

## Minwa-Fu Hokekyo Dowa Volume 26

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Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra

The Universal Gate of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva

# To Save All Living Beings

(Kannon Bodhisattva's 33 Transformations)

## Chapter 1

### Kannon Is World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva

I hope everyone is fine! It is time for the story of Kannon. You know the name well.

There are many Kannon Bodhisattvas! Which one do you know, Sacred Kannon, Eleven-Faces Kannon, One-Thousand Arms Kannon, Horse-Head Kannon, or As-One's-Wish-Wheel (nyo-i-rin) Kannon? Kannon's real name is 'World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva' in English.

World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva can transform himself into many different appearances, but the real purpose of his transformation is to activate Sakyamuni Buddha's great compassion to save all living beings. Therefore, the Bodhisattva's intention is the same as the Buddha.



Your mother is the same mother even if she wears a nice dress, cooks in the kitchen wearing an apron, smiles or scolds you. Likewise even though, World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva has different names, and different appearances, they are the same Kannon. Although he appears in different forms, he saves all living beings to practice the Way of the Bodhisattva and actualize the Buddha's compassionate wish.

## The Names of Kannon

Shall we start the story now?

Thereupon Endless-Intent Bodhisattva rose from his seat, bared his right shoulder, joined his hands together towards the Buddha, and said:

“World-Honored One! Why is World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva called World-Voice-Perceiver? What was the cause and condition for him to be called such a name? What does it mean?”

We must know that the Bodhisattva had a very strong desire to save the suffering people from ‘The Seven Troubles, the Three Poisons, and answer the people’s ‘Two Wishes’.

First, the seven troubles are the sufferings from 1) fire, 2) water, 3) *raksasa* (cannibals), 4) swords and sticks, 5) devils, 6) being bound up with chains, and 7) bandits. When you cannot get out of these troubles, if you believe in the *Lotus Sutra* with all your heart and call the Bodhisattva's name, World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva will immediately perceive your voice and save you!

The three poisons (greediness, anger and ignorant behavior) are the ugliest inhumane passions among the ten great illusions. When you are almost incapacitated by one of the three poisons, if you repent the passion, cause your mind to be pure like a child and think deeply about the Bodhisattva, World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva will perceive your mind and ease your burning passion.

The two wishes are when a woman desires to have a baby, either a boy or a girl, if she prays to the Bodhisattva reverently, World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva will answer the prayer.

## Chapter 2

### Kannon Saves from Sufferings

Let me tell you how the Bodhisattva saves the people from 'The Seven Troubles, the Three Poisons, and the Two Wishes.'

The Buddha said to Endless-Intent Bodhisattva:

"Good man! All people wish to have peaceful and secure lives, being free from all kinds of troubles, hardships and sufferings. If these people were able to believe in the teachings of the *Lotus Sutra*, to realize their eternal lives and to believe in the supernatural powers, there would be nothing to be afraid of. The reason they will not be afraid is that when they call the name of the World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva with all their hearts and believe in the protection of the teachings of the *Lotus Sutra*, they will surely be saved.

#### A) Calamities from Fire, Water and Troubles from *Raksasas*

For example, suppose someone is in a blaze because of a big accident or a mountain fire, if he trusts the teaching of the *Lotus Sutra* and chants the name of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva, the person in the fire will not be burned because he will be wrapped with a veil by the supernatural power of this Bodhisattva.

Suppose someone falls into water or is washed away by a flood, if he calms his hasty mind, recalls his habitual belief in the *Lotus Sutra* and calls the name of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva, he will be taken to shallow ground.

Suppose a ship of jewel merchants is crossing an ocean in order to obtain gold, silver, lapis lazuli, shell, agate, coral, amber, pearl, and other treasures. Then suppose the ship carrying them is blown to a *raksasa*-devil's island by a storm. If one of the crew calls the name of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva, all the crew members will be saved by the supernatural power of the Bodhisatt-



va from the attacks of the *raksasas*—cannibals—who will lose their appetite for eating the flesh of human beings.

Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha explained how the supernatural power of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva would save the suffering people from fire, water and cannibals.

As I always tell you, the Buddha is always thinking about how to save all suffering people without exception and allow them to attain Buddhahood. I also mentioned to you not to take the words literally. It is the same with this story. Of course, some supernatural powers may not work as stated, but the more important message of the story of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva is how we should behave in our daily lives.

We must understand the real meaning of Sakyamuni Buddha's teachings. First of all, we were born without any physical defects. Second we are lucky because we happened to know and learn the teachings of the *Lotus Sutra*. If we do not understand the insights of the Buddha, we will regret it a lot later.

If you are able to understand that you are Buddha's precious children, you already have the protection of all Buddhas and deities in heaven. Therefore, when you face some hardship or trouble, trust their protection without being afraid and walk along the right way of the Bodhisattva, you will shine with a beautiful aura of color around you.

It may be hard for you to live in metropolitan areas because there are too many temptations and street vermin that are hard to get rid of once they attach to you. But try not to get involved with these groups that are bad influences. It is time for you to challenge yourself to believe in the *Lotus Sutra* and to call the name of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva. Then, other people may also become less tempted and start to repent their wrong conducts. This was as the Buddha said to us.



**WALK ALONG THE RIGHT WAY**

## **B) Persecution of the Swords and Sticks**

The sword and stick cause the next suffering.

At the assembly on Mt. Sacred Eagle, Sakyamuni Buddha clearly predicted that the expounder of the *Lotus Sutra* would have to face sufferings from the sword and stick.

Suppose a monarch unlawfully accused the expounder and sentenced him to be hit with a stick or to be beheaded, he would be saved. If he was not afraid at all, trusted the Buddha's protection and the spirit of the *Lotus Sutra*, and called the name of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva, the sword would be broken into pieces by the Bodhisattva's supernatural power. Such an event occurred at the Tatsu-no-kuchi Persecution of Nichiren Dai'Shonin, just as Sakyamuni Buddha predicted.

The original world of Nichiren Dai'Shonin was the sky below this Saha-World. He was one of the Great Bodhisattvas from underground. The story was revealed in Chapter 15 of the *Lotus Sutra*. Although the general public did not understand the relationship between the Eternal Buddha and Nichiren, he realized he was Superior-Practice Bodhisattva from underground. Since he had a strong determination to propagate the sutra in the *Mappo*-Era, he proved Buddha's prediction at the Tatsu-no-kuchi Execution Ground.

Therefore, each word in the *Lotus Sutra* is true and very precious!

I always told you to keep to righteousness and live as the kind of human being that the Buddha recognizes. Money, status and authority may deceive the eyes of ordinary people, but you cannot deceive the Buddha's eyes. Live the righteous way so the Buddha will recognize you.

## **C) Troubles from Devils and Chains**

The devils here do not mean the cute blue or red-colored devils that appear in fairy tales. The devils here are people of authority, who represent a nation or a community, use the name of a god or justice to rationalize their selfish judgements and kill good citizens or practitioners of world peace or the Buddha Dharma.

If a person is unfortunately in a similar situation, he should believe in the *Lotus Sutra*, with all his heart, become calm as a Buddha's child, chant "Namu World-Voice-

Perceiver Bodhisattva,” and then he will be covered with a miracle veil, so that the devils will not see him.

Suffering from chains is the same. Suppose someone is blamed in a one-sided critique from a person or a community, and guilty or innocent is bound up with manacles, fetters or chains. If he believes in the Universal Truth, the *Lotus Sutra* and chants “Namu World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva!” he will feel free just as if the chains were broken asunder.

## D) Troubles from Bandits

The last suffering among the Seven Troubles is bandits.

Suppose a group of merchants is carrying a lot of invaluable treasures and has to pass along a dangerous road haunted by many bandits here and there. And suppose one of the members of the party who has been very devoted to the *Lotus Sutra* and practiced the teachings daily says to others, “Do not be afraid! We are all Buddha’s children. Buddhas, deities and Bodhisattvas are always protecting us. Call the name of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva with all our hearts! This Bodhisattva will grant fearlessness to all living beings. If we call his name, we will be saved from the attacks of these bandits. If other members of the party hear this and say simultaneously and loudly, ‘Namu World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva!’ all of them will be saved because they called his name and will overcome fear and pass through the dangerous road.”



World-Voice-Perceiver is able to hear even if only one voice is calling his name, so if many people call his name simultaneously, he will surely perceive their voices. The Bodhisattva gives satisfaction to any trouble without any reward or expectation of return. So, if you call his name trusting his power with all your heart, he will save you. He can perceive even a single voice, when many people call his name simultaneously, “Namu World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva! Namu World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva!” He will save them for sure.

He enjoys saving all people who call his name especially those in the above mentioned seven troubles. Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha explained to Endless-Intent Bodhisattva.

All Bodhisattvas are supposed to save many suffering people. It is their purpose.

## E) Saved from Three Poisons

Next is a story about saving people from the three poisons in one's mind. Before that, I will explain the illusions which disturb our minds. The major illusions are Greediness, Anger, Ignorance to the Truth, Arrogance, Doubt, False views, Prejudice, and so forth. The three major illusions, called 'Three Poisons,' are Greediness, Anger and Illusion. World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva especially wished to save those people suffering from the Three Poisons because these three are the sources of other illusions and sufferings.

Sakyamuni Buddha said to Endless-Intent Bodhisattva:

“Endless-Intent! The supernatural powers of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva are as great and honored as the sacred mountain. Suppose there is a greedy person who has strong desires for money, material items, fame, status or reputation. If he wishes to diminish his greediness and practices honoring World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva and the *Lotus Sutra* constantly, he will be saved from the lust. He will be able to release his attachment and have a compassionate mind.”

“Suppose there is a person who gets angry very easily, who can not listen obediently to other people and has resentment based on a misunderstanding. And suppose he realizes his own wrong doing, repents his falsehood, wishes to correct his attitude and offers a prayer to World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva in the spirit of the *Lotus Sutra*. He will be saved from his anger and will become gentle and compassionate.”



“Suppose there is a person who is jealous. He always complains about something and blames others easily. And suppose he realizes his own wrong behavior, repents what he did, tries to be correct himself and constantly think of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva with the spirit of helping others, he will be saved from his delusion or stupidity and become a person who gradually appreciates everything.”

Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha praised dearly the supernatural powers of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva.

Your father and mother are also like World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva. They will be very proud of you if you are helpful to others. Therefore, the father is called “Ji-Fu” in Japanese or “Compassionate Father” and the mother is called “Hi-mo” or “Taking Pain Away Mother!” (The term, “Ji-Hi” means compassion in English. The Japanese word, Ji-Hi contains two meaning: Ji means to give happiness while Hi means to remove sadness.) The parents are always thinking about their children’s happiness by taking away sadness or trouble.

## F) To Answer the Two Wishes to Have a Baby

Take note, parents! There are many parents who wish to have a baby but cannot. When they believe in the *Lotus Sutra*, trust Sakyamuni Buddha and World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva and wish to have a boy or a girl, their prayers will surely be answered.

The sutra says:

“A woman who, wishing to have a boy, bows and makes offerings to World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva, will be able to give birth to a boy endowed with merits, virtues and wisdom. A woman who, wishing to have a girl, does the same, will be able to give birth to a beautiful girl who will be loved and respected by many people because of the roots of virtue which the newly-born girl planted in her previous existences.”



How wonderful are the merits the Bodhisattva has!

Probably, your mother had offered a prayer to the Bodhisattva with a vow saying, “Let me give birth to a healthy and vigorous boy!” Or “Let me give birth to a beautiful, cute girl!” Your mother must have done that for you! You might also have wished to be born to such a mother and asked the Buddha or World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva to help you with this wish before your birth.

You must understand that you were born to your parents by your wish. “I wish to be born from this mother and to return my gratitude, by helping her in such and such, or talking with her comfortably just like a good friend!” Please keep the impression of the wish you made before coming to this world deep in your mind.

Do you know that everyone made a promise with the Buddha for what they would do on this earth before their birth? You were born as a Buddha’s child. How hard, how difficult, or how sad your life is, it was the life you chose with a strong determination. You were born with a mission that you made before your birth. You must remain cheerful even if your surroundings are sad, hard and difficult. Give others vitality to live just like a lotus flower blooming in a muddy pond. Give them peace, calmness and happiness. Try to give light and courage to people who are suffering. The Buddha might give a life to you in order to accomplish your mission.

Since you have such an important mission in this life, you cannot waste your life. You cannot behave selfishly and always complain. You must keep your promise with the Buddha.

The Buddha dislikes a person who does not keep their promise. Keep whatever promises you make with someone. Then everyone will like you and trust YOU!



## Chapter 3

### Each Word in the Dharma Is a Buddha

By the way, Sakyamuni Buddha taught a very important message in Chapter 16 of the *Lotus Sutra*:

“Good men! All sutras that I have expounded previously 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 and Bodhisattvas 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 other Buddhas and Bodhisattvas in other sutras. All that I say is true, not false, because I see the triple world as it is. It is my Great Compassion!” Do you remember these words?”

All teachings of all Buddhas and all Bodhisattvas are included in the *Lotus Sutra* that is the Universal Truth. Each word is a manifestation of the Eternal Buddha, whose teachings are beneficial to all living beings. Therefore, believe it and do not overlook any word when you read the sutra.

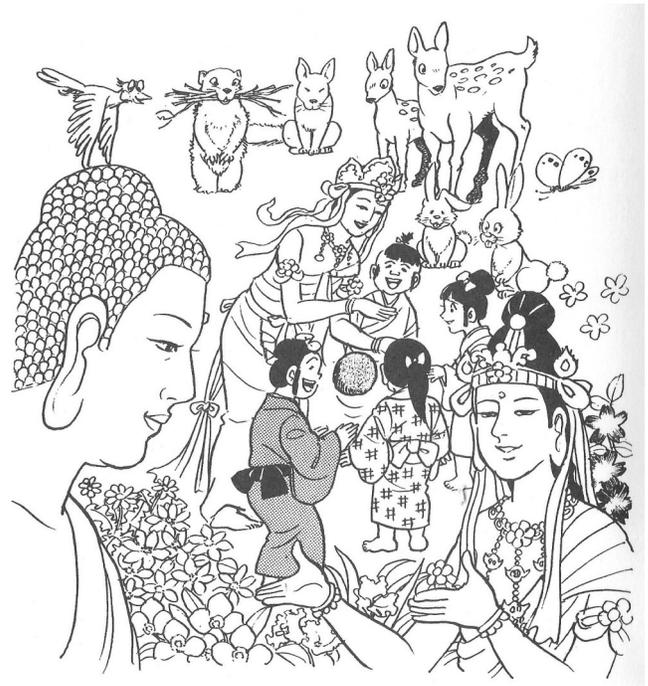
Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha told, showed and described Himself and other Buddhas and Bodhisattvas. Other Buddhas and Bodhisattvas included Maha-Vairocana Tathagata, Amitayus Tathagata, Medicine-Teacher Tathagata, Medicine-King Bodhisattva, Wonderful-Voice Bodhisattva and World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva. All other Buddhas and Bodhisattvas in all other sutras are included in Chapter 16, The Duration of the Life of Tathagata, of the *Lotus Sutra*. Therefore, all Buddhas and Bodhisattvas are proof that they appeared from the Eternal Original Buddha. In other words, the *Lotus Sutra* is the One and Only Universal Truth, so each word in the sutra is the true Buddha.

All Buddhas and Bodhisattvas were born from the Eternal Buddha’s mouth, in that, they were born in the words of the Dharma.

## A) World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva Enjoys Saving People Just as Much as Playing

Listening to the Buddha explained how World-Voice Bodhisattva saved the people with his supernatural powers from ‘The Seven Troubles, the Three Poisons, and the Two Wishes,’ Endless-Intent Bodhisattva said to the Buddha:

“World-Honored One! World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva has great and wonderful supernatural powers like a highly-raised sacred mountain! How does World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva go about this Saha-World? Why does he expound the Dharma to the living beings in this Saha-World filled with defilement instead of his pure Buddha-World? He seems to be enjoying doing so just as he enjoys playing a game. What expedients does he employ?”



## B) Thirty-Three Transformations

The Buddha said to Endless-Intent Bodhisattva:

“Good man! You asked Me a good question. You read My mind! Listen to Me attentively. In a country where the people have a strong relationship with the Buddha and the people of the country honor the Buddha Dharma and endure sufferings, World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva takes the shape of a Buddha, and expounds the Dharma to those who are to be saved by a Buddha.

He takes the shape of a Buddha’s disciple, and expounds the Dharma to those who are to be saved by a Buddha’s disciple. He takes the shape of a Pratyek-abuddha or a Sravaka, and expounds the Dharma to those who are to be saved by a Pratyekabuddha or a Sravaka.

He takes the shape of King Brahman or King Sakra or Deities of the Lotus Sutra

and expounds the Dharma to those who are able to be saved by King Brahman or King Sakra or Deities of the Lotus Sutra. He takes the shape of Great Freedom God or a great general in heaven or the king of a small country or a rich man and expounds to those who are able to be saved by Great Freedom God or a great general in heaven or the king of a small country or a rich man. They make contributions or use the power of their positions for the sake of other people.

He takes the shape of a non-Buddhist and expounds the Dharma to those who are able to be saved by the non-Buddhist and later will lead them to the Buddha Dharma. He takes the shape of a priest or a nun or a young or old lay person and expounds the Dharma to those who are able to be saved by a priest or a nun or a young or old lay person.

He takes the shape of a god, a dragon, a yaksa, a gandharva, an asura, a garuda, a kimnara, a mahoraga, or a non-human being and expounds the Dharma to those who are able to be saved by a god, a dragon, a yaksa, a gandharva, an asura, a garuda, a kimnara, a mahoraga, or a non-human being. He takes the shape of Vajra-Holding God (a mighty muscular god) and expounds the Dharma to those who are able to be saved by Vajra-Holding God.”

“Endless-Intent! This World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva takes these thirty-three different transformations. He enjoys taking various shapes and walks about many countries on this Saha-World. As long as the people of this world believe in their eternal lives and trust in the Buddha and the *Lotus Sutra*, the supernatural power of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva will continue to activate the Buddha’s great compassion and save all living beings.” Thus, the Buddha explained how the Bodhisattva transformed himself into various living beings with expedients to save the sufferings of people.

### **C) Very Humble Kannon Bodhisattva**

These meritorious deeds by World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva produced a great impression on Endless-Intent Bodhisattva, who tried to praise him and said, “World-Honored One! Now I will make an offering to World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva!” From around his neck, he took a necklace of many gems worth hundreds of thousands of gold pieces, and gave it to the Bodhisattva. “The Man of Virtue! Please re-



ceive this necklace of wonderful treasures! I offer this to you according to the Dharma!” The congregation watched breathlessly.

However, World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva did not consent to receive it. As I said before, he was very humble because his supernatural power was not his own. He was just activating the Buddha’s great compassion. Endless-Intent said to World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva again, “Receive this necklace out of your compassion towards us!”

Watching them with a smile, the Buddha said to World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva:

“Receive it out of your compassion towards this Endless-Intent Bodhisattva and all other people in the congregation!”

Thereupon World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva received it respectfully with a deep bow. Then he divided the necklace into two parts, and offered one part of it to Sakyamuni Buddha and the other to the stupa of Many-Treasures Buddha. The Buddha inside the stupa was the one who affirmed the truthfulness of the *Lotus Sutra*.



How noble and how humble he was! All praise and pride go back to Sakyamuni Buddha who always wishes all living beings to enter the unsurpassed way and quickly become Buddhas. Because of the Buddha’s wish, World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva was able to assist the Buddha. He knows that well.

Your mother is just like World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva. She knows your father’s wishes well and takes care of the family and home. So, your father is able to work out of his home without worry. Because your parents are one in their minds and appreciate each other, you cannot neglect your father even though you do not see him at home often. What your mother does for you at home is of the same mind as your father. As such, the same is true if your father stays at home and your mother works

outside, or if both parents work or both stay at home. When you are happy, your parents are also happy. When you are sad, your parents are also sad.

Therefore, it is not good to pray to World-Voice-Perceiver over the Buddha's head. Do not forget that even if you pray to World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva, Sakyamuni Buddha is always behind the Bodhisattva.

When you grow big and if you marry, it is better to marry a man or woman who has a gentle and humble character like the World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva. You had better pray to the Buddha for that to happen . But you must become a compassionate person first.



## Chapter 4

### The Bodhisattva with No Fear

Watching World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva's deeds, Endless-Intent Bodhisattva felt more impressed with him and was staggered with surprise. Then the Buddha said,

“Endless-Intent! World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva goes about the Saha-World freely with his thirty-three transformations, employing this supernatural power without hindrance. He enjoys making the people happy and leads them to aspire to the enlightenment of Buddhahood.”

Thereupon Endless-Intent Bodhisattva, who was so impressed with World-Voice Perceiver Bodhisattva, asked the Buddha in *gathas*:

#### A) Impression Does Not Stop

“World-Honored One with the wonderful marks  
Let me ask you about him again.  
Why is the son of the Buddha  
Called World-Voice-Perceiver?  
What is the relationship of cause and effect  
Regarding his name?  
Oh, the Buddha!  
Please teach me again!”

Sakyamuni Buddha described World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva's Meritorious deeds again in *gathas* for all the people gathered in the congregation:

“Listen attentively! World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva practiced  
According to the condition of the places of salvation.  
His vow to save people is as deep as the sea.  
You cannot fathom it even for *kalpas*.

On many hundreds of thousands of millions of Buddhas  
He attended and made a great and pure vow

To save all living beings with his thirty-three transformations.  
I will tell you about his pure great vow.  
If you call his name with all your heart,  
And think of him constantly,  
You will see him with the eyes of your mind.  
You will be able to eliminate all sufferings.

## **B) All Sufferings Arise from Your Mind**

Suppose you are thrown into a pit of fire  
By someone who has an evil intention of hurting you.  
If you instantly trust the protection of the Buddha  
And think of the power of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
The pit of fire will change into a pond of water.

Suppose your life is like the raging waves in the ocean,  
You are drifting in darkness and wandering around.  
When the big waves are about to swallow you,  
If you instantly trust the protection of the Buddha  
And think of the power of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
The waves begin to calm down and  
You will return to the normal path of your life.  
The paths of your life will become calm and mild.

Suppose you have reached the top as the result of your hard work,  
But you become negligent and have been deceived,  
Suddenly your life goes downhill and you encounter many difficulties.  
When you trust the protection of the Buddha,  
Chant the name of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
You and your endeavors will be highly recognized like the sun.

Suppose you are working hard with a strong determination like a diamond,  
Evil thoughts of sex, passion and desire approach you,  
The Three Poisons almost pushed you  
Off the top of the diamond mountain.  
When you trust the protection of the Buddha,  
Chant the name of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
You will not lose even a hair.

Suppose someone has a grudge towards you without any reason,  
He hates, dislikes and even tries to kill you.  
When you trust the protection of the Buddha,  
Chant the name of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
The grudge, hatred, and dislike will be dissolved,  
And you will be trusted and loved.

Suppose a sovereign sentenced you to death based  
on a misunderstanding,  
You do not forget your mission as a Buddhist,  
In order to prove the golden words of the Buddha,  
When you chant the spirit of the *Lotus Sutra* loudly,  
If you think of the power of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
The sword will suddenly break asunder.



Suppose you are bound up  
In pillories, chains, manacles or fetters of the brain,  
You lost your freedom, reasoning power and right consciousness  
And you almost attempted criminal actions.  
If you bring back the righteousness of the *Lotus Sutra*,  
When you trust the protection of the Buddha,  
Chant the name of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
You will get back your freedom of the mind

### **C) Evil Intentions and Darkness Will Be Cleared**

Suppose someone curses you to death,  
Or attempts to kill you by various poisons.  
When you trust the protection of the Buddha,

Chant the name of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
Death will be brought to that person, instead.

Suppose you meet a cannibal  
Or poisonous dragons or other devils.  
When you trust the protection of the Buddha,  
Chant the name of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
They will not give attention to you.

Suppose you are surrounded by evil people  
Who have threatened you with cunning tricks  
Like wild animals with sharp and fearful claws.  
Suppose you lose your senses and  
Almost get involved in a crime with evil people,  
When you realize your wrong doing and  
Trust the protection of the Buddha,  
Chant the name of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
They will flee away to distant places.

Suppose you meet evil friends who are like snakes or vipers  
Emitting poisonous vapor like flames.  
They flock together around you tenaciously one after another.  
When you trust the protection of the Buddha,  
Chant the name of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
They will go away as you call his name by his supernatural power.

Suppose clouds arise, lightning flashes, thunder peals,  
Hail falls, and heavy rains come down.  
Even at the time you are afraid of these natural calamities,  
If you calm your mind and trust the protection of the Buddha,  
Chant the name of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
The sky will become blue and the sun will show its face from behind the clouds.

World-Voice-Perceiver will save  
All living beings from misfortunes

And from innumerable sufferings of the world  
By the wonderful power of his wisdom.

Thus, the Buddha praised World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva with the highest words.

## D) Saved in the Present Lives and the Future Lives

It may sound like the Buddha emphasized that we would have peaceful lives in the present and rebirths in good places in the future in this chapter of the *Lotus Sutra*. However, what the Buddha wished here was not material gain in this life but to have our minds shine spiritually.

The causes of bad karma you have created in this life must be extinguished to avoid carrying on your bad karma to the next life. Depending on your way of life in this life, your soul will be graded up or down.

You must do what you can do by yourself. You must avoid being selfish, arrogant and making a fool of others. When you are always modest, reconsider yourself and appreciate everything, your soul will shine and grade up. The Buddha will praise you!

Endless-Intent Bodhisattva was so impressed, and his eyes filled with tears of joyfulness.

## E) Recall Your Purpose to Be Born

Sakyamuni Buddha sensed the joyful impressions spreading widely among the congregation and continued his song of gatha:

“When people are battered by hardship or sadness,  
World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva senses and appears



Wherever it is to save the suffering people with great wisdom.

He appears anywhere around the world with his supernatural powers

Of his transformations with expedients.

He has these supernatural powers.

He employs various expedients with his wisdom.

In the ten quarters there is no world

In which he does not appear at all.

Hell, the region of hungry spirits, and the region of animals,

That is, the three bottom existences will be eliminated.

The sufferings of birth, old age, disease and death

Will gradually be eliminated

And lead all beings to aspire to attain Buddha-hood.

He perceives the truth of all things.

He perceives the purity of all things.

He perceives the great wisdom of all things.

He perceives great sympathy to ease the suffering of all things like your mother.

He perceives great compassion to bring happiness to all things like your father.

Think of him constantly! Look up at him constantly!”

Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha explained the Bodhisattva’s five perceptions.

In order for World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva to perceive the real you, you should not tell a lie, but instead keep pure and study righteousness. You should be sympathetic to others and help them become happy. Listen to your parents and be obedient to them. Never act just for your benefit only.

If you are selfish and call the name of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva, he will not perceive your voice. Sorry about that!

If you think you are that kind of a selfish person, you'd better repent your wrong conduct. Never tell a lie. Be obedient! Respect others and show your appreciation to everything around you! As a member of your community or society, make a firm determination about the way of your life style.

Try to recall the promise you made to the Buddha before you were born as soon as possible!

## F) Great Compassion of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva

If you behave nicely like that,

“World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva will wrap you with a pure veil.

He pours the rain of the Dharma on the flame of one's passion

As sweet as nectar, and extinguishes the fire of illusions.

You will not be tossed about in the storms of life.

The name of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva  
is spread

All over the world like a warm spring sun shine.

The light destroys all the darkness of the world

And illuminates the whole world brightly.

World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva has been  
called,

“Great Compassionate Bodhisattva” since the  
remotest days.

He always represents the great compassion of Sakyamuni Buddha.

Therefore, his precepts out of his loving-kindness brace us up

As thunderbolts around the world.

Just as the compassionate rain moistens the dry land,



The name of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva will moisten  
The dried-up minds of the suffering people.

How wonderful Sakyamuni Buddha's compassion is!  
The Bodhisattva's compassion is like rain on the dry land  
And like the warm ray of the sun in spring.  
All these merits of the Bodhisattva are from  
The Buddha Dharma of the Eternal Sakyamuni Buddha!"

It will be very nice if your mind is like the mind of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhi  
sattva.

"Suppose you are in a court of law for a lawsuit,  
And it takes too long for the final verdict.  
If you think of the power of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
Your enemies will strangely drop the case.  
Or on a battlefield, you are seized with fear,  
And you wish to end the war soon.  
If you think of the power of World-Voice-Perceiver,  
All your enemies miraculously will flee away."

Such things really happen because of the great compassion and wisdom of Sa-  
kyamuni Buddha. The believers in World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva are winners!

## G) Wonderful Voice of World-Voice-Perceiver

I wonder if you still remember that I previously said the Buddha's voice was just like 'karyo-bin-ga,' an imaginary bird with a wonderful sweet voice. Similarly, World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva also has a sweet voice. It is like a big temple bell. Its sound echoes all over and drives out the illusions in our minds. The voice of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva is like the sound of tidal waves, expounding the Buddha Dharma continuously, penetrating our minds with Buddha's compassion, and leading all human beings to attain Enlightenment.



## Chapter 5

### The Original Buddha-Land Is within One's Mind

Sakyamuni Buddha stated at the end clearly as follows:

“While I exist or even after my extinction,  
Do not doubt him even at a moment's thought!  
The Pure-Saint, World-Voice-Perceiver is reliable.  
He is here on the Eternal Sakyamuni's Buddha-World.

When you suffer, and when you are confronted  
With the sufferings of the Four Major sufferings like  
Birth, old age, disease and death,  
And the four minor sufferings like separation from a loved one,  
The Seven Troubles, the Three Poisons, and the Two Wishes.  
He will transform himself into thirty-three different bodies  
And save all suffering people for sure.

By all these merits, he sees  
All living beings with his compassionate eyes.  
The ocean of his accumulated merits is boundless.  
He will bring happiness to all people.  
Therefore, bow, respect and pray to World-Voice-Perceiver,  
Who has boundless merits to bring good fortune.”

Thus, you also go through the gate of the World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva.  
There is the Buddha's Original-Land filled with the great compassion of the Eternal Buddha inside the gate. The origin of your sufferings will be cleared there.

## A) 84,000 Living Beings Aspire Buddha-hood

Thereupon Earth-Holding Bodhisattva rose from his seat, proceeded to the Buddha, and said to him:

“World-Honored One! We heard of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva’s supernatural power by which he opened the universal gate without hinderance. We will believe in his supernatural power and practice his Dharma that originated in Eternal Sakyamuni Buddha’s wisdom even if our world is more defiled.

When the Buddha expounded this chapter of the Universal Gate of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva, the eighty-four thousand living beings in the congregation felt a great sensation that was hard to express with words and began to aspire toward attaining Buddha-hood.”



## B) If We Are Buddha’s Children ...

You’d better aspire to attain Buddha-hood.

Have obedient minds and firm determination.

World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva was named,

Because he was a great Bodhisattva who activated the Buddha Dharma

Revealed by the Eternal Buddha Sakyamuni’s great compassion.

You are all Buddha’s children,

The precious children of the Buddha

Who possess the merits of Lord, Master, and Father.

Live righteously as Buddha’s children!

Have a firm aspiration to become Buddhas for sure!