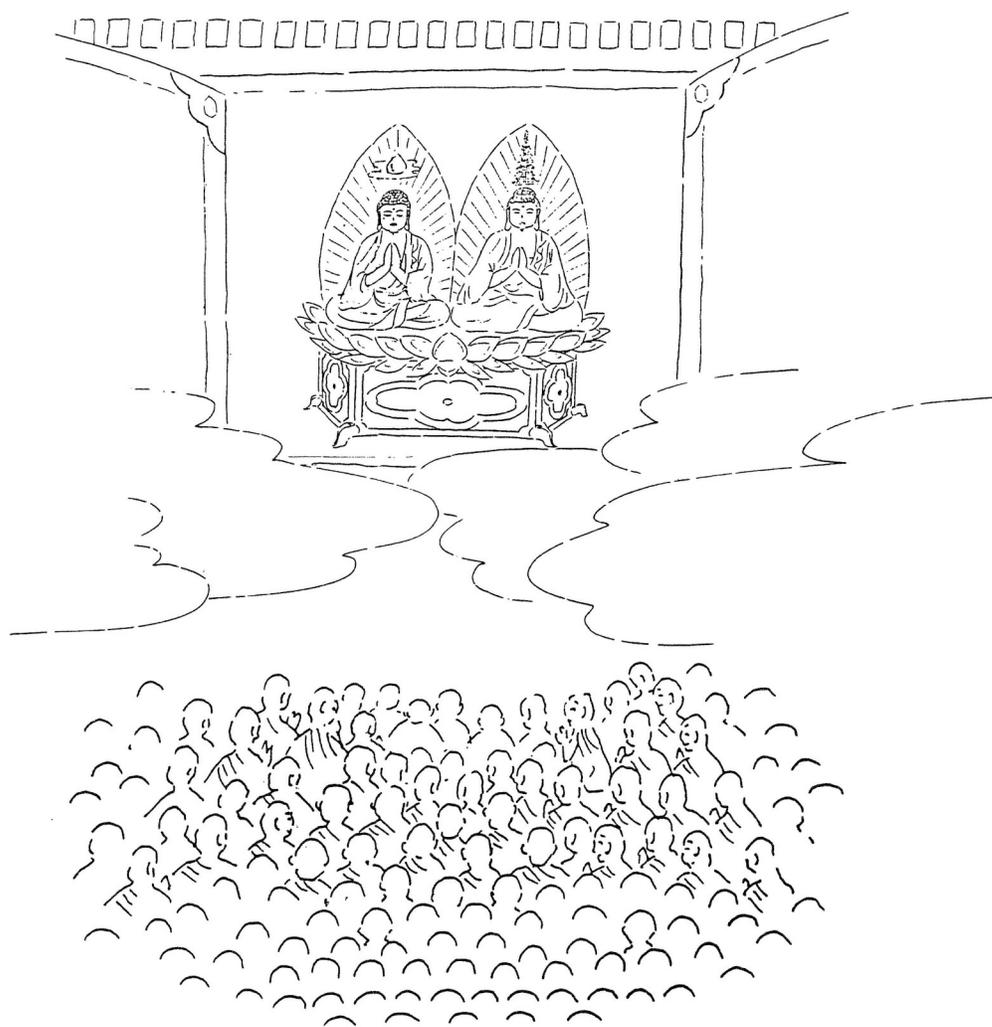


B) Their Wish Was Answered

“Sakyamuni Buddha, please raise us up in the sky! So we can honor you much closer!” That was just what they thought in their minds.

Thereupon Sakyamuni Buddha read their minds immediately and raised them up to the sky by his supernatural powers.

As we see now, the assembly of the Lotus Sutra moved up to the sky from Mount Sacred Eagle. The sky is vast. It symbolizes eternity and constancy. Therefore, even though innumerable numbers of the Buddhas and the bodhisattvas gathered there, it was not a problem.



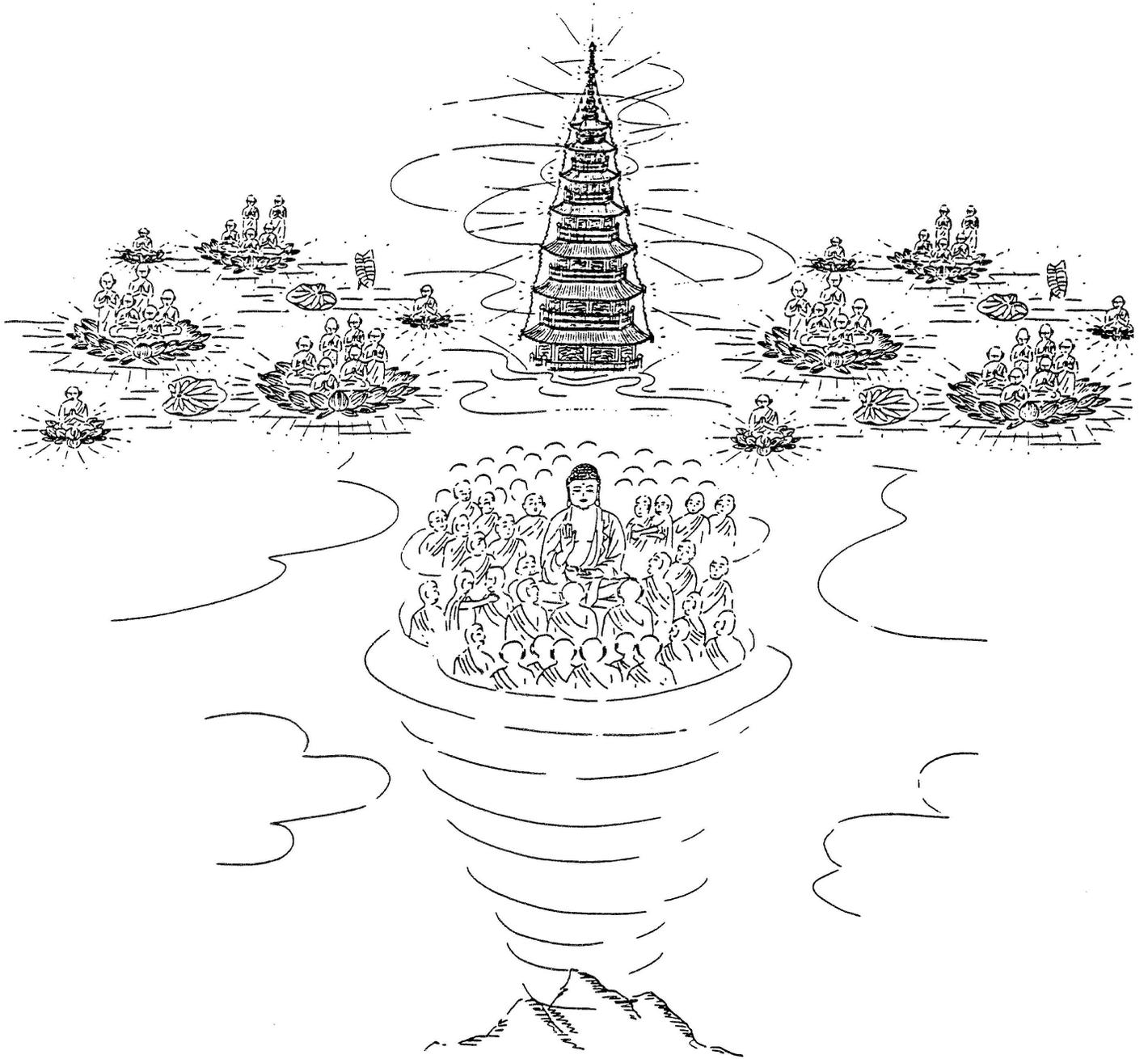
C) For Whom was the Assembly in the Sky?

Well, at the beginning of the assembly in the sky, Sakyamuni Buddha mentioned a very important message! Listen to the Buddha attentively; otherwise, you will miss a very important premonition! Now listen well!

The Buddha said to the congregation with a solemn loud voice:

“Who will expound the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma in this Saha-World? Now is the time to do this. I shall enter into Nirvana before long. I wish to transmit this Lotus Sutra to someone so that this sutra may be preserved! In the Declining Latter Age of the Dharma or *mappo*, the people will be defiled, and only the Lotus Sutra will be able to save these defiled people. I wish to transmit this sutra directly to the person who will really expound it! That person will be the Teacher of the Dharma in *mappo*.” Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha declared.

Guess whom the Buddha was talking about! The answer will be revealed in Chapter 15 of the Lotus Sutra, *The Appearance of Bodhisattvas from Underground*. Right now, please guess who it will be. It may be YOU who is reading this book! Think harder!



Chapter 8

Determination of the Chosen Person

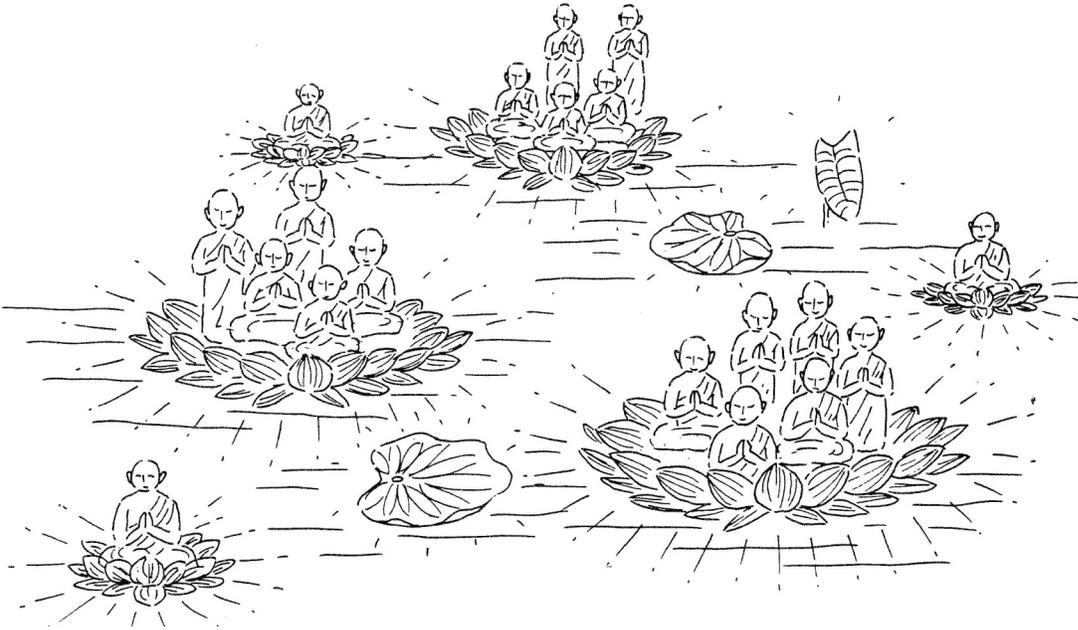
In order to confirm the determination of the Teacher of the Dharma or the real Practitioner of the Lotus Sutra in the Declining Latter Age of the Dharma, Sakyamuni Buddha wished to repeat what he had said, and sang in a *gatha*:

“Many-Treasures Tathagata, the World Honored One,
Who had passed away a long time ago,
In order to fulfill his great vow,
Appeared in the stupa of treasures at Mt. Sacred Eagle
With his gentle voice proved the excellency of the Lotus Sutra.

If you say you are my disciples,
Act accordingly to the teaching of the Lotus Sutra

Even if Many-Treasures Tathagata who
Passed away innumerable *kalpas ago*,
Appears at any place to hear the Lotus Sutra
Because the Dharma is really true and difficult to meet.

The Saha-World and the four hundred billions *nayuta* worlds
Of each of the ten quarters which were amalgamated
Into one Buddha-world, were filled with those Buddhas.
They gathered here to see Many-Treasures Tathagata.



Those Buddhas sat under the jeweled trees.

The trees are adorned with those Buddhas

Just as a pond of pure water is adorned

With lotus flowers.

Those Buddhas sat on the seats,

They wished to see Many-Treasures Buddha.

The worlds are adorned

With the light of those Buddhas as bright

As a great torch in the darkness of night.

Wonderful fragrance is sent forth

From the bodies of those Buddhas

To the worlds of the ten quarters.

The living beings of those worlds

Smell the fragrance joyfully,

Just as the branches of a tree before a strong wind.

Those Buddhas are also expounding the Lotus Sutra
In their mother worlds in the ten quarters of the universe
In order to have the Dharma preserved in the past, the present and the future.”

A) My Disciples in Saha-World

“My sons in this Saha-World!
After my extinction,
Make a great vow to expound this Dharma
Even at the cost of your life and
Save the suffering people
In the Defiled World of the Latter Age of the Dharma.



Good men! Think this over clearly!
It is the most difficult to read,
To recite, and to copy this sutra
In the Defiled World of the Latter Age of the Dharma.

My disciples! That is why
Make a great vow now
To preserve the Dharma forever.

My sons of the Dharma!
Entrust the Lotus Sutra courageously,
Make a great vow to save the people
Suffering, wondering, and feeling sad.

Anyone who makes a great vow
Will be able to see Me,
Many-Treasures Tathagata,
And the Buddha-replicas.
You will see the shining Buddhas always.

My courageous disciples! Call forth your readiness,
Patience, and determination full to the brim.”

B) The Most Difficult in This Saha-World

“My good disciples! Think this over clearly!

It is difficult to expound all other sutras to all living beings,

But it is easier when compared to expounding the Lotus Sutra

In the defiled world of the Latter Age of the Dharma.

Even if you can grasp Mt. Sumeru and hurl it

To a distance of another world,

It is easier than becoming the practitioner of the Lotus Sutra

In the defiled world of the Latter Age of the Dharma.

Even if you can shake a world with the tip of a toe,

It is easier than becoming the practitioner of the Lotus Sutra

In the defiled world of the Latter Age of the Dharma.

It is the most difficult to expound the Lotus Sutra nobly

In this evil world of misunderstanding good and bad

In the Latter Age of the Dharma.

It is not difficult to kick off stars in the sky,

And wander about with stars from place to place.

It is difficult to read and to chant the Lotus Sutra even for a moment

In the defiled world of the Latter Age of the Dharma.

It is not difficult to shoulder a load of hay
And stay unburned in the fire
At the end of a *kalpa* of destruction of the world.
It is difficult to expound the Lotus Sutra even for just one person
In the defiled world of the Latter Age of the Dharma.

It is not difficult to keep the store of eighty-four thousand teachings
Expound in the sutras composed of the twelve elements,
Expound it to the people
Cause the hearers to obtain the six supernatural powers.
It is more difficult to hear and receive this sutra,
And ask the meanings of it
In the defiled world of the Latter Age of the Dharma.



It is difficult to educate the *Arahatas** as many as
There are sands in the River Ganges and
Send them to the world.

It is much difficult to make the people believe the sutra
And to behave as the Lotus Sutra teaches
In the defiled world of the Latter Age of the Dharma.

Arahata is one who is free from all craving and rebirth.*

Since I attained the enlightenment of the Buddha,
I have expounded many sutras in innumerable worlds.
This sutra is the most excellent among all other sutras.
To expound the Lotus Sutra is the most difficult
In the defiled world of the Latter Age of the Dharma.

To expound the sutra is the most difficult.
To expound the sutra is the most honored.
Therefore, if you expound it courageously,
You will attain Buddha-hood for sure.

Good Men!

Who will receive and keep this sutra,
And read and recite it after My extinction?
Make a vow before me to do all of this!”

C) The Difficulty of Retaining the Sutra

“It is difficult to keep this sutra.

I shall be glad to see

Anyone keeping it even for a moment

Whoever does so will be praised by all the Buddhas.”



“He will be a man of valor,

A man of endeavor.

He should be considered

To have already observed the precepts,

And practiced the dhuta*.

He will quickly attain

The unsurpassed enlightenment of the Buddha.

**Dhuta means discipline to release from ties to clothing, food, and dwelling.*

Anyone who reads and recites this sutra in the future

Is a true son of the Buddha.

He shall be considered to live

On the stage of purity and good.

Anyone, after My extinction,

Who understands the meaning of this sutra

Will be the eyes of the worlds

Of gods and men.

Anyone who expounds this sutra

Even for a moment in this dreadful world,

Should be honored with offerings

By all gods and men.”

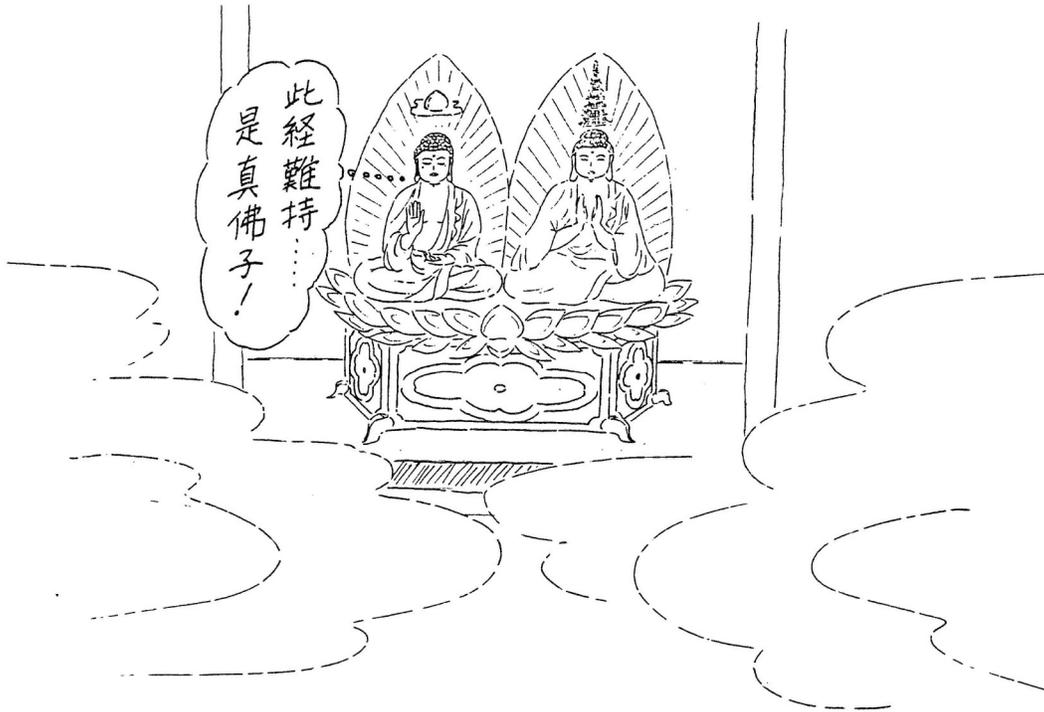
Thus, He mentioned with dignity.

D) Who Will Accept the Buddha's Order?

Isn't it terrible? Who will make such a vow to do this?

Whom has Sakyamuni Buddha requested? What would you do if you are the one?

It is difficult to keep this sutra; however, if you expound it even at the cost of your life and expound it courageously for righteousness, you will be a true son of the Buddha. Do you wish to be a true son of the Buddha?



Chapter 9

What Does the Great Stupa Symbolize?

What do you think of the beautiful great stupa in the sky?

What the Buddha says is all true. You should not have any doubts at all. But you should also think carefully; otherwise, you will misunderstand what He is really trying to say. If you read the Lotus Sutra literally, you cannot feel how compassionate the Buddha is. At first you should believe His words sincerely. Then it is important for you to think what the Buddha is trying to say.

For example, “A beautiful, dazzling and huge stupa sprang up from underground and hung in the sky above Sakyamuni Buddha preaching at Mt. Sacred Eagle. The stupa came out without any sound, how can you explain that? You see! The stupa was five hundred *yojanas** high and two hundred and fifty *yojanas* wide and deep.

Yojana is a unit of distance about 120 km.*

“A fragrance was sent forth from the four sides of the stupa to all the corners of the world.” “There are tens of millions of chambers in the stupa.” “Sakyamuni Buddha and Many-Treasures Buddha are sitting side by side in the stupa.”

What do you think about this phenomena?

What is the Buddha trying to say?

Do you remember the story in the preceding volume?

A) The Great Treasures Stupa Is the Buddha's Body

Who is the real practitioner of the Lotus Sutra? Do you remember it from the previous volume? You understand that it was Great Bodhisattva Nichiren who was the real practitioner of the Lotus Sutra.

Let us see which part.

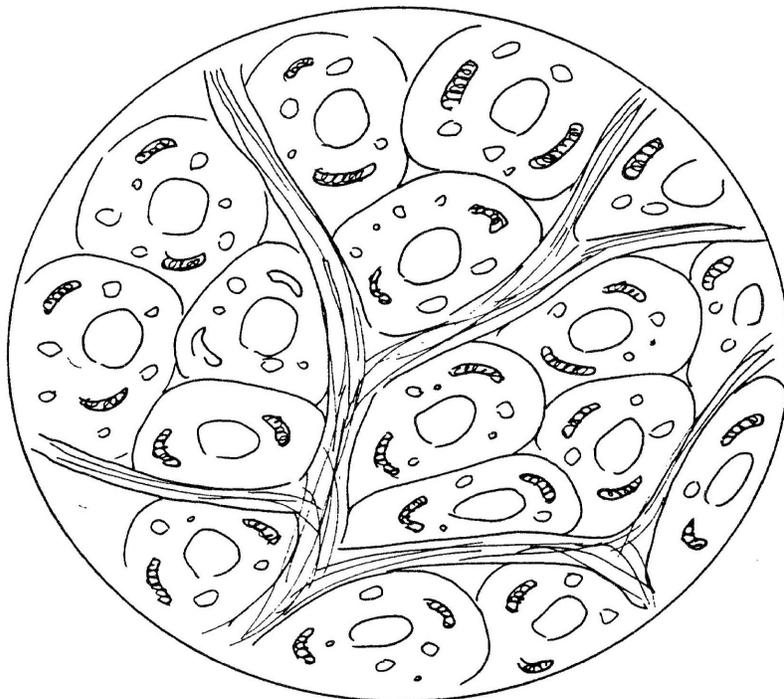
“The great treasures stupa symbolizes the people who were born in the dreadful world in the Latter Age of the Dharma, who keep the Lotus Sutra, and who chant the sacred title of the sutra, ‘Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo’ even at the cost of their lives. They are the people, men and women, regardless of their status.”



B) The Lucky People Who Encounter the Lotus Sutra

Isn't it wonderful for us to encounter the Lotus Sutra in this dreadful world although many people are confused about what is good and what is right? It seems to be that we live in a world where honesty does not pay. But we are lucky to encounter the Lotus Sutra now! We are the great treasures stupa ourselves. How wonderful it is! How precious we are!

Frankly speaking, it is said that our human body consists of 60 trillion cells. It is hard to count exactly. Each cell is alive. When we think the right thing, the cells are very active but while we are idle or scheming, some cells die. For example, let's take the cells in our stomach. When we eat meals in the morning, at noon, and in the evening, the stomach works just fine to digest food by producing the proper amount of gastric juice, but if you eat or drink too much, or eat some harmful foods, the cells die right away.

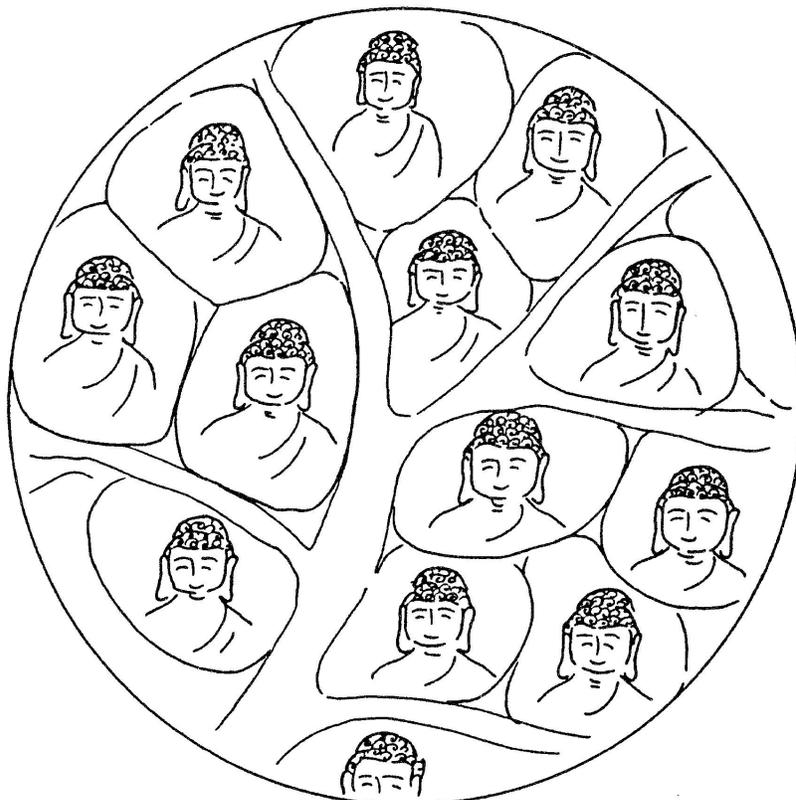


C) The Human Body Is the Great Universe

Our human body is marvelous! It consists of the five elements of the universe: soil, water, fire, air and void. It has excellent powers of rehabilitation! Our body also consists of the five parts (a body, two arms, two legs) or (the muscles, blood vessels, flesh, bone and skin/hair).

When you keep to righteousness and learn that when you do something wrong, repent obediently. Your mind becomes pure right away, so the cells in your mind rehabilitate, too.

Therefore, think about how the 60 trillion cells in your body are the same as the number of the chambers in the great treasures stupa. Think also that each cell in your body is a replica of the Eternal Buddha and the pure land.



The value of the human body is neither greater nor less than any great beautiful treasures stupa. But I am talking about only the people who live in the right way in this defiled world in the Latter Age of the Dharma. They are the people who live vividly and suitably to the cells of the body like the replicas of the Eternal Buddha.

So, have a strong determination and courage to expound the Lotus Sutra even at the cost of your life. Even if you wear pretty clothing, you have beautiful make up, you wear a favorite perfume all over your body, and you live in a huge estate; if you are twisted, selfish, and jealous; you will not be the great treasures stupa. When you realize that, make repentance. Make up your mind to keep the teachings of the Lotus Sutra because you were born with the five elements of universe on this Saha-world.

D) Stand up Straight with Right Mind

Without missing any cells, try to have right mind, courage, and trust of the Buddha and stand up straight! Then, Sakyamuni Buddha and Many-Treasures Tathagata will be within you. Why is that? It is because you are the same as the beautiful huge stupa in the sky. The earth where we live is floating in the sky!

Therefore, start with something small and good even if nobody is watching! Continue doing so with effort. Then your cells will be revitalized and rehabilitated. Imagine you are a part of the cells in the universe and help others. Then without notice your body will be filled with countless replicas of the Buddha and become the great light to shine on the darkness of the world.

The five elements of the universe are soil, water, fire, air and void. The human body also consists of the five elements such as flesh, muscles, bones, blood vessels, skin/hair; or a body, two arms and two legs or the five organs such as lungs, a heart, a pancreas, liver, and a kidney. (The five characters of “Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo” symbolize these five elements. Therefore, when you chant it, the harmony of these five elements creates peace, good health and happiness.)

The seven treasures are gold, silver, lapis lazuli, shell, agate, pearl, and ruby. The seven treasures symbolize the seven practices such as, to listen to the Dharma, to have faith in the Dharma, to keep the precepts, to have a calm mind, to endeavor, to throw away attachments, and to repent wrong conducts.

Thus, we are the wonderful stupa decorated with the seven treasures. We must take care of our bodies.

Chapter 10

The Buddha in Your Mind and The Treasures Stupa in Your Body

All right! Please keep them in your mind!

Your body is to keep the Lotus Sutra and

Just like the Great Treasures Stupa is.

Then, your body is a lotus flower in a defiled pond.

Your body is the great light to brighten the darkness of the world,

Your body is the fragrance to enrich the world.

You are the real son of the Buddha.

Sakyamuni Buddha, Many-Treasures Buddha and all other Buddhas will praise you.

The Buddha dwells in your mind!

The treasures stupa is your body!

