

Buddhist Terms in Chapter 14 of the Lotus Sutra

Nirgrantha (尼健子) (P.210, Second line from the bottom): One of the religions in India founded by Nirgrantha-nataputta in 5th Century B.C. He denied the authority of the Vedas or the basic scriptures of Brahmanism, also not recognized by Buddhism either, prohibited rituals, and forbade the taking of life. He allowed asceticism and recognized cast distinction. One branch of the sect practiced nudity, and hence it is referred to in Buddhist texts as the Nudist Heresy.

Lokayata (路伽耶陀) (P.210, the bottom line): The Hedonist School. This is the name of a materialistic school which appeared in India about the 6th century B.C. It held that human existence was nothing more than a combination of physical elements (earth, water, fire, and wind) and advocated the enjoyment of pleasure as the highest goal.

Nara(yana) (那羅延) (P.211, L.2): A heavenly wrestler.

Candala (旃陀羅) (P.211, L.3): Violence, burier, killer. It is the lowest class of the Indian caste-system. Its members are fishermen, jailers, slaughterers, etc.

Shramanera (沙弥) (P.211, L.25): A novice in the Buddhist order. A pupil or disciple admitted to the first degree of monkhood.

Dhayna (禪) (P.211, L.26): *Dhayna* is generally translated as meditation, but it is really the practice of mental concentration in which the reasoning process of the intellect is cut short and consciousness is heightened by the exclusion of extraneous thoughts, except for the one which is taken as the subject of meditation. Thus one approaches the plane of pure thought and attains enlightenment.

Dependent Origination (因緣、緣起) (P.212, L.1): A central concept in Buddhism, that all phenomena are produced by causation and conditions.

Three Stores of the Lesser Vehicle (小乗の三蔵) (P.212, L.20): A scholar in the three kinds of scriptures in Hinayana Buddhism. Three kinds of scriptures are ① sutras (經) which contains Buddha's teachings, ② disciplines (律) which contains his commandments, and ③ commentary (論) which contains Buddhist scholar's explanations. A person who masters Hinayana sutras, rules, and commentary.

Upasika (優婆夷) (P.212, L.26): A female lay-devotee. A lay woman who puts her faith in the three treasures (Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha) and observes the five precepts.

Age of the decline of the teaching (末法) (P.216, L.2): The 2,000 years to one million years after the Buddha's death. It is the period when doctrine alone is still alive, but there is neither practice nor enlightenment; however, the Lotus Sutra teaches that this sutra is for the people in the age of *Mappo*, the age of the decline of the teaching. Salvation for the people in *Mappo* is revealed in the last half of the Lotus Sutra.

Knowledge of the equality and differences of all things (一切種智) (P.216, LL.14&15): the wisdom of the Buddha, which knows cause and effects of all phenomena and quenches all desires. This is one of three types of wisdom (三智). They are ① the wisdom of sravaka and the pratyekabuddha, which understands all thinking and scriptures (一切智), ② the wisdom of the bodhisattva, which leads the good of all people with dharma (道種智), and ③ the wisdom of the Buddha (一切種智).

Upasaka (優婆塞) (P.216, L.30): A male lay-devotee. A lay man who puts his faith in the three treasures (Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha) and observes the five precepts.