

Buddhist Terms in Chapter 10 of the Lotus Sutra

Gods, dragon-kings, yaksas, gandharvas, asuras, garudas, kimnaras, mahoragas (天・龍王・夜叉・乾闥婆・阿修羅・迦樓羅・緊那羅・摩睺伽) (P.171) : They are eight kinds of beings who protect Buddhism (八部衆)

Bhiksus, bhiksunis, upasakas, and upasikas (比丘・比丘尼・優婆塞・優婆夷)(P.171) : They are four kinds of Buddhists (四衆); monks, nuns, laymen and laywomen.

Keep, read, recite, expound, and copy (受持・讀・誦・解說・書写) (P.171): They are five practices in the Lotus Sutra. These practices appear so often in almost all chapters from Chapter 10 on. This means that Chapter 1 to 9 are for Sakyamuni Buddha's direct disciples while he was alive. Chapter 10 and on are for the people after the Buddha's extinction; therefore, these practices are very important for us.

The Ten Kinds of Offertory (十種供養) (PP.171~172) : They are flowers, incense, necklaces, incense powder, incense applicable to the skin, canopies, banners, streamers, garments, music and joining hand together.