

Minwa Fu Hokekyo Dowa

(Volume 7 of 30 Volumes)

Four New Buddhas

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Four New Buddhas

(Chapter 6 of the Lotus Sutra:

Assurance of Future Buddhahood)

Chapter 1

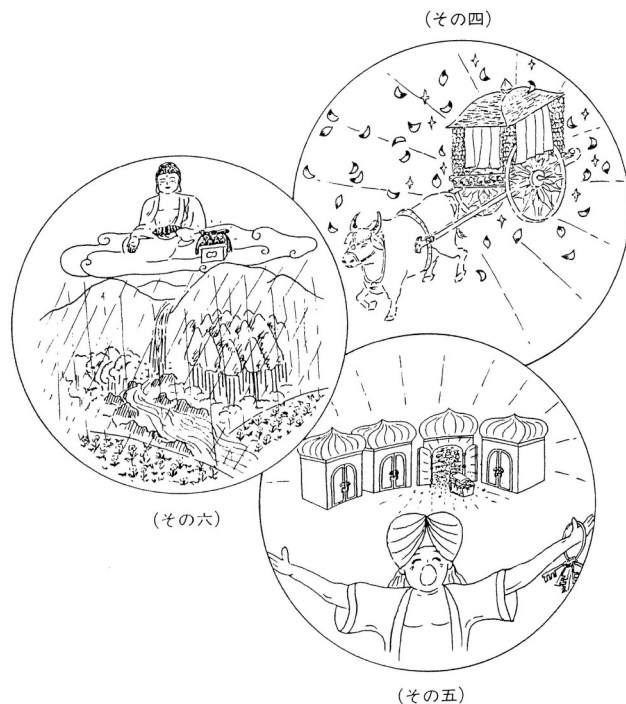
Many Parables

At last, it is time for the four new Buddhas' births. I wonder who they are?

Sakyamuni Buddha revealed three parables so far. Do you remember them? Can you recall them? One of them, in volume four, was “Who Owns the Great White Ox Carts?” It was the story of a wealthy man who saved all of his children from the burning house, wasn't it?

“Never Dreamed of Being a Billionaire” was in volume five. It was the story of a homeless man becoming a rich man after being saved by a gentle and compassionate wealthy father.

“Glorious Rain for Grasses and Trees” was in volume six. It was the story about the compassionate rain that falls on very dry ground little by little. Although slow, the soaking rain water surely enriched the grasses and trees. You must recall these stories by now.



Chapter 2

Birth of New Born Buddhas

After first giving a Buddha name to Sariputra, the Flower Light Tathagata, first in Chapter three, Sakyamuni Buddha gave new Buddha names to Kasyapa, Subhuti, Katyayana and Maudgalyayana in this chapter.

Is it exciting?

I will tell you their new Buddha names. Listen to the words of the Buddha carefully with your obedient mind.



Chapter 3

Kasyapa is Light Tathagata

Sakyamuni Buddha addressed the countless congregation gathered at Mt. Sacred Eagle, “Obedient men and women who are gathered here now! I am going to tell you an important teaching, so please listen to me attentively. Kasyapa, a disciple of mine, will see three hundred billion Buddhas in the future. After making offerings to all of the Buddhas, he will preach unsurpassed wisdom to various people. After that, he will become a Buddha called Light Tathagata*. His world will be called Light-Virtue. The duration of the life of that Buddha will be twelve small *kalpas**.

(Tathagata means the one who has completed the Pass)*

(A kalpa is the period for a celestial woman to wear away a ten-mile-cubic stone if she touched it with her garments once every three years.)*



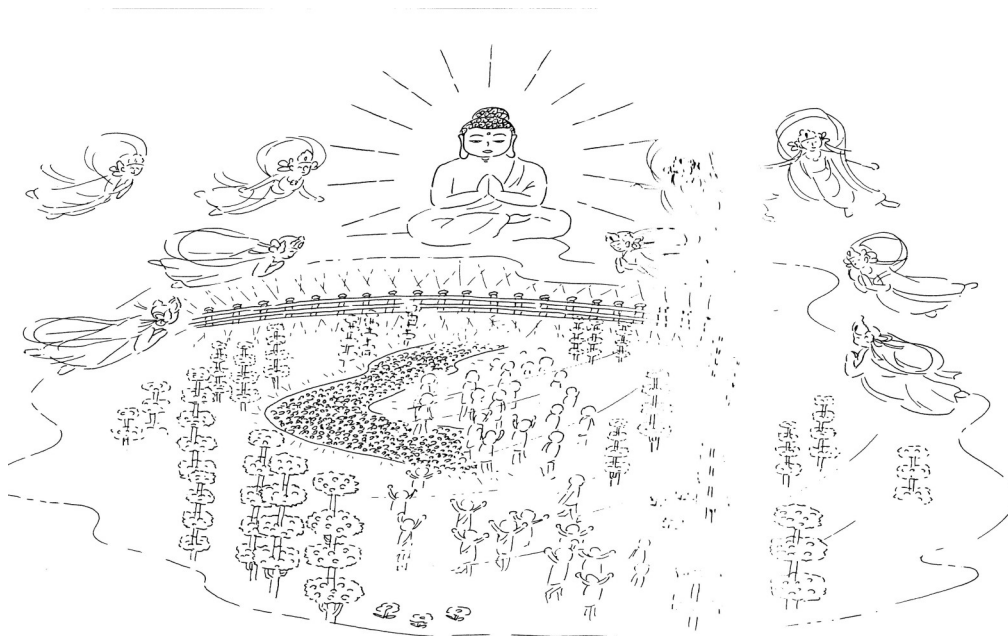
His Righteous Teachings (*Shobo*) will be preserved for twenty small *kalpas*, and his Imitation Teachings (*Zobo*) will also be preserved for twenty small *kalpas*.”

The Buddha continued to talk, “His world will be called ‘Light-Virtue.’ It is very beautiful and adorned, and not defiled with rubble, thorns or dirt. The ground will be even, and devoid of pits and mounds. It will be made of lapis lazuli. Jeweled trees will stand in lines, and the roads will be marked off by ropes of gold. The people in that

land are full of joy. Jeweled flowers will be strewn all over the ground, and the ground will be purified. Many hundreds of thousands of millions of compassionate Bodhisattvas who have great supernatural powers will live in that world. Although devils and their followers also live there, they will not do any evil but will protect the teachings of the Buddha.”

The Buddha said, “Kasyapa will see three hundred billion Buddhas in the future.” How is it possible that he will see 300 billion Buddhas? If he cannot see that many Buddhas, will he not be able to become a Buddha? The words of the Buddha are difficult to understand. If you are not obedient and do not listen to what he says, you may not be able to understand the real meaning of his words.

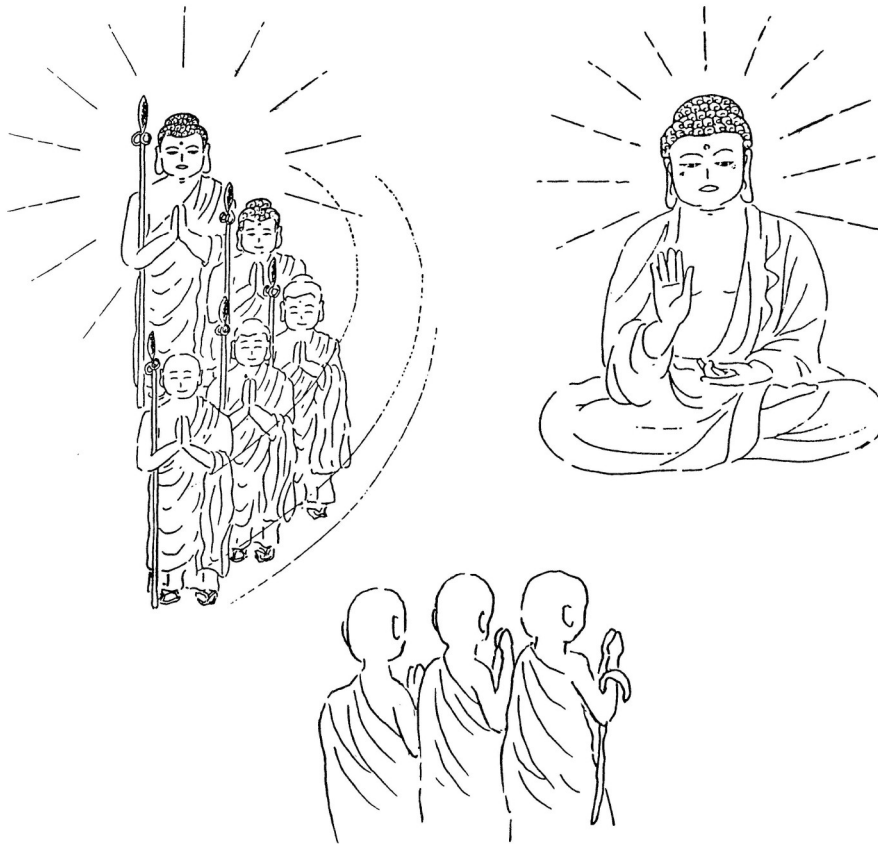
Let us continue to listen to Him!



Chapter 4

Trembling with Strong Impression

Listening to what the Buddha said to Kasyapa, “You will become a Buddha called Light Tathagata in the future,” the three Sravakas, Subhuti, Katyayana, and Maudgalyayana were so glad that their bodies shook with excitement, and they almost burst into tears of joy. They put their palms together and stared at the Buddha for a while. Then they said in one voice:

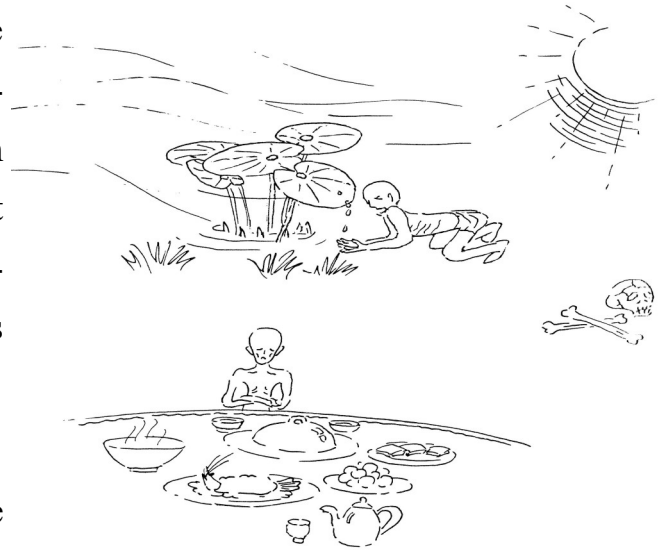


Chapter 5

As Cool and Refreshed As If Sprinkled with Nectar

“Great Honored One! Give us mercy! Please read our minds deeply. In those preceding sutras before the Lotus Sutra, we were all conceited. We have followed and practiced your teachings only for ourselves, so that we were not able to become Buddhas. But you said that we are able to become Buddhas now.

We feel as cool and refreshed as if we were sprinkled with nectar (on a hot summer day). It is very grateful! However, because we had practiced selfishly, we believed that we would not be able to become Buddhas. It is as if we came from a distant country which was suffering from famine, and although we see all kinds of foods spread out for a great king, we were afraid to partake of the food unless the king told us to eat them.”



“Oh, World Honored One! We shall practice the Way of Bodhisattvas to save others and work hard for other people and for World Peace. By doing so, we wish you to give us Buddha names and assure us to become Buddhas in the future. Then we will have peace of mind and become courageous and happy.”

Chapter 6

Assurance for Another Three Sravakas

Sakyamuni Buddha granted their requests among 12,000 disciples because the four Great Sravakas confessed their feeling of joyfulness in becoming Buddhas with the parable of ‘The Wealthy Man and His Poor Son.’ So the Buddha gave new Buddha names to Kasyapa, Subhuti, Katyayana and Maudgalyayana in this chapter.

Chapter 7

Subhuti Is Beautiful Form

Sakyamuni, understanding the wishes of these great disciples, turned to all the assembled people and said to them:

“All of you gathered here at Mount Sacred Eagle! You are very obedient! In his future life, this Subhuti will see three hundred billion *nayutas** of Buddhas in the future, make offerings to them, complete the Way of Bodhisattvas, and become a Buddha called Beautiful Form Tathagata. I name his world, Treasure-Born.”

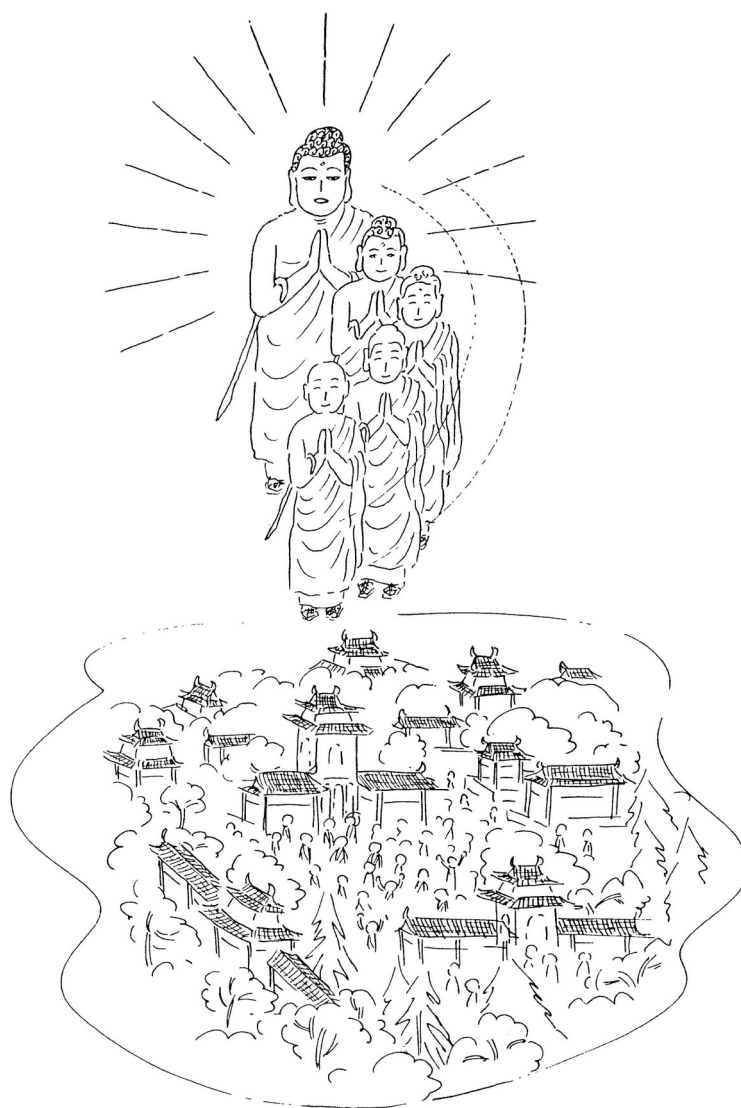
*(*Nayuta is a Hindu numerical unit, said to be equivalent to 100 x 100 x 100 million.)*

“The ground of his world will be entirely even, made of crystal, and

adorned with jeweled trees. Precious flowers will cover the ground to purify it. All people of that world will be kind and gentle. They will live in big houses decorated with jewels. His disciples and Bodhisattvas will number in the thousands of billions.”

“The duration of the life of that Buddha will be twelve small kalpas. His Righteous Teachings (*Shobo*) will be preserved for twenty small kalpas. His Imitation Teachings (*Zobo*) will be preserved also for twenty small kalpas.

That Buddha will always stay in the sky, expound the Dharma to the multitude, and save innumerable people.” Thus, the Buddha assured Subhuti’s enlightenment first among the three.



Chapter 8

Katyayana is Gold-Light Tathagata

After assuring that Subhuti will attain Buddhahood, Sakyamuni Buddha continued by giving a new Buddha name to Katyayana.

“Listen, everyone who is gathered here and listening to the teachings of the Lotus Sutra! This Katyayana will make offerings to eight hundred thousand million Buddhas in the future. After the extinction of each of those Buddhas, he will erect stupas for them with the seven treasures of gold, silver, lapis lazuli, shell, agate, pearl, and ruby. He will offer flowers and incense to these stupa-mausoleums.

“After that he will make the same offerings to two billion Buddhas. Having made offerings to those Buddhas, he will complete the Way of Bodhisattvas, and become a Buddha called Gold-Light Tathagata.”

“The ground of his world will be entirely even, made of crystal, and adorned with jeweled trees. Only deities and human beings will live in his world. The wonderful flowers will cover the ground to purify it. Everyone will rejoice



at seeing them. No evil will exist in that world, so people will always behave nicely, never kill any living beings, never steal, or have attachment to their status or fame. They will not seek short-lived joyfulness and never fight. Many disciples of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas also live there to adorn that world.”

“The duration of the life of that Buddha will be twelve small *kalpas*, and his Imitation Teachings (*zo-bo*) also will be preserved for twenty small *kalpas*.”

“Everyone at Mt. Sacred Eagle! Listen with one mind obediently!

What I say is true, not false.”

Chapter 9

To Make Offerings to the Innumerable Buddhas

Let us see how hard these Sravakas would need to work to become a Buddha!

Kasyapa will need to make offerings to three hundred billion Buddhas in the future.

Subhuti will need to make offerings to three hundred million *nayutas** of Buddhas in the future.

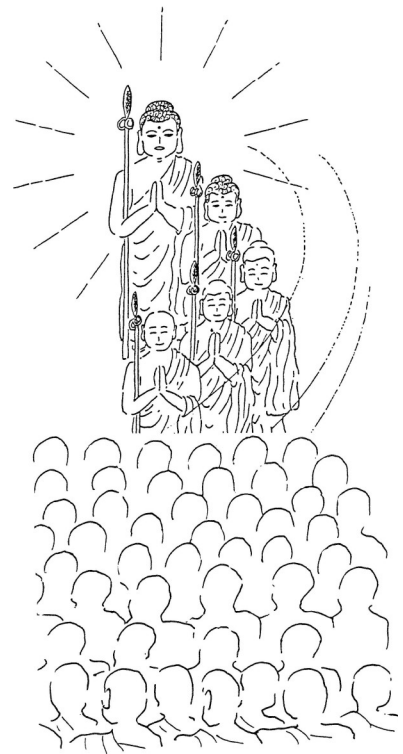
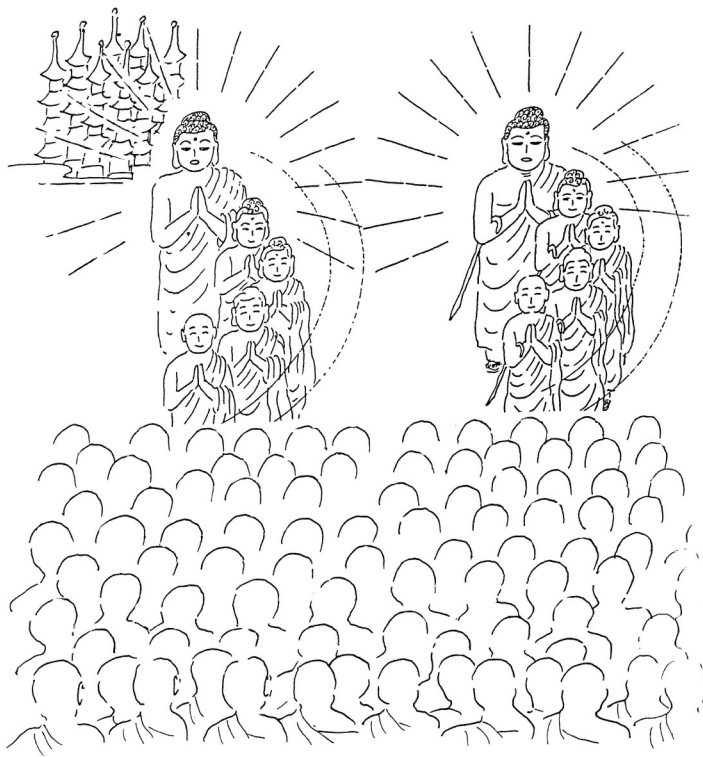
Katyayana will need to make offerings to eight hundred thousand millions of Buddhas in the future.

They will need to build a jeweled stupa for each one of the Buddhas and again make offerings to two thousand billion additional Buddhas.

After that, Kasyapa will finally become Light Tathagata, Subhuti will become Beautiful Form Tathagata, and Katyayana will become Gold-Light Tathagata. Thus, the Buddha assured them of their Buddhahood.

It is very hard to become a Buddha, isn't it? They had to endure great hardships to become Buddhas.

There is one more Sravaka, Maudgalyayana, to be assured of becoming a Buddha.



Chapter 10

Maudgalyayana Is Tamalapattra-Candana-Fragrance Tathagata

Sakyamuni Buddha addressed the countless numbers in the congregation gathered at Mt. Sacred Eagle.

“I will promise now another Buddha’s birth to you. Maudgalyayana will



make various offerings to eight thousand Buddhas,
and also after the extinction of all these Buddhas,
he also will erect huge stupas for them adorned
with the seven treasures: gold, silver, lapis lazuli,
shell, agate, pearl and ruby. He will constantly of-
fer flowers and
incense that will be solemn and refreshing. After
that he will make

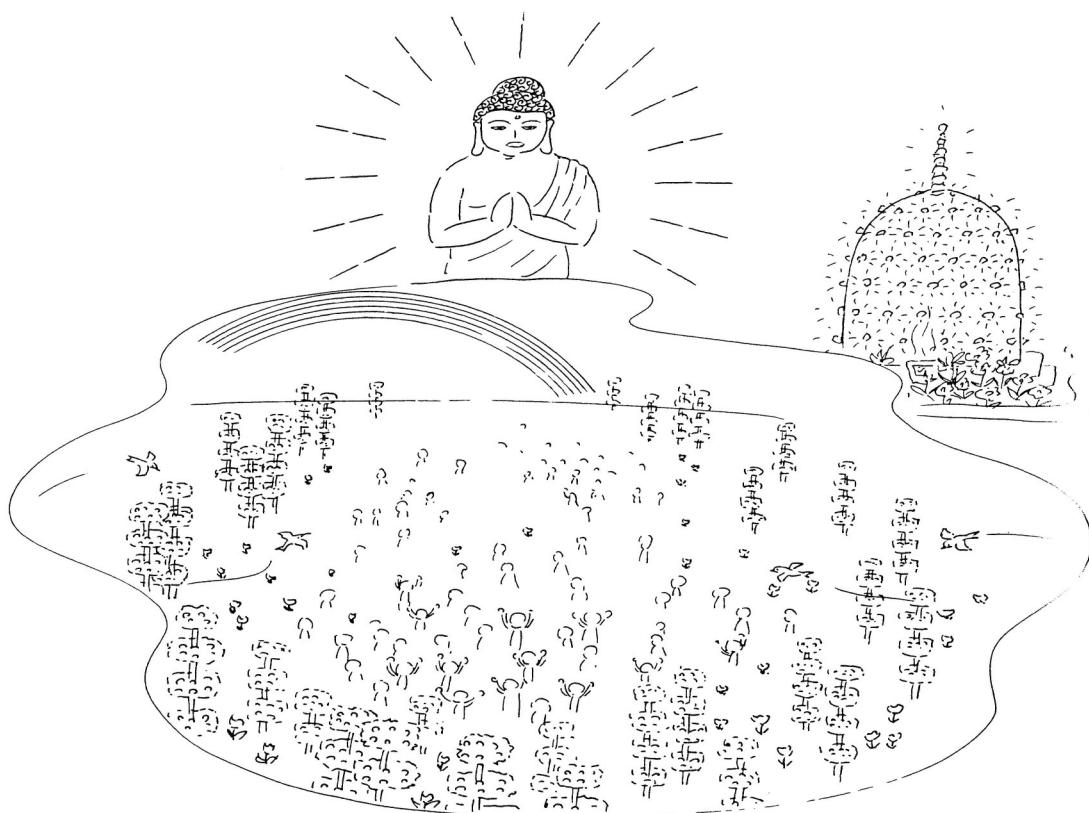
the same offerings to two hundred billion Bud-
dhas. Then he will become a Buddha called Ta-
malapattra-Candana-Fragrance Tathagata (One
who has completed the Pass).

His world will be called Mind-Happiness.
The ground of his world will be even, jeweled
trees are growing, and flowers of pearls will fill
the land. Everyone will rejoice at seeing it.
Innumerable Bodhisattvas and his disciples will
live there. The duration of the life of that Buddha



will be twenty-four small kalpas which is the longest among the four great Sravakas. His Imitation Teachings (*Zobo*) will be preserved for forty small kalpas which is also the longest duration.”

“The Bodhisattvas in this land are only virtuous and ambitious people. They are all very wise, so they will never cast away the teachings of the Lotus Sutra no matter what happens to them!” Thus, the Buddha said to the great multitude and continued to say, “All of you! Listen to me well! There is an unbreakable fateful relationship between you and me. I wish you to believe and understand the truth that I am trying to say from the bottom of my heart!”



Chapter 11

The Truth of What the Buddha Is Trying to Say

I wonder what He is trying to say!

Do you recall that Sakyamuni Buddha had once said, “Everyone is a Buddha,” in volume three? Please recall the phrase.



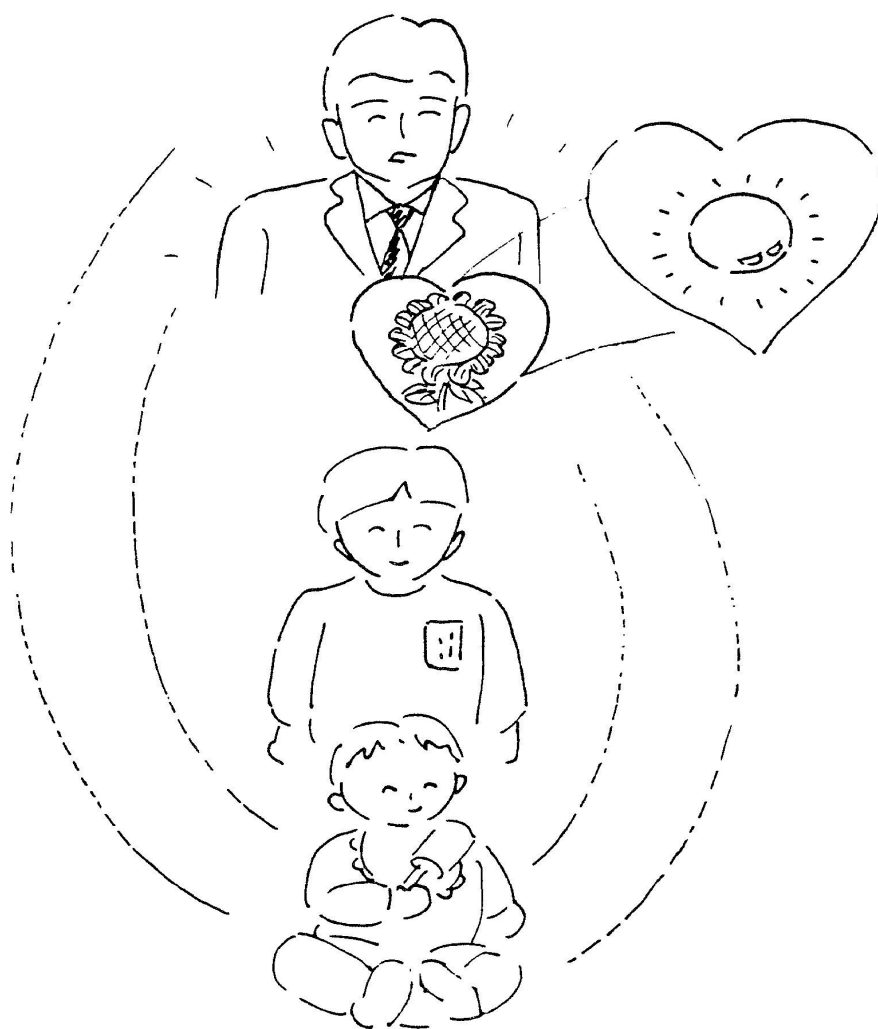
A) Everyone Has a Buddha Nature

The Buddha said that He has planted a Buddha seed in the field of everyone’s mind for sure. Whomever it is, if you were sympathetic and kind to your parents, to your brothers and sisters, and friendly to your friends, and if you practiced what your teacher said and behaved nicely; then, the seed in your mind will sprout and bloom without you noticing.



As the Buddha teaches, think about happiness for others before one’s own happiness. For instance, keep your family’s Buddhist shrine at

your home clean before you get ready in the morning and offer flowers, rice, and other goodies to the altar. If you take care of your invisible ancestors in the spiritual realm with kindness, flowers in your mind will bloom with golden color, and you will become a Buddha.



B) The People We Had Met Before

By the way, how old are you? Can you count the number of people you have met since you were born? You may say, "I have never thought about it." Take your time and try and think about it leisurely, such as the doctor and nurses at your birth, people who came to see you after your birth, your relatives and neighbors at your birthday parties, and doctors and people who worked at the hospital when you were sick.

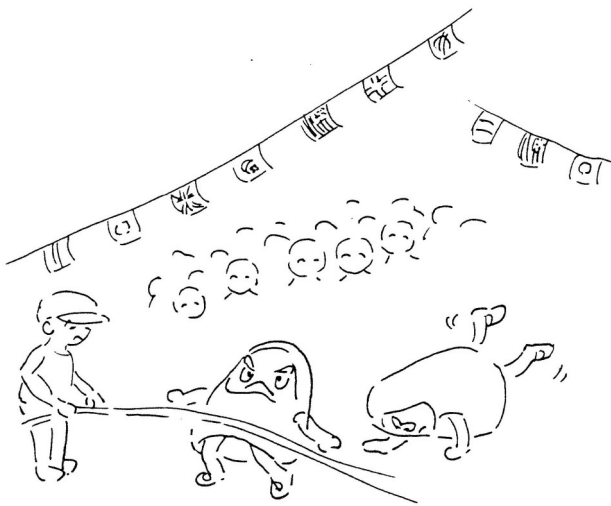


At pre-school and kindergarten, how many people have you met such as your teachers, friends, and bus drivers? How many people have you seen on the bus and trains, and at the stations? How many people have you just passed by on the streets and met at festivals?



At your elementary school, how many people do you get along with such as teachers and friends? How many people came to see you at the events at your school?

If you count the number of people you have met or seen, you will surely be surprised that you have met and seen countless numbers of people.



C) If All People around You Are Buddhas ...?

Suppose if all those people are Buddhas! Can you imagine that?

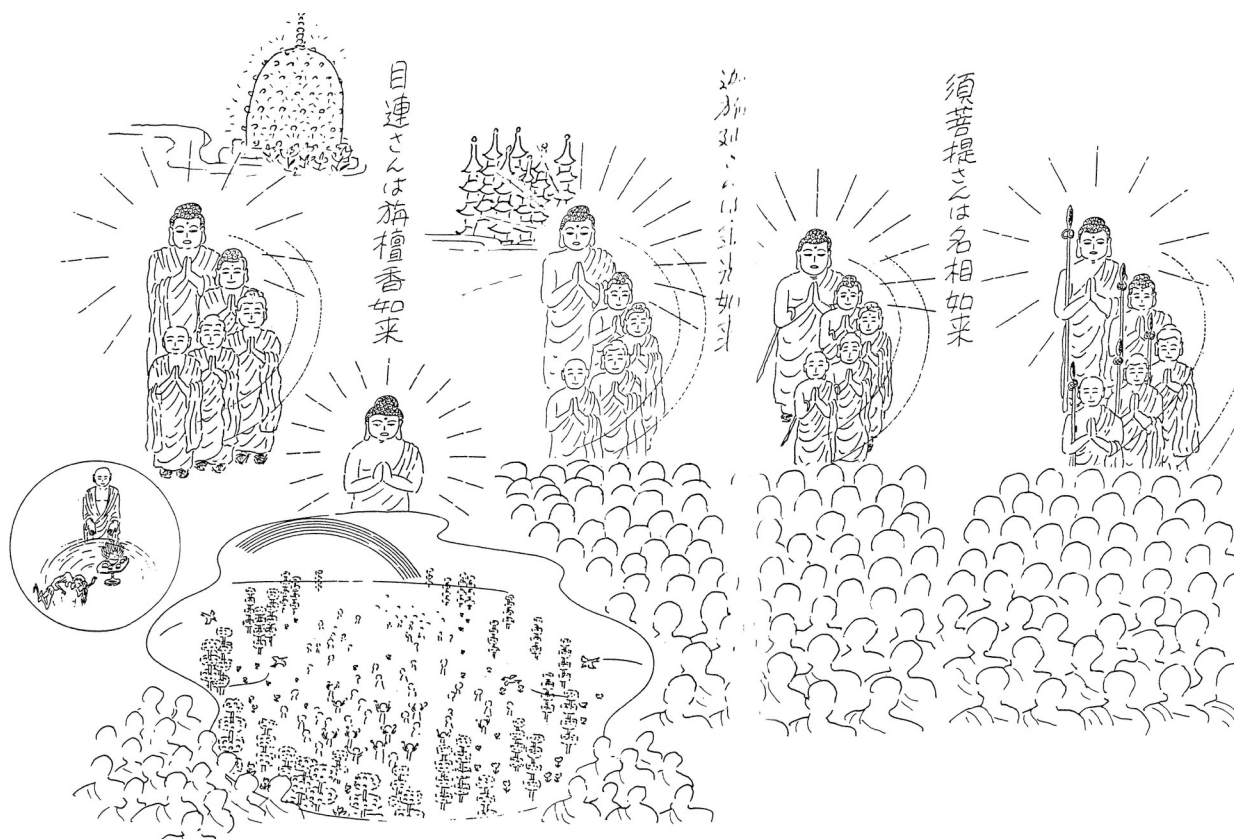
Kasyapa will become “Light Tathagata” after he would make offerings to three hundred billion Buddhas in the future.

Subhuti will become “Beautiful Form Tathagata” after he would make offerings to three hundred billion *nayuta* Buddhas in the future.

Katyayana will become “Gold-Light Tathagata” after he would make offerings to eight hundred thousand million Buddhas in the future.

And Maudgalyayana will become “Tamalapattra-Candana-Fragrance Tathagata” after he would make offerings to eight thousand Buddhas, and also do the same offerings after all these Buddhas’ deaths.

Can you vaguely guess the meaning of the title of this chapter, “The truth of what the Buddha is trying to say”?



D) Many Buddhas

You may know that there are many different Buddhas who have various appearances and shapes. You know some Buddhas, don't you?

For instance, a gentle face Buddha, a scary face Buddha, a smiling face Buddha, a sorrowful Buddha, a lovely face Buddha, a gruff figure Buddha, a standing Buddha, a sitting Buddha, a plump cheek face Buddha, and a stylish Buddha.

There are some Buddhas who wear ornaments and some who have no ornaments at all. The Buddha said, "Everyone is a Buddha!"

Then how about the countless numbers of Buddhas whom the Sravakas are supposed to make offerings.

Suppose the countless numbers of people you have met and seen are all Buddhas.

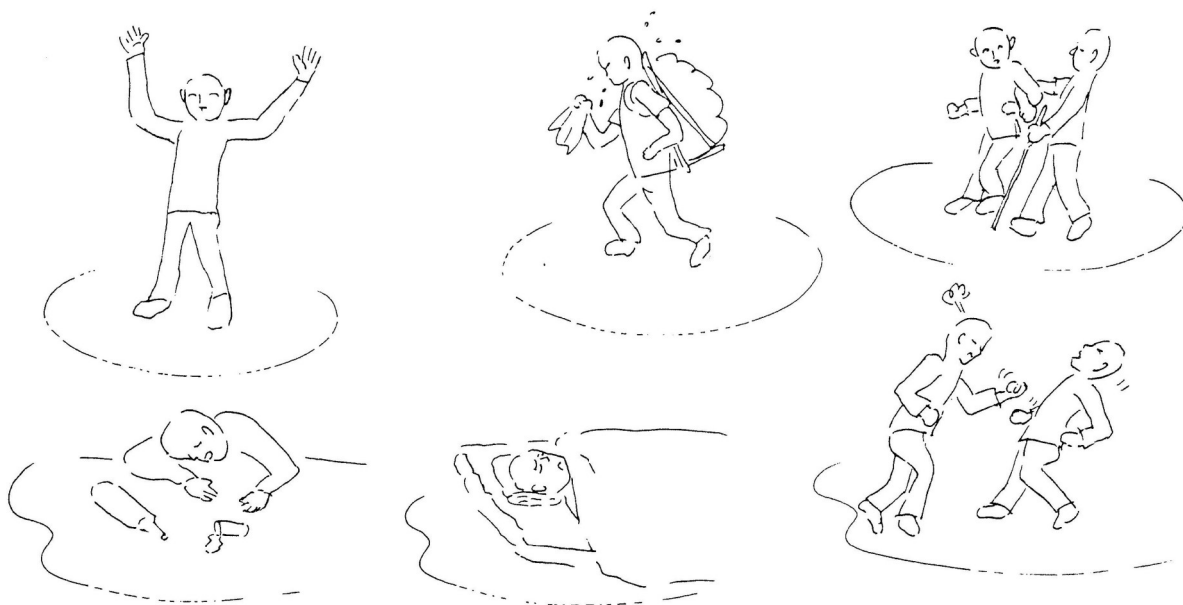


E) Hand in Hand with Various People

Although I have no idea how many years you will live, I wonder how many people you will meet until your soul departs after your death. Aren't you joyful to think about it that way?

There are kind people, mean people, mournful people, people who cannot judge good or bad, people who are troublesome to their parents, as well as people who take care of their parents very well.

There are people of different skin colors, good or bad people, healthy or sick people, adults, children, boys and girls on this earth. The Buddha says, "They are all Buddhas!"



F) To Make Offerings Means the Mind of Kindness and Considering Others

The title of Chapter 11, “The truth of what the Buddha is trying to say” means “Everyone is a Buddha!”

Therefore, you must make offerings to all people whom you have met, you meet now and will meet in the future, because “They are all Buddhas!” You must make offerings to everyone’s Buddha seeds.

To make offerings does not only mean to give food or money, but you smile at them, listen to them and try to make their Buddha’s seed sprout.

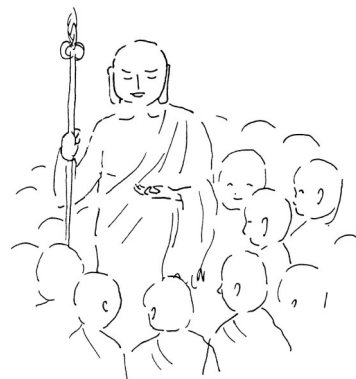


G) To Make an Offering is a Fountain of Bravery

When others are suffering, sad, or worrying, try to make them peaceful just by being next to him or her. Try to be a person who can make them comfortable or make others courageous by just looking at your smiling face. This is the meaning of “making offerings.”

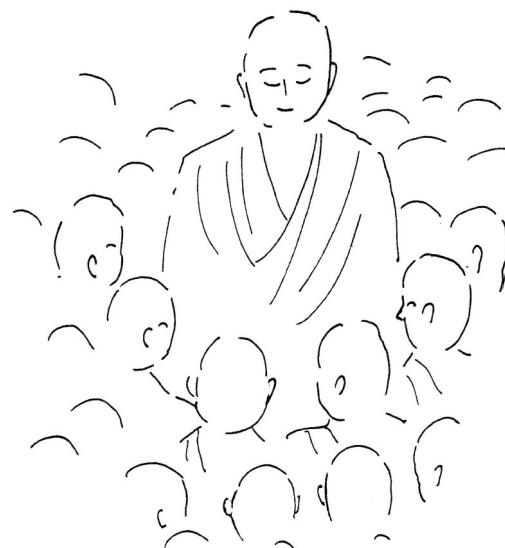
H) The Four Great Sravakas Are Popular

Kasyapa, one of the great disciples of Sakyamuni Buddha, was a very good leader, so he solved all sorts of troubles of the people. The people trusted him.



All people in the Sangha (*any group of Buddhist*) also trusted Subhuti who was an excellent speaker and Katyayana who was the best debater and never lost. Everyone was comfortable together with these two Sravakas even though mean people came to argue with them.

Maudgalyayana was very popular among the Sangha, too, because he had supernatural powers. Many people always surrounded him.



Therefore, the four Great Sravakas

were very popular and were trusted, so that it was not so hard for them to meet countless numbers of people. They could read the minds of other people and could listen to their inner voices. You can be assured that they will make offerings to the Buddha's seeds.

Chapter 12

The Blue Color Earth Belongs to Whom?

Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha gave assurance to not only the four Great Sravakas becoming four new Buddhas but also to all people on the earth. As the Buddha teaches “Everyone is a Buddha,” so please respect and take care of others and make serious efforts for peace on earth. Then the pure land, like the future worlds of the four new Buddhas, will become reality. The ground of the earth will be flat, green jeweled trees will grow, and beautiful flowers of pearls will fill the land. The air will always be fresh, clear water will spring out of the land, and gentle people like Bodhisattvas will live there. All people in the different countries on the earth will become the same.



Chapter 13

Everyone Is A Citizen of the Earth

Sakyamuni Buddha wishes always everyone understands this!

Keep it in your mind! All people are brothers and sisters: Americans, Britons, Russians, Chinese, Hindus, Iranians, Iraqis, Japanese, and all other nationalities. This blue colored earth belongs to everyone on the Earth.

There is only one blue-color earth in the universe. Let us protect this beautiful blue earth!

Never forget, “The blue Earth belongs to everyone” and “Everyone is an Earthlings!”

Be sure to keep that in your mind, “Everyone is an Earthlings!”

