

Minwa-Fu Hokekyo Dowa Volume 27

by Rev. Kōge Matsumoto

Chapter 26 of the Lotus Sutra

Dharanis

The Buddha's Great Predictions

(The People Who Promote the *Lotus Sutra*)

Chapter 1

Prince Shotoku

Are you and your family in good health and getting along?

How old are you now? Since I started writing this story on the *Lotus Sutra* for children, seven years have passed. Young boys and girls may not understand the length of seven years. Suppose a baby was born in the same year when I started to write this book. He or she is already in the first grade in an elementary school. Grade school children are in middle or high school by now. A high school student may now be graduated from a college and be out in the world.

No wonder my white hairs have multiplied.

By the way do you know Prince Shotoku in Japan?

A) Enlightened by the Spirit of the *Lotus Sutra*

In the seventh century Prince Shotoku ruled Asuka-Era Japan in accordance with the spirit of the *Lotus Sutra*. When he was an infant, he was called 'Prince of the Stable Door,' or 'Umayado no Miko' due to the unusual circumstances of his birth. He was called 'Prince of Palace Ikaruga' because of where he was raised. It is where Horyuji Temple exists even today. He was also called 'Prince of Eight Ears' because of his special intelligence and his ability to listen to eight people at one time and understand each of them. He was clever, gentle and excellent in his studies and in martial arts.

This prince was very similar to Siddhartha Gautama when he was Prince of Kapilavastu in India. Both princes were loved, respected and trusted by all people in their countries. Many astronauts have said, "The earth is a very beautiful blue with no borders!" Prince Shotoku said the same thing 1,400 years ago.

Prince Sho-toku (*sho* meaning sacred and *toku* meaning virtues) read the *Lotus Sutra* thoroughly and was enlightened to the greatness of the sutra. He ruled the Country of Yamato (original name of Japan) in conformance with the teachings of the sutra. He was a very great person!

Prince Shotoku was nineteen years old when he ruled Japan between 594-622 A.D. as Regent to his aunt, Empress Suiko, who succeeded her husband in 593 A.D. The prince was also renowned in his dual role as the first Buddhist statesman.

Wishing to bring peace to his country, he created "The Seventeen Articles," the first constitution of Japan. It was implemented as a political tool to unite the warring classes at that time in Japan. The articles were based on the *Lotus Sutra*, and stated "Harmony Is the Most Precious Asset. We all alternate between wisdom and madness." This was the first article of the Seventeen Articles.

Prince Shotoku also sent many envoys to China to study its culture. Buddhism was flourishing in China at that time, because Chih-i (538-597 A.D.) who lived on Mount



T'ien-t'ai had systemized all the Buddha Dharmas according to the contents of their teachings and according to the times when Sakyamuni Buddha revealed them. Prince Shotoku was the most important person who tried to save Japan by ruling with the Buddha Dharma. Japanese envoys to China remained for the next three hundred years and established good relationships between Japan and China.

B) The Souvenirs Dengyo Daishi Brought Back from China

Saicho or Dengyo Daishi (767-822 A.D.) of Japan was one of the envoys to China. He studied Buddhism, especially the *Lotus Sutra*, on Mount T'ien-t'ai. It was over 160 years after Prince Shotoku had passed away. He brought back the teachings of the *Lotus Sutra*. He was credited with founding the Tendai School of Buddhism on Mount Hi'ei in Japan after Prince Shotoku. He was the first priest who accorded the *Lotus Sutra* prominence over all other sutras.

The history of Buddhism was divided into three different periods after the Buddha's death based on how the Dharma was practiced in those periods. They were the periods of *Shobo* (Righteous Law), *Zobo* (Imitative Law) and the *Mappo* Era (Last Defiled Law).

1) The period of the Righteous Law was the time when Buddhist doctrines, practices, and occurrences of enlightenment all existed. It lasted for one thousand years after the Buddha's death.

2) The period of the Imitative Law was the time when doctrines and practices still existed, many temple buildings and stupas were erected all over, but enlightenment was no longer possible. That is why it was called Imitation of the Law. This period lasted another one thousand years after the *Shobo* period.

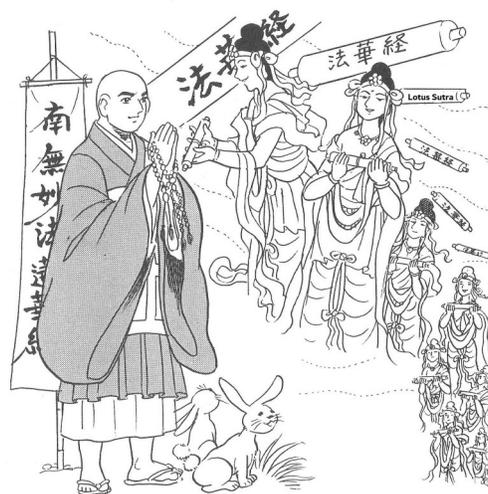
3) The period of the Last Defiled Law was to be the time when the doctrine alone would still be alive, but there would be neither practice nor enlightenment. This period would last for ten thousand years after the two preceding periods.

(Note: Rev. Koge Matsumoto considered that Sakyamuni Buddha's Pari-Nirvana was 949 B.C. as all Buddhists thought until nineteenth century scientific scholars contended that Buddha's Nirvana was around 500 B.C.)

When Saicho propagated the *Lotus Sutra* in Japan, it was already the middle of

the Imitative Law period. It would be several hundred years more before the appearance of the Great Bodhisattva from underground (Nichiren) met with the *Lotus Sutra* in the *Mappo Era*.

Thus, the doctrine of the great compassion of the Buddha of the *Lotus Sutra* took a long time to reach Japan, which was located far to the east of India. It involved more than 2,000 years and countless numbers of people before the teachings of the sutra reached the Great Bodhisattva, Nichiren, in the *Mappo era*!



Chapter 2

The Teaching, Capacity, Time, and Country

Nichiren Dai'Shonin wrote in Treatise on the Teaching, Capacity, Time and Country, that one who wished to spread the *Lotus Sutra* should understand the contents of the teachings, the people's capacity to understand, the time to teach, the place to teach, and the sequence of teachings. What he said in the treatise was predicted by Sakyamuni Buddha in Chapter 26 of the *Lotus Sutra*, the Dharanis.

In order to prove the truthfulness of Sakyamuni Buddha's prediction, Nichiren Dai'Shonin stood up. Sakyamuni Buddha said, "The *Lotus Sutra* is the Only One and True teaching in the universe." Nichiren propagated the Buddha Dharma at the cost of his life for all people in Japan just as a mother feeds and raises her baby with her deep compassion. He spread the Odaimoku or the wonderful medicine of the *Lotus Sutra*, in order to cure the torments and sufferings of the people.

The Dharani chapter has a very important teaching to protect those who practice and expound the *Lotus Sutra* around the world. The five deities vowed to protect those who practice the sutra and expound it to all people around the world and gave their special Dharani spells.

A) Defiled *Mappo* Era

It is a really defiled era now. Something must be wrong!

Many people are trying to avoid the downfall of this beautiful blue Earth and to establish real happiness for all human beings through peaceful discussion with the wisdom of each individual. Unfortunately some people rely on weapons, such as nuclear missiles, that the strong use to devour the weak.

“Because he attacked me first, I retaliated against him!” People always blame others and a fight starts, and as a result, so many people are hurt and become afraid of others. They involve so many innocent people.

How foolish they are!

Sakyamuni Buddha revealed it was important not to despise others with the example of Never-Despising Bodhisattva. He said one should never despise others. Even if someone threatens you with a stick or a stone, run away from him, face him with *Gassho* and bow to his Buddha nature respectfully.

B) The Earth Is in Danger!

All people who have seen the earth from space have said that the ozone layer covering the earth is very thin, like the skin of an apple.

There may be no other way to save the earth than for everyone to respect others sincerely and bow to the Buddha nature of others. Otherwise, no one will be saved. Don't you think the earth is in danger?

The Lord of this Saha-World, Sakyamuni Buddha, worried about all suffering people on this earth with tearful eyes and prayed, “May all living beings around the world live in happiness! May the strong help the weak, the rich and the wise offer things and wisdom with their compassion to the poor and the ignorant! May all living beings such as human beings, animals and plants help each other and appreciate their mutual existence. May all beings live in peace forever!”

But a few people still depend on their armors, behave foolishly for the sake of their own fame and wealth, and kill others in cold blood. These actions may even get themselves killed with their own weapons.



C) Cultivate One's Mind and Actions

I wish all people around the world will encounter the spirit of the *Lotus sutra* and be filled with Lord Buddha's great compassion. Instead of living selfishly, everyone should give serious consideration finding a way to save this beautiful blue planet, and do whatever he or she can do to accomplish this.

Even if a river was toxically contaminated by people before them, when the current people repent their predecessor's wrong behaviors and clean the rivers; fish will come back to the river someday. All contaminated mountains, woods, oceans, rivers and lakes could be saved depending on each individual's thinking and actions. All problems on this earth should be resolved by every persons' thoughts and actions!

It is very bad that some authorities tell lies and deceive their societies. Let them know the spirit of the *Lotus Sutra*, cast away their prejudices and appreciate people and nature with compassion.

How wonderful it will be when all people respect each other with the spirit of Never-Despising Bodhisattva.



Chapter 3

The Five Deities in the *Lotus Sutra*

Thinking about what I have already said, I recommend you carefully read this volume of the *Dharanis*.

The five deities in this volume are two Bodhisattvas, two Heavenly-Kings, and one group of *raksasis*. They are Medicine-King Bodhisattva, Brave-In-Giving Bodhisattva, Vaisravana Heavenly-King, World-Holding Heavenly-King and a group of *raksasis* including Mother-Of-Devils or Kishimo-jin. They all promised to protect the good men and women who keep, read or recite even a single gatha of the *Lotus Sutra*, understand the meanings of it or act according to it. They all gave magic spells or *Dharanis*.

In the preceding chapter of the *Lotus Sutra*, Sakyamuni Buddha explained in the gatha that World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva's various supernatural powers were based on the Eternal Buddha's great compassion. "According to the conditions of the places of salvation, he made a great and pure vow to save people as deep as the sea." All the heavenly beings and people in the congregation began to aspire to practice the Dharma to accomplish the Buddha's compassionate wish. So, the five deities sincerely aspired to protect the practitioners of the *Lotus Sutra* with the cost of their lives.

1. Medicine-King Bodhisattva

Protection from sickness

I hope you still remember the name of Medicine-King Bodhisattva.

In the chapter of *The Previous Life of Medicine-King Bodhisattva*, the Buddha said that the burning of Medicine-King Bodhisattva's finger or toe as an offering to the stupa of the deceased Buddha excels over any other offering of items. The Buddha also said, "This sutra is a good medicine for the diseases of the people of the world (where the Buddha Dharma is practiced)."

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



A) Merits Given to the Practitioners of the *Lotus Sutra*

“World-Honored One! How many merits will be given to the good men or women who keep, read, recite, understand or copy the *Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma*? Suppose they have no fame or money.”

It is a very interesting question! “How many merits will be given to the person who has no fame or money to offer but practices the sutra?”

The Buddha immediately answered:

“Suppose some good men or women make offerings to eight hundred billion Buddhas, or as many particles of sand in the River Ganges. What do you think of this? Are the merits given to them or not?”

“Very many, World-Honored One!” answered the Bodhisattva.

B) The Most Honored Faith

Thereupon Sakyamuni Buddha assured Medicine-King Bodhisattva courteously:

“Medicine-King Bodhisattva! Listen to me attentively! More merits than the above-mentioned offerings will be given to the good men or women who keep, read, recite, understand, copy or practice obediently even a single word or a phrase of the *Lotus Sutra* with the cost of their lives after My extinction in the *Mappo* Era. Why is that? It is because each word contains all the teachings of the Tathagata and are revealed and expounded explicitly in this sutra. It is the One and Only True Teaching in the universe.”

Listening to the Buddha, Medicine-King Bodhisattva with deep impression expressed his feelings and made a vow:

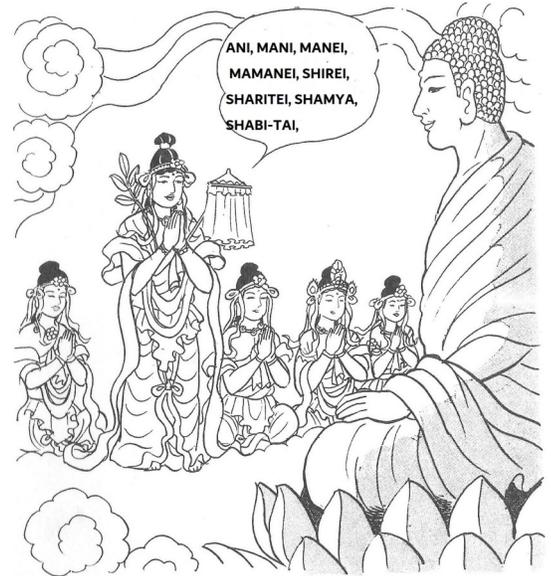
“World-Honored One! I have met with the teachings of the *Lotus Sutra* and practiced it life after life. It is with sincere appreciation and pleasure that I have been with You, the Eternal Sakyamuni Buddha, face to face, and I am able to hear the *Lotus Sutra* directly from You. I vow to protect the Teachers of the Dharma after Your extinction. Now, I will give *dharani*-spells to the expounder of the Dharma in order to protect him.”

C) *Dharani*-spells

Dharani-spells are magic words and can not be translated into human words. They have very deep meanings understood only by the Buddhas. When you say them repeatedly many times, you will be able to memorize them.

Then he uttered the spells.

“Ani, mani, manei, mamanei, shirei, sharitei, shamyā, shabi-tai, sentei, mokutei, mokutabi, shabi, aishabi, sobi, shabi, shaei, ashaei, agini, sentei, shabi, darani, arokya-basai-shani, neibitei, abentaraneibitei, atantahareishudai, ukurei, mukurei, ararei, hararei, shukyashi, asammasambi, botsudabikirijittei, darumaharishitei, sogyanekushanei, bashabashashudai, mantara, mantarashayata, urotaurota, kyosharaya, ashara, ashayataya, abaro, amanyanataya.



D) The Oath Included in *Dharanis*

Medicine-King Bodhisattva, the first among the five deities, said to the Buddha:

“World-Honored One! These *dharanis*, these divine spells, have already been uttered by six thousand and two hundred million Buddhas, as many Buddhas as there are sand particles in the River Ganges. Therefore, these divine spells are their divine oath to protect the Teacher of the Dharma. Those who attack and abuse the teacher should be considered to have attacked and abused those Buddhas. I promise to exterminate the sufferings of the Teacher of the Dharma and make him accomplish his task to propagate the *Lotus Sutra* even if it costs my life.” Thus, Medicine-King Bodhisattva made a vow.

E) Satisfied Sakyamuni Buddha

Thereupon Sakyamuni Buddha praised Medicine-King Bodhisattva, saying:

“Excellent, excellent, Medicine-King! You uttered these *dharanis* in order to protect this Teacher of the Dharma out of your compassion towards him. You will be able to give many benefits to all living beings. Your vow will also accomplish My wish to expound the sutra to save all living beings.”

“Medicine-King! Since you have already obtained the *samadhi* of the *Lotus Sutra* and the *samadhi* by which you can transform yourself into any other living being, you will surely be able to save many suffering people especially from sickness. As I said before this sutra is a wonderful medicine for all people around the world. I appreciate your *dharani* spells. May all living beings around the world be happy! I am counting on you!” Thus, the Buddha praised the Bodhisattva.



2. Brave-In-Giving Bodhisattva

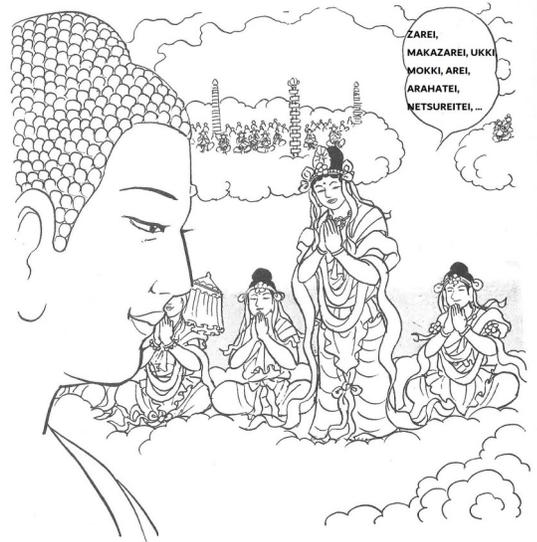
Protection from Enemies Outside

Thereupon Brave-In-Giving Bodhisattva said to the Buddha:

“World-Honored One! Since Medicine-King Bodhisattva protects the Teacher of the Dharma from sickness, I will protect him from troubles and mishaps from outside. If someone tries to find a weak point or a fault of the expounder of the *Lotus Sutra* and tries to expose it, I will immediately penetrate into the enemy and protect the expounder. I shall find out if a person is like a devil, a murderer, a robber, or a liar who acts against the expounder. I will find out even if they trick the expounder, and I will gain insight into their intentions. Then Brave-In-Giving Bodhisattva uttered spells before the Buddha:

“Zarei, makazarei, ukki, mokki, arei, arahatei, netsureitei, netsureitahatei, ichini, ichini, shichini, netsureichini, netsurichihachi.

“World-Honored One! These *dharanis*, these divine spells, have already been uttered by as many Buddhas as there are sand particles in the River Ganges. Those Buddhas uttered them with joy. After Your extinction, the Buddha Dharma will be propagated around the world. Then a Teacher of the Dharma will expound the teachings. Someone who attacks and abuses this Teacher of the Dharma should be considered to have attacked and abused those Buddhas”



Listening to both Medicine-King and Brave-In-Giving Bodhisattvas’ compassionate powerful divine spells and their vows to protect the Teacher of the Dharma, Sakyamuni Buddha felt warm hearted and imagined a future propagation of the Dharma in the *Mappo* Era comparing to His nearly half-century missionary work.

3. Vaisravana Heavenly-King

Protection from Decay and Disasters

Understanding what the Buddha was thinking, Vaisravana Heavenly-King, who is the guardian of the North, came forwards and said to the Buddha:

“World-Honored One! The *Lotus Sutra* is a really wonderful and respectful teaching. I will always appear where the Buddha Dharma is expounded. I also will utter *dharanis* in order to protect this Teacher of the Dharma who is trying to propagate the *Lotus Sutra* out of my compassion towards all living beings.”

Then he uttered spells, “Ari, nari, tonari, anaro, nabi, kunabi.”

He said to the Buddha:

“World Honored One! These spells apply not only to this physical realm but also to the spiritual realm like the Buddha’s and the spiritual soul realms. For those who

utter these divine spells and believe in the *Lotus Sutra*, I will protect them and the Teacher of the Dharma with these divine spells! I will also protect the person who keeps this sutra so that he or she may have no trouble within a hundred yojanas distance from here.”

Listening to Vaisravana Heavenly-King, all the multitude of the congregation including all *ashuras* in heavenly realms, *ashuras* on this earth and *ashuras* in the sky cast away their evil thoughts of harming human beings. They all changed their minds to assist Vaisravana Heavenly-King and put their hands together respectfully and bowed to the Buddha.

4. World-Holding Heavenly-King

Expond the Buddha Dharma as the Buddha Wishes

World-Holding Heavenly-King is the guardian of the East must sense the order in the east, the direction in which Japan lies. The Eternal Buddha predicted that Buddhism would be prevailed in the east after His extinction.

After His death, Buddhism was mostly spread to the south. A thousand years later, it would spread northward. The period of *Zobo* or the Imitative Law was already beginning.

From the north twelve to thirteen centuries after the Buddha’s extinction, His teachings were being propagated in the east. By then the Buddha Dharma had been reconstructed from Hinayana (Small Vehicle*) Buddhism to Mahayana (the Large Vehicle*) Buddhism. At that time as the Eternal Buddha had predicted Buddhism would be flourishing in the small country in the Fareast (Japan).

World-Holding Heavenly-King must have sensed the importance of his offerings of dharanis to the people as the guardian of the East. He was accompanied by thousands of billions of *Gandharvas* who were surrounding him respectfully, came to the Buddha and joined his hands before Him. Gandharva-Kings who play heavenly music smell only of a heavenly scent of incense. There are various orders of incense. Where the Dharma is spread, there should be a special pure fragrance.

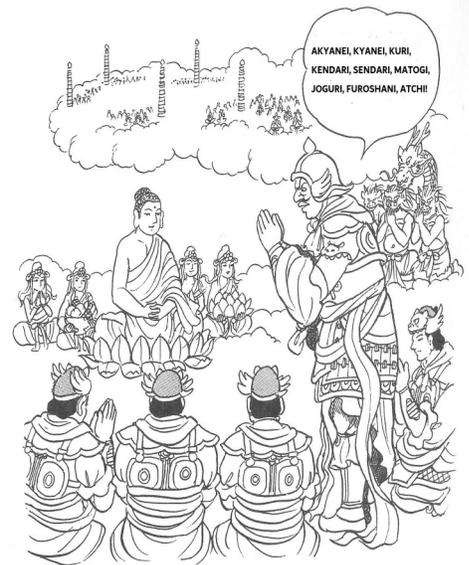
(Vehicle* refers to a capacity or number of the people to be saved.)

World-Holding Heavenly-King said to the Buddha:

“World-Honored One! I, together with all my attendants, will also protect the keeper of the *Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma* with divine spells, so the people of the land will live in peace and happiness with Buddha’s great compassion.”

Then, he uttered the spells, “Akyanei, kyanei, kuri, kendari, sendari, matogi, joguri, furoshani, atchi.”

“World-Honored One! We will never let evil people attack or abuse the Teacher of the Dharma. We vow to protect him or her. These *dharanis*, these divine spells, have already been uttered by four thousand and two hundred million Buddhas. Those who attack and abuse this Teacher of the Dharma should be considered to have attacked and abused those Buddhas.”



5. The Last Group after the Two Bodhisattvas and the Two Heavenly-Kings

As we see so far, the two Bodhisattvas and the two heavenly-kings who represented all other divine beings in the *Lotus Sutra* gave their divine spells and kept the *Lotus Sutra* during the first one thousand years of the Period of the Righteous Law and another one thousand years of the Period of the Imitative Law to accomplish the Buddha’s wish.

Viewed from Mount Sacred Eagle where the *Lotus Sutra* was revealed, the Buddha Dharma spread in the south was called Theravada (Hinayana) Buddhism. It flourished for one thousand years. During another one thousand years, the Buddha Dharma began to spread to the north then to the east not only by the priests but also by lay-people like the traders to all of Asia and eventually through the Silk Road.

A) Who Did Transmit the Lotus Sutra?

Kumarajiva translated the *Lotus Sutra* from Sanskrit to Chinese text at the capital

of the T'ang Era in 401 A.D. Then, in China Chih-i (538-597 A.D.) who was also called Master T'ien-t'ai, took the stance that the *Lotus Sutra* was the only true enlightenment of Sakyamuni Buddha. Chih-i lived on Mount T'ien-T'ai in 575 A.D. It was already the Period of the Imitative Law.

Prince Shotoku also lived about the same time as Chih-i in China. Prince Shotoku was born and raised in a small country called Japan. At the age of 19, he became regent and ruled Japan with the spirit of the righteous teaching of the *Lotus Sutra* revealed by Sakyamuni Buddha. Prince Shotoku was the most important person who transmitted the *Lotus Sutra* in Japan.

He said, "Japan's national structure is the divine country which is a very ideal setting. It is a suitable country for Mahayana Buddhism." Japanese Shintoism believed thousands of gods dwell everywhere in nature. Japan was also suitable for the gods and divine beings revealed in the *Lotus Sutra*. So, Japan was just the right place for Buddhism and the Buddha-Land.

As I said before, Japanese envoys to China kept going for three hundred years and established a good relationship between Japan and China. Saicho was dispatched to China 160 years after Prince Shotoku. He studied Buddhism at Mount T'ien-t'ai and brought back the teachings of the *Lotus Sutra*. He was the first priest who gave the highest value to the *Lotus Sutra* in Japan after Prince Shotoku. Prince Shotoku pre-

dicted that Japan would have a very deep relationship with the *Lotus Sutra*.

Thus, the prediction of the appearance of a real *Lotus Sutra* practitioner in Japan would also be proved in the *Dharanis* chapter.



B) The Real Practitioner of the *Lotus Sutra*

It was about 600 years after Prince Shotoku passed away, that Nichiren Dai'Shonin appeared as the real practitioner or the expounder of the *Lotus Sutra* over 200 years into the *Mappo* Era. It was 2200 years after Sakyamuni Buddha's Pari-Nirvana, which seems very long, but from the compassionate viewpoint of the Eternal Original Buddha, it was not long at all since He had foreseen everything.

Since the Buddha can see everything in the past, He can see every occurrence in the future.

C) Poison Becomes Medicine Depending on How You Use it

With the divine Buddha's eyes that could foresee everything in the future, He talked about the divine protection by the group of ten cannibals, Kishiomo and her ten children.

There are old sayings such as, "A poison can change into a medicine," and "When an accomplished villain corrected his conducts, he became an accomplished good person." Although the ten cannibals and the mother of the devils behaved with the worst possible conducts in the past, once they repented and corrected their wrong doings with the great compassion of the Buddha, they wished to help the Buddha as much as possible.



Because the Buddha was able to foresee the future, He gave permission to the ten cannibals and the mother of the devils with her children for the great mission to protect the practitioners of the *Lotus Sutra*.

D) At the Risk of One's Life

Nobody could imagine that the Buddha would give the great mission to the former cannibals and devils. Therefore, they were so glad and proud to protect the Teacher of the Dharma. They said with their gleaming eyes, "If we had not met You,

the Honorable One, we would continue our wrong conducts forever. Our wrong behaviors were so many that we cannot count them all. We committed very deep sins. Since we met the compassionate teachings of the Eternal Original Buddha, we have finally realized our worst behaviors. We sincerely repented those wrong doings, and we will protect the person who reads, recites and keeps the *Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma*, so that he or she may encounter no trouble. No one shall take advantage of the weak points of this Teacher of the Dharma. World-Honored One! Please listen to our vow!”

Sakyamuni Buddha was moved by their sincere vows and nodded with a smile.

Shall we listen to the vows of the ten cannibals and the Mother of the Devils?

“World-Honored One! If there are people, young or old, male or female, if they believe in the *Lotus Sutra* with all their hearts, if they read, recite, explain and expound the teachings in public, we will consider them as the Teacher of the Dharma in the *Mappo* Era and vow to protect them. If a person has a little bit of trouble or is feeling down, we shall encourage him or her with good energy. If someone tries to be a killjoy, pick holes in what they are saying or make others laugh at the Teacher, we will be ahead of them and protect the Teacher! Please World-Honored One, do not worry! We vow to protect the Teacher of the Dharma at the risk of our lives.”



E) Ten *Raksasis* and Deity Kishimo-jin

“The outrageous will change to be mighty good if they repent seriously.”

The ten Rakasasis’ names are 1. Lamba, 2. Vilamba, 3. Crooked-Teeth, 4. Flower-Teeth, 5. Black-Teeth, 6. Many-Hairs, 7. Insatiable, 8. Necklace-Holding, 9. Kunti, and 10. Plunderer-Of-Energy-Of-All-Beings.

When Kishimo was born, she was so cute and was called “Glory Mother.” Later she married Hanshika who was the general of all devils. So Kishimo was the first-lady of all devils.

Between the couple, there were many children. She was a very caring mother, took very good care of each of her own children. But she did not care for the children of others at all. At night she snatched a little boy or a girl to feed her own babies. Many babies in the city disappeared one after another every night.

Hearing the cries of mothers and fathers in the City of King-House, Sakyamuni Buddha with His supernatural powers hid one of her own babies to awaken her mind to her wrong conducts. The sadness caused by the disappearance of just one of her many children was so great for Kishimo. How sad for other mothers, too! Kishimo deeply repented her wrong conducts and purified her mind. She became a disciple of the Buddha. Eventually she became a deity for raising children and their mothers. So, she was called Kishimo-jin or Deity Kishimo.

F) Cause and Effect Go Around

Every occurrence has a cause or causes. When the cause meets with a condition or conditions, then the effect appears. There is no such case in which nothing is wrong with me, but only others are wrong. Both sides have something to say. Even if the other was wrong, you cannot be excused for your small wrong doing.

Kishimo, when she was the mother of the devils, looked very awful. But after she practiced the *Lotus Sutra* and repented her wrong doings, the Buddha accepted her as one of His deities for the practitioner of the *Lotus Sutra* in the *Mappo* Era, and she began to have a compassionate face. Although her statue looks threatening, it shows a mother’s compassionate angry face and also threatens against the people’s evil minds.



G) Protect the Teacher of the Dharma in the Mappo Era

Thereupon Sakyamuni Buddha allowed the vows of the Ten *Raksasis* and their attendants together with Kishimo-jin, and her children and also their attendants. They said to the Buddha simultaneously:

“Ideibi, ideibin, ideibi, adeibi, ideibi, deibi, deibi, deibi, deibi, deibi, rokei, rokei, rokei, rokei, takei, takei, takei, tokei, tokei.”

They continued to say:

“Anyone may step on our heads but shall not trouble this Teacher of the Dharma. We shall endure any hardship in order to protect him or her. We shall not allow anyone to abuse the practitioner who is trying to save the suffering people in the *Mappo* Era. Why is that? It is because he or she is a Buddha’s disciple and carries a wonderful medicine that changes evil to good.”

“Neither shall anyone cause the Teacher of the Dharma to suffer from a fever. Neither shall anyone take the shape of a devil, a beautiful woman, a boy or a girl for the purpose of deceiving the Teacher of the Dharma in his or her dreams. We will protect the teachers from harm even if it costs our lives.”

“Anyone who does not keep our spells but troubles the expounder of the Dharma, shall have his head split into seven pieces just as the branches of a tree. Anyone who attacks this Teacher of the Dharma will receive the same retribution as to be received by the person who kills his parents, or who makes sesame oil without taking out the worms from the sesame, or who deceives others by using wrong measures or scales, or by Devadatta who harmed the body of the Buddha and split the Buddha’s Sangha.”

Having said this thus far, the *Raksasis* said to the Buddha:

“World-Honored One! We will also protect the person who keeps, reads and recite this sutra, and acts according to it so that he may be peaceful, that he may have no trouble, and that poison taken by him may be neutralized. World-Honored One! Please watch us with Your Buddha-Eyes!”

H) The Name of the Lotus Sutra

Sakyamuni Buddha listened to them quietly all through to the end and said:

“Excellent, excellent! Your merits will be immeasurable even when you protect the person who keeps only the name of *the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma*. The reason is that the name of the sutra contains the wonderful medicine to bring a person back to life who is very sick. I had left the medicine in the *Lotus Sutra* for the original disciples, Bodhisattvas from underground. Therefore, it is most respectable to protect the Teacher of the Dharma who expounds the sutra.”



“Needless to say, you will receive countless merits when you protect a Teacher of the Dharma who erects a stupa, enshrines the Gohonzon, the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha and who makes offering of flowers and incense to the Three Treasures just as he or she serves the living Buddha in the defiled *Mappo* Era.”

Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha predicted the real practitioner of the Dharma who would use the name of the *Lotus Sutra* as a wonderful medicine for the people in the *Mappo* Era. Are you surprised?

I) Accompany the person just like His Shadow

Besides that, Sakyamuni Buddha said to Kunti who was the ninth leader of the ten *Raksasis*:

“Kunti! You *Raksasis* and your attendants should protect the Teachers of the Dharma! In the *Mappo* Era there will be many teachers, one after another. They will all be my original disciples and try to transmit the *Lotus Sutra* even at the cost of their lives in order to save the suffering people. The representatives of these Great Bodhisattvas will be the two great Bodhisattvas and two Heavenly-Kings who will

protect the Teacher of the Dharma and will appear in the small country from Mount Sacred Eagle. He will prove the truthfulness of the *Lotus Sutra*. He will save all suffering people in the era just as a mother nurses and raises her baby. Therefore, Kunti! You had better accompany him always just like his shadow day and night.” So, the Buddha gave his special order to him.

I believe Kunti must be Deity Shichimen who accompanied Nichiren Dai’Shonin all his life. She appeared only once while he was preaching at Mt. Minobu in the form of a beautiful woman. All of Nichiren Dai’Shonin’s followers had never seen her before. When one of the congregation asked who she was, Nichiren Dai’Shonin told her to show her real form. She asked him to give her a flower vase at the altar. When she poured the water from the vase on her body, she suddenly changed herself into a dragon and said, “I am Shichimen and dwell on the top of Mount Shichimen. I will protect Mt. Minobu forever.” Then, she went up to the sky toward that mountain.



Chapter 4

Sakyamuni Buddha's Golden Words Have Not Failed at All

The multitude on Mount Sacred Eagle must have been very impressed to hear Sakyamuni Buddha's teachings from His enlightenment in the first 1,000 years, the period of the Righteous Law, in the next 1,000 years, the period of the Imitative Law, and into the period of the *Mappo* Era. They had heard how the Dharma would spread from Mt. Sacred Eagle to the south, to the north, and to the east, then to the small country in the far east. They also heard the prediction of the appearance of one of the Original Disciples (Nichiren Dai'Shonin) who had practiced the *Lotus Sutra* since the remotest past and would reveal the Sacred Title of the *Lotus Sutra*.

The congregation at that time was not able to understand the truthfulness of the sutra, but we in the *Mappo* Era have witnessed the truthfulness of the *Lotus Sutra*.

Nichiren Dai'Shonin was Buddha's first messenger who had proved the truthfulness of the *Lotus Sutra* in the *Mappo* Era. But about 600 years before Nichiren, Prince Shotoku had read and practiced the teachings followed by Saicho on Mount Hi'ei who also read and practiced 200 years after the prince. They were also Buddha's messengers. If one of these three had not lived, we might not have been able to receive the *Lotus Sutra* now.

How wondrous! Sakyamuni Buddha could predict so far into the future!

Sakyamuni Buddha who Has the Three Virtues of the Lord, Master and Parent.

The Buddha is the Lord, Master and Parent for all living beings on this earth. He is the Lord of this planet. He is the Master and the Parent of all living beings.

He knows everything:

What you are thinking,

Why you think that way,

What you are going to do,

What will happen to you if you keep as you are doing now.

He can see all!

That is why you should have obedient minds,
Take the good medicine given by the compassionate Lord Buddha!
Chant the Odaimoku as the wonderful medicine as soon as possible!

Then, you will walk the same path as the original disciple Bodhisattva
from underground!
Life after life, you will be able to live together with the Eternal Buddha
With the protections by the five divinities!

