

Buddhist Terms in Chapter 19 of the Lotus Sutra

Avici Hell 阿鼻地獄(abi-jigoku) (P.269, L.16): The hell of incessant suffering, the worst hell. This area is too vast for anyone to escape from it. Those who are born in this hell are always crying out because of the heat of fire. According to the Abbi-dharma-kosa (Kusha-ron), there are eight hot hells, eight cold hells, and three isolated hells, which are all situated far under Embudai (the world where we live). Descriptions of the hells vary according to the scripture. The Lotus Sutra says, “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 doubt [about this sutra], will not fall into hell or region of hungry spirits or the region of animals. They will be reborn before the Buddhas of the worlds of the ten quarters.”

Mt. Sumeru 須弥山(shumi-sen) (P.270, L.4): The highest mountain in a world, rising in the center of that world. On the top lives *Sakra* 帝釈天 on the sides, the kings of the Four Quarters. *Sakra* 帝釈天 hears about the moral condition of the people of the world, according to the report of the Four-Quarter Kings (Shiten-nou) and others, who inspect three days in a month.