

Minwa Fu Hokekyo Dowa

(Volume 8 of 30 Volumes)

Magic City and Tathagata

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Revised Edition

Magic City and the Tathagata

(From The Three Thousand Dust-Particle *Kalpas Ago*)

Chapter 7 of the Lotus Sutra:

The Parable of a Magic City

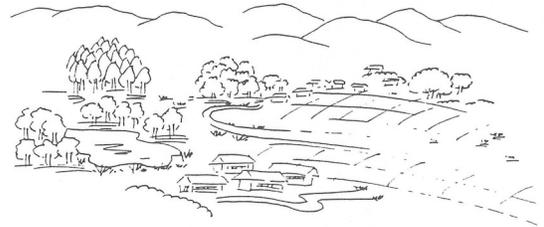
Chapter 1

A Long, Long Time ago

It was a long, long time ago. Let me tell you how long ago it was with a comparison. Suppose that a universe consisted of three thousand billion worlds. A man then smashed the entire universe to make ink powder. He then traveled to the east carrying the ink-powder with him. He inked a dot of dust each time he passed one thousand worlds from his own world. He went again and dropped another dot of dust when he passed another one thousand worlds. He repeated the inking of a dot on a world at a distance of every one thousand worlds. He continued making dots until all the particles of dust were gone.



Then again, suppose the man smashed all the worlds, both the ones he dotted with ink and the ones not dotted. Can you calculate how many particles of dust will be produced? Can you calculate the number of the worlds he passed until all the dust particles were depleted? The Lotus Sutra still goes further to say one dust particle is equal to one *kalpa*. It is said, “One dust particle is a period of one *kalpa*.”



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 until the stone disappeared. There are really countless numbers of dust particles in the entire universe.

The story in this chapter is three thousand dust-particle *kalpas* ago. Sakyamuni Buddha's power of insight is as vivid as if it had happened yesterday, and He is able to remember any occurrence, even such an event countless *kalpas* ago just like yesterday. He also can see far into the future. He has special Buddha Eyes. He can see everything in the past, present and the future.

In such an eternally long time ago, there was a Buddha called Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata. His world was called Well-Composed.

Before the Tathagata attained Buddhahood, he was a king and had sixteen sons. The king was very strong and gentle, so all the people of the kingdom respected him very much and loved him. The Well-Composed world had a big territory, and his people lived happily without any trouble.



Chapter 2

Seeking Enlightenment, the King Renounced His Crown and Left Home

Even though the people of the kingdom were happy and satisfied, the king wished to save more people around the ten directions of the world by renouncing his status as a king and trying to attain Enlightenment. So he decided to leave his home and sat at the place of enlightenment but he could not, because the Dharma of the Buddhahood had not yet come into his mind. He sat cross-legged without moving his mind and body for ten small *kalpas*. During all that time he prayed for the enlightenment for the sake of the people around the ten directions, but he still had not realized the Dharma of the Buddhas.



Heavenly beings in the Trayasstrimsa Heaven prepared for him a huge and high lion-like seat called Dharma Seat under a Bodhi-tree, so that he might be able to attain Enlightenment on that seat. The king appreciated their thoughtfulness and accept their offering. When he climbed up and sat on that seat, the Brahman-heavenly-kings rained heavenly flowers that covered the area just like snow.

Watching these beautiful sights, the four heavenly-kings beat heavenly drums. They were Bishamon Tenno, the Heavenly King of the North, Jikoku Tenno, the Heavenly King of the east, Zocho Tenno, the Heavenly King of the south, and Komoku Tenno, the Heavenly King of the west. The other gods made heavenly music and offered it to him. In order to encourage Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence to attain Enlightenment, they also continued these offerings for ten small kalpas.

Chapter 3

The King Became a Buddha

Because of their encouragement, at the end of the period of the ten small kalpas, the Dharma for the Buddha came into the mind of King Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence. Now he attained Enlightenment and became a Buddha or Tathagata.

Heavenly beings in the Trayasstrimsa Heaven were so pleased because the king renounced his status in order to save all people in the worlds of the ten directions. He then entered deep meditation for ten small kalpas but at first could not reach enlightenment to his satisfaction.

Watching his hardship from heaven, the heavenly beings wished him to become a Buddha, prepared a seat, rained down the heavenly flowers, beat drums, and offered celestial music for him. These were not easy tasks to do for ten small kalpas; therefore, all heavenly beings rejoiced very much beyond explanation!



Chapter 4

The Sixteen Princes

Before the king left home, he had sixteen sons. When they heard that their father had attained Enlightenment, they gave up their playthings, left home even though their mother burst into tears of sorrow when they went to see that Buddha.

The first son was called Accumulated-Wisdom. Not only did the current king, who was his grandfather, follow the prince, but also the ministers, attendants and the other fifteen princes went to see that Buddha, to respect him, to touch the Buddha's feet to honor him, and to praise him with their palms together:

“Congratulations! Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Buddha! In order to save all living beings in the ten directions, you attained Enlightenment. There was no Buddha for a long time. Before your attainment, it was like a dark night without light. People were so greedy, selfish, and never tried to listen to the Buddha's teachings. Seeing that you have peacefully attained the Enlightenment of the Buddha we, all of your sons, have obtained benefits. Congratulations! How glad and how proud we are,” the princes said loudly.



Chapter 5

The Buddha World Quaked in Six Ways

When Prince Accumulated-Wisdom representing the princes said that, five hundred billion Buddha-worlds in the ten directions quaked in six ways in each of the ten directions. They quaked up and down, side to side, moved in a circle clockwise and counter-clockwise and also diagonally. Then this time, all those worlds of the ten directions were illumined by great rays of light, brighter than the rays of the sun and the moon. The living beings of those worlds who had never met a Buddha were able to see various people and things in the ten direction never seen before.



Chapter 6

Brahman-Heavenly-Kings Are Glad

Seeing these unusual phenomena, the Brahman-heavenly-kings in the east said to others, “What is going on? What is happening? Not only did the ground shake but also a light shined brighter than we have never seen! Our palaces are glistening so much!” These were the types of things they said as they talked to each other.

There was a great Brahman-heavenly-king called All-Saving among them. He said, “This is the first time for us to see such a bright light! There must be a special reason for these phenomena. Did a god or a great virtue Buddha appear somewhere in the universe? This great light illuminates the worlds of the ten quarters. Let us go to the place from where this light has come from!”



Thereupon the Brahman-heavenly-kings of the five hundred billion worlds went to the west, carrying flower-plates filled with heavenly flowers, in order to find the place from where the light had come. Their palaces also moved as they went. They reached the Well-Composed World and saw the Great-Universal-

Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata was sitting on the lion-like seat under the Bodhi-tree at the place of enlightenment.

The Buddha was respectfully surrounded by gods, dragon-kings*, gandharvas*, kimnaras*, mahoragas*, men and nonhuman beings. They also saw that the sixteen princes were begging the Buddha to turn the wheel of the Dharma. Thereupon the Brahman-heavenly-kings worshiped the Buddha with their heads, walked around in a circle a hundred thousand times, and strewed heavenly flowers around him. Having offered these palaces to Him, they said, “Receive them and benefit us out of Your compassion toward us!” Then, they simultaneously said, “World-Honored One! Turn the wheel of the Dharma and save all living beings of the ten directions!”

They begged just as the sixteen princes did.

(*dragon-kings, *gandharvas, *kimnaras, *mahoragas, please see pictures in Volume One.)

Next, the great Brahman-heavenly-kings of the five hundred billion worlds in the southeast, who were in their palaces that illuminated more brightly than ever, danced with joy.



They also wondered why their palaces were illuminated. There was a great Brahman-heavenly-king called Great-Compassion among them.

All of them went to the northwest, carrying flower plates filled with heavenly flowers, in order to find the place from where the light had come from. Their palaces also moved as they went. They reached the Well-Composed World and saw that the Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellent Tathagata. They also saw that the sixteen princes and Brahman-heavenly-king called All-Saving together with The Brahman-heavenly-king of the five hundred billion worlds from the east who were begging the Buddha to turn the wheel of the Dharma saying, “Please expound the Dharma!”

Chapter 7

Overgrowing Three Evils

The Brahman-heavenly-king called Great-Compassion and other great Brahman kings of the five hundred billion worlds from the southeast also requested Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata to turn the wheel of the Dharma saying, “Please expound the Dharma!”

“There was no Buddha who saved living beings for a long time, so the evil people in the realms of hell, hungry spirits, and animal minded were overgrowing while the number of good people who were righteousness and honest grew less and less. But now, it is grateful that a Buddha has appeared on this earth, please save us with your compassion. May You become our eyes and become the father of people’s mind, so you can save us all! Since we planted good causes and made good efforts we were able to be born with the same era with you and meet you, Buddha. Oh, the Great

-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata! Show us the thirty-two marks that signifies a Buddha and speak with a beau-



tiful voice like a legendary *kalavinka* bird having sweet sound and save the suffering beings. Then the evils will decrease and people will become less angry and be patient. The number of good behaviors will increase and the world will be brighter and will become a comfortable place to live.”

Following the Brahman kings from the southwest, Wonderful-Dharma Great-Brahman-heavenly-king, the leader of the five hundred million of the worlds in the south came to the north following the brighter light. There they found the world called Well-Composed and found the Buddha. So they also requested the Buddha:

“The Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata! Your appearance on this world is a long time awaited. It is very grateful to see you, Buddha, just as people who were in a drought receive compassionate rain and sustain their lives or people who happen to see a blooming *udombara* flower that is said to bloom once in every three thousand years. Please expound the profound Dharma for us in sufferings.”

The Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata was listening quietly but still continued his meditation thinking it was not yet time to talk.

Chapter 8

Four Evils Taking Over

Finally, a great Brahman-heavenly-king called Sikhin who led the five hundred billion Brahman-heavenly-kings of the worlds in the southwest, zenith and nadir followed the bright light to the northeast and reached the Well-Composed World. They also saw that the sixteen princes were begging Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata to turn the wheel of the Dharma.

“These worlds of the ten directions are always in darkness; and filled with people in realms of hell, hungry spirits, animal-like self-centered states, and



fighting like *ashra*.^{*} These people will fall into hell after their death and suffer more. Caused by their evil karma, the people's faces are shabby, and they seek only material benefit. Therefore, they do not even try to listen to Buddha's teachings."

*(*Ashra is a demon challenging gods. It is one of the ten realms of human mind.)*

"Oh, Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata! You might appear in this world to save those people with your compassion. We would like to offer our palace buildings shining beautifully with your compassionate light, so please accept them out of your compassion towards us and reveal your wisdom!" He continued praising in a phrase; "May the merit we have accumulated by these offerings, be distributed among all other living beings, and attain the enlightenment of the Buddha!"

Thus, the five hundred billions Brahman-heavenly-kings sincerely requested with all their heart. So it is now time for the Buddha to expound the Dharma.

Chapter 9

What Is the Teaching to Become a Buddha

Thus,
Brahman-heavenly-kings named All-Saving from the east,
Brahman-heavenly-kings named Great-Compassion from the southeast,
Brahman-heavenly-kings named Wonderful-Dharma from the south,
Brahman-heavenly-kings named Sikhin from the southwest,
and other Brahman-heavenly-kings of the five hundred billion worlds in their directions;
They all came to the world called Well Composed where the Tathagata emits the great rays of light and where the sixteen princes are begging the Buddha to turn the wheel of Dharma.

By the way what is the teaching that Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata attained? What is the true teaching to save all living beings? I guess you know it by now! It is the Lotus Sutra!

It is only the Lotus Sutra that the Buddha is going to reveal now. It is getting exciting, isn't it?

By the way, let us review the story again. I told you that there were sixteen princes before Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata who became a Buddha. When the sons heard that their father had attained En-



lightenment, they gave up playthings, and they were strongly tempted to come to the Buddha. Having come to that Buddha, the princes put their palms together toward Him with all their hearts and requested him to reveal the Dharma.

At the place where the princes were appealing to the Buddha, the countless Brahman-heavenly-kings of the worlds of the ten directions gathered to the place and played heavenly music and brought flower-plates filled with heavenly flowers and strewed them toward Him. Having offered the flowers, they also offered their palaces to the Buddha.

Then they simultaneously praised Him with all their heart and said to Him, “World-Honored One! Turn the wheel of Dharma! May all beings be blessed with this merit and with us together attain Buddhahood!”



Chapter 10

With Us Together ...

The phrase is very important what Brahman-heavenly-king Sikhin said, “May all beings be blessed with this merit and with us together attain Buddhahood!” It is not right to pray for only yourself to be saved, but more importantly, “With my merit, with us together attain Buddhahood!”

World peace is never possible if your attitude is, “Just for me, not for them.” Or “Kill them who are obstacles for me or who do not please me.”

The Buddha’s wish is always to save all living beings; therefore, it is impossible just for me to be saved. It is important to say, “With us together attain Buddhahood.”

At first, the sixteen princes begged the Buddha to reveal what He had attained; however, while the great Brahman-heavenly-kings from the ten directions came from their mother worlds and requested the Buddha to expound the Dharma, the princes realized that they must practice Buddha Dharma and become Buddhas like their father and save all people of the ten directions. Thus, the sixteen princes and all Brahman-heavenly-kings asked the Buddha to expound the Dharma.

Seeing their honest and sincere request, Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata began to talk.



Chapter 11

Four Noble Truths, Eight Fold Path and Twelve Inter-Dependent Originations

The Four Noble Truths, Eight Fold Path and Twelve Inter-Dependent Originations of all things sound difficult to understand, don't they? But if you are obedient and imagine that you are listening to the teachings directly from the Buddha, you will surely understand them from the bottom of your heart.

It is important to know who is talking about the story of Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata. Who is the speaker, the king who became the Buddha and his sixteen sons countless number of kalpas ago? Thinking about these matters, listen attentively and obediently!



Thereupon Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata said:

“There are many kinds of sufferings in this world. Once a person is born, he or she will surely get old. When one gets older, he or she will get sick. While repeating the sickness, one dies for sure!

Other sufferings include separation from loved ones, forced to be with a hated person, not getting what one wants, and not achieving a desired high status or fame. So there are four fundamental sufferings and another four sufferings. Think about the reasons why you suffer. The cause of suffering is one’s selfish attachment.

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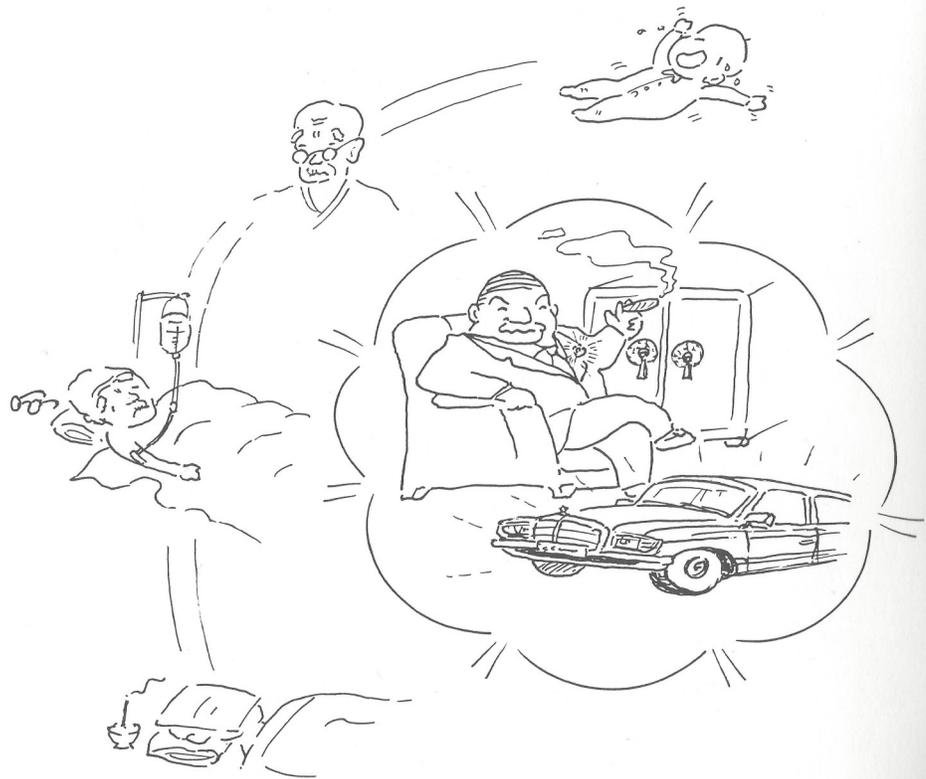
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Chapter 12

Defeat Attachment

I do not want to get old! I don't want to get sick! I don't want to be separated from loved ones! I do not want to meet someone I don't like! I want to be honored! If you defeat these selfish desires, you will not feel the four major sufferings or four minor sufferings. To defeat attachment is to be free from sufferings. What should I do to be free from suffering? It is to follow the eight right paths. There are many paths that human beings walk. There are good paths and also bad paths. If you follow the right path, you will reach the goal. The Eight-Fold Path are "Right View," "Right Thought," "Right Speech," "Right Behavior," "Right Livelihood," "Right Effort," "Right Mindfulness," and "Right Concentration." Thus, the Buddha revealed the "Four Noble Truths" and the "Eight Fold Path."

By the way, you have already learned these "Four Noble Truths" and "Eight Fold Path" in Volume One, The Prince Is Sakya-muni. Do you recall?



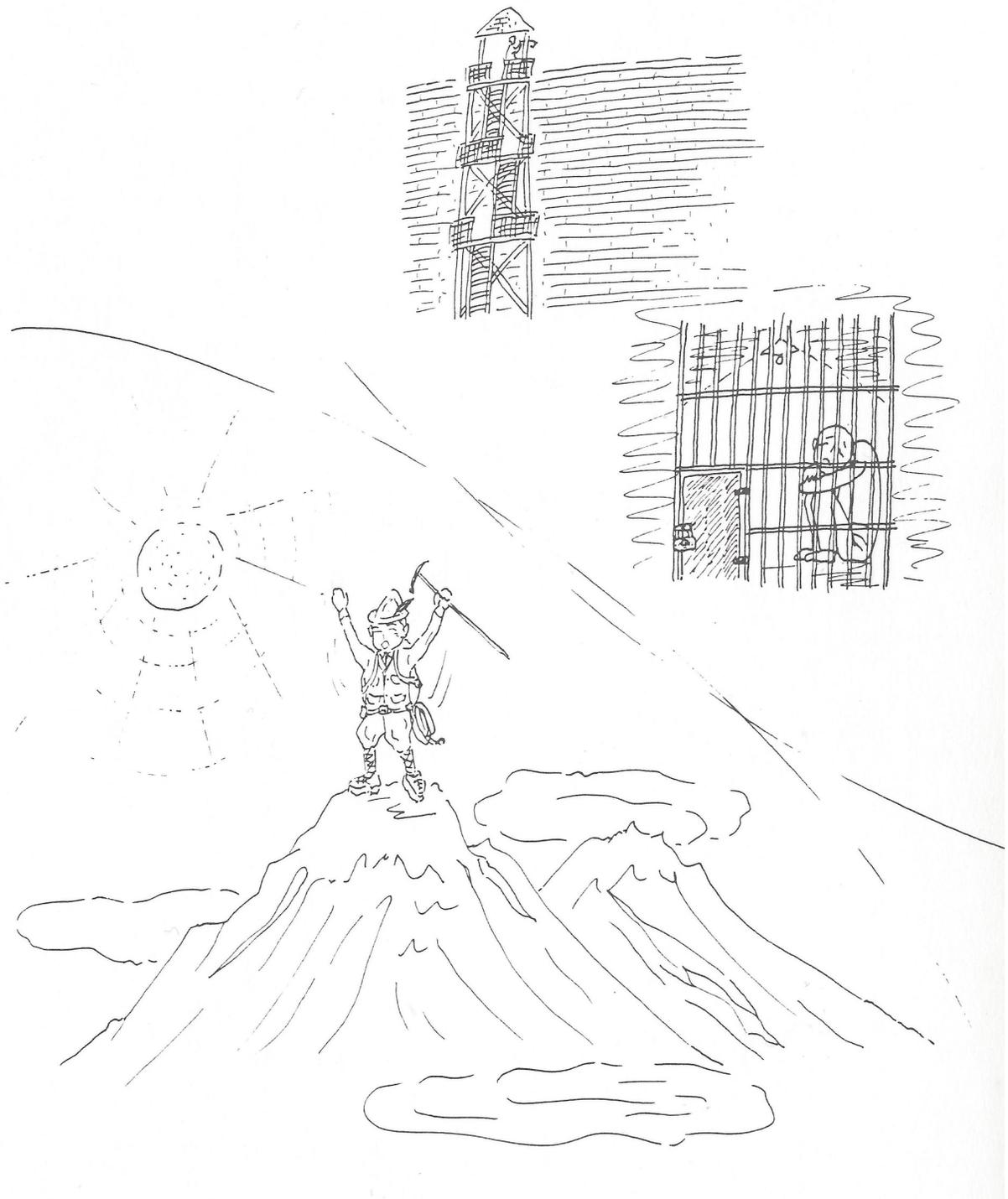
Chapter 13

Transcend Time and Place

After the prince of the Sakya Clan attained Buddhahood, He delivered the first sermon at the Deer Park in Gaya, India, to the five monks. Do you recall the story now? The same sermon was given by Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata (who had become a Buddha countless *kalpas* ago) in the world called Well Composed to the sixteen princes and the great Brahman-heavenly-kings that came from the worlds in the ten directions.

The Lotus Sutra is the universal truth which transcends time and place. The teachings are never changed in the past, present and eternal future. I hope you understand the truth. You are really LUCKY to meet this true teaching. Shall we continue to read?

The Buddha explains the teaching of the Twelve-linked Chain of Dependent Origination. “A person who is ignorant on Buddha Dharma acts selfishly and falls into many faults. His will is controlled by his body and mind. The healthy body and mind depend on the six senses of seeing, hearing, smelling, talking, touching, and thinking. In order to have pure senses one must feel rightfully. When one’s feeling is off track, he or she has attachment. The attachment is caused by selfish desire. It is wrong to think that the objects and state of being exist forever.



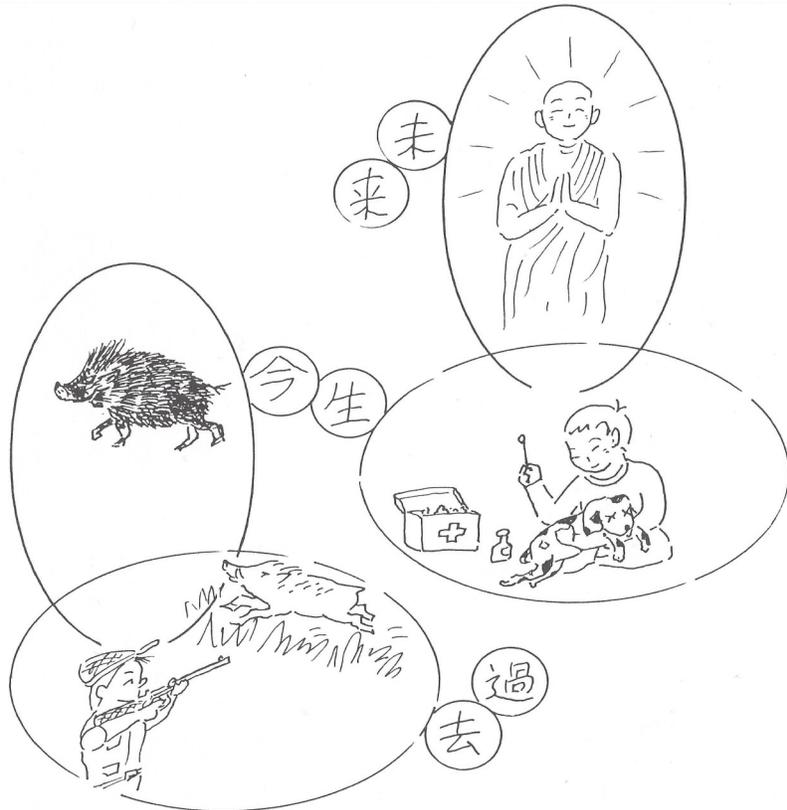
Chapter 14

Causes Created in the Past the Effect in the Present

In this world everything exists inter-dependently. People do not realize this truth. Human beings are deluded that one is superior than anyone else. Self-conceit and a high opinion of oneself is the origin of all sufferings. They do not know that all things exist inter-dependently.

Make yourself shine with wisdom, repent your conducts daily, accumulate good deeds, practice the inter-dependence in your community, be patient, and live strong and courageously. When you take out self-conceit, you will understand that

you are alive because of others. When you calm down, you will behave right, think correctly, so your body and mind will become healthy. When your body and mind become healthy, your “sense” organs; eyes, ears, nose, tongue, body, and mind will be purified. When your six sense organs are purified, you will sense and



feel correctly. Then you will naturally appreciate everything around you.

To be born, to get old, to become sick, and to die are all caused by the past. You are now able to understand that every occurrence is related to the past. You may also realize that causes in your previous lives affect you in this life. When you realize that everything exists as it should be, your mind will become clear and peaceful.

The way you act in this life will affect your future. You cause your future to be good or bad. Your ways of conduct today are the foundation for your future. Then, you will understand that all living beings will surely die sooner or later. At the moment of death, if a person has joyfulness, pride, and appreciation to Buddha and everyone, it is Enlightenment.

Thus, the Buddha told the congregation. So make up your mind how to live today.

Chapter 15

Sixteen Princes Take the Tonsure

When the Buddha ceased His preaching, innumerable people were saved from the bottoms of their hearts. They have no more suffering and no attachment, so they were peaceful. After the sixteen princes renounced the world and became novice monks, they said to the Buddha simultaneously, “World-Honored One! You expounded to us the teaching of your enlightenment. We will study and practice it. We wish to have the insight of the Tathagata and to attain Buddhahood in order to save all people in the worlds of the ten directions.”

The Buddha assented to the appeal of the princes, He expounded the sutra of the Great Vehicle called “The Sutra of Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma, the Dharma upheld by all Buddhas and the Great Universal Truth.

Now, listen well! The sixteen princes immediately became monks and started to practice the teaching to become Buddhas. They accepted and believed sincerely from the bottoms of their hearts all teachings that Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata expounded. They received this Lotus Sutra by faith. While some people understood it by faith, but others, thousands of billions in number, doubted it.

It took the Buddha eight thousand *kalpas* to complete the expounding of this sutra without rest for those who could not understand. Having completed the expounding of this sutra, Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata entered into a quiet room and practiced deep meditation for eighty-four thousand *kalpas* and never came out of the room during that long time.



Chapter 16

Substitution of the Tathagata

Seeing the Buddha practicing deep meditation quietly in the room, the sixteen Bodhisattvas, former princes, each sat on a seat of the Dharma substituting for Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata to expound the Sutra of the Lotus Sutra of the Wonderful Dharma to the monks, nuns, laymen and laywomen, and other devotees for eighty-four thousand *kalpas*, and saved six hundred billions *nayutas* of living beings, that is, as many living beings as there are sands in the River Ganges. They showed the way of the living beings to understand them delighted, so that they would aspire to attain Enlightenment.



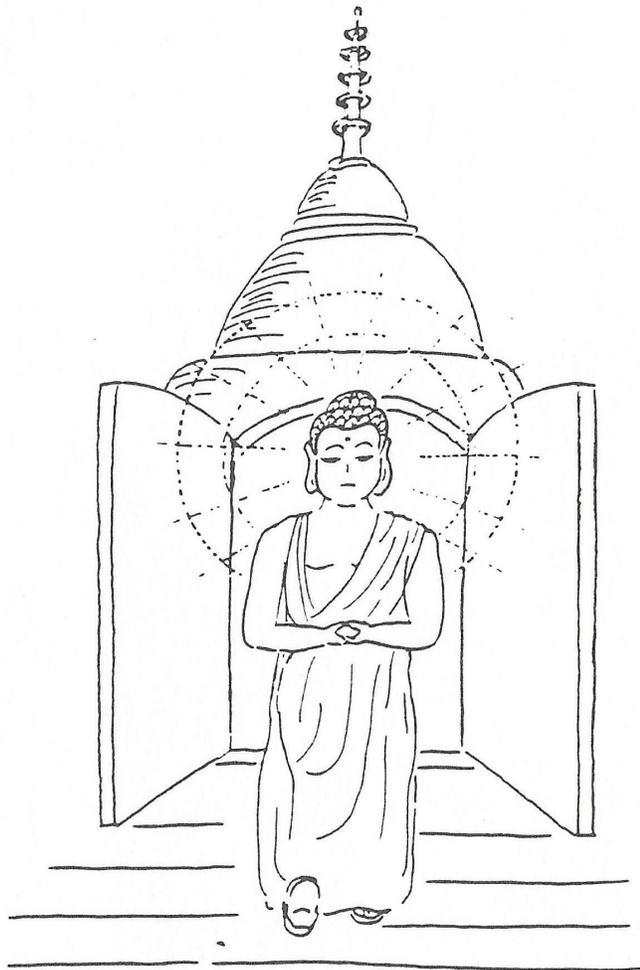
More surprising-

ly, having practiced the



deep meditation for eighty-four thousand *kalpas*, the Buddha emerged quietly from his deep meditation and said he had been watching everything during that long time, and He said to the great multitude:

“These sixteen Bodhisattvas have saved many people with their compassion and with excellent wisdom. You, the great multitude! From now on, respect these sixteen Bodhisattvas as your masters, become their disciples and make sincere offerings to them. Why is that? It is because these Bodhisattvas practiced the way of the Lotus Sutra and have had the pleasure to save all of you by the sutra.” The Buddha continued, “These sixteen Bodhisattvas have already attained Enlightenment by practicing the Lotus Sutra and saving all living beings. Therefore, I will assign each one of them a world where they will attain Enlightenment and become a Buddha. So I will give them all the name of Tathagata.”



Chapter 17

Fifteen Tathagatas and their Buddha's Pure Lands

They now expound the Lotus Sutra in the worlds of the ten quarters. Two of the Bodhisattvas are in the east where they become Buddhas. One of them is called Aksobhya Tathagata, his world is called the World of Joy. The other is called Sumeru-Peak Tathagata. Another couple of the Bodhisattvas are becoming Buddhas in the southeast, called Lion-Voice Tathagata and Lion-Form Tathagata. Another couple of them are becoming Buddhas in the south, called Sky-Dwelling Tathagata and Eternal-Extinction Tathagata. Another couple of the Bodhisattvas are becoming Buddhas in the southwest, called Emperor-Form Tathagata and Brahma-Form Tathagata. Another couple of the Bodhisattvas are becoming Buddhas in the west, called Amitayus Tathagata and Saving-All-Worlds-From-Suffering Tathagata. Another couple of the Bodhisattvas are becoming Buddhas in the northwest, called Tamalapattracanadana-Fragrance-Supernatural-Power Tathagata and Supernatural-Form Tathagata. Another couple of the Bodhisattvas are becoming Buddhas in the north, called Cloud-Freedom Tathagata and Cloud-Freedom-King Tathagata. One of the remaining two are becoming Buddhas in the northeast, called Eliminating-Fear-Of-All-World Tathagata.

Thus, Sakyamuni Buddha talked. Then He declared distinctly the following:



Chapter 18

Sakyamuni Is the Original Teacher in Saha-World

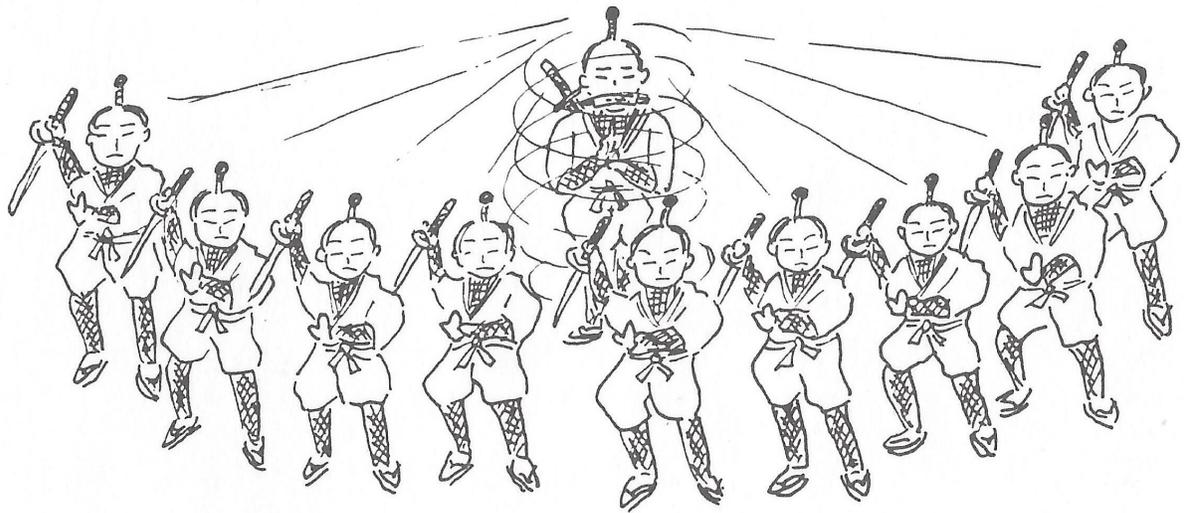
“The sixteenth Bodhisattva is I, Sakyamuni Buddha! I attained Enlightenment in this Saha-World.”

I wonder what is going on? Ninja Sarutobi Sasuke* was able to appear himself at many different places at the same time. Please image him, then you will understand.

*(*Ninja Sarutobi Sasuke is a fictional ninja who appears in fictional writings.)*

Remember! When Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata was still a king, he had sixteen princes. When the king became a Tathagata, the sixteen princes followed after him and practiced the Lotus Sutra and became Bodhisattvas. Then Excellence Tathagata entered into a quiet room and practiced deep meditation and did not come out of the room for a long time.

Therefore, the sixteen Bodhisattvas took turns to propagate among themselves, sitting on the seat of the Dharma, as a substitute to the Tathagata to expound the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma to the six hundred billions *nayutas* of living beings, that is, as many living beings as there are grains of sand in the River Ganges and saved them all.



Chapter 19

Magic to Create Body-doubles

The Buddha assigned the sixteen worlds where each of the sixteen Bodhisattvas preached to the people in their appointed worlds. After the Bodhisattvas expounded the Lotus Sutra, then all of the Bodhisattvas became Buddhas. It is Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata's magic to create His Body-doubles. Don't you think so? If you think to dispatch sixteen Bodhisattvas to the ten directions, you will easily understand these Buddhas.

At the countless worlds in the ten directions in this great abundant universe, each Bodhisattva was the manifestation of Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata who preached the sutra and became Buddhas in their worlds. They are still expounding the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wonderful Dharma to the countless numbers of people in their worlds. Do you understand now?

When Sakyamuni came to his assigned world, Saha-World, our souls also came here with Him. It was three thousand dust-particle *kalpas* ago. Sakyamuni Buddha and we have an unbreakable relationship since then. Please do not forget that. It is very important!

Shall we read the relationship more carefully and slowly next?



Chapter 20

From The Three Thousand Dust-Particle Kalpas Ago

“The sixteenth Bodhisattva is I, Sakyamuni Buddha! I attained Enlightenment in this Saha-World. All of you, here at Mount Sacred Eagle and also all living beings on this earth came to this Saha-World with me at that time long ago.”



“Those living beings who followed me, have heard the Lotus Sutra from me in order to attain Enlightenment. They are all Bodhisattvas working toward salvation for all living beings. But some of them are still in Sravakahood, salvation only for themselves. Therefore, I am always teaching the Lotus Sutra for them. They will be able to enter the way to Bodhisattva by the sutra. Nobody can attain Enlightenment without the teachings of the Lotus Sutra. Besides, all people on the earth attain Enlightenment on this earth only.”

“The wisdom of Buddha is limitless, wide, deep and compassionate, and the Buddha is always thinking how to save all beings. He may use some expedient. Even if He uses an expedient, there is only one way to become a Buddha. It is to believe obediently in the Lotus Sutra, to listen to the Dharma, to realize the law of cause, condition, and effect. It is to brush up on Buddha wisdom and practice it. And it is to save suffering people and bring peace on earth. If you live with these reasons to live on this earth, you will be able to attain Buddhahood for sure.” Thus, said the Buddha.

Chapter 21

The Buddha Who Expounds the Lotus Sutra Is the Eternal Original Sakyamuni Only

You may understand by now that the Buddha preaching the Lotus Sutra is Sakyamuni on this Saha-World and also the only Buddha who expounds the Lotus Sutra in the entire universe is the Eternal Original Buddha Sakyamuni.

All fifteen Bodhisattvas were dispatched to their worlds in the ten directions and each one of them made the Lotus Sutra widely expounded, so they became Buddhas, and their lands became pure. This part is important! For these Buddhas are still teaching the Lotus Sutra as a manifestation of Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata in their worlds in the ten directions of the universe.

By the way what did happen to the original Buddha, Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata? The original Buddha came to this Saha-world. The champion always appears last. Therefore, the Buddha said, “The sixteenth Bodhisattva is I, Sakyamuni who attained Enlightenment, *Anuttara-samyak-sambodhi*, in this Saha-World. In other words, Great-Universal-Wisdom-Excellence Tathagata and the fifteen Buddhas in the universe are all the same one soul of the Eternal Sakyamuni Buddha. The fifteen Buddhas in the other worlds are different appearances of the Eternal Original Buddha Sakyamuni. Do you understand this now?



Chapter 22

All Tathagatas are Sakyamuni

Aksobhya Tathagata in the east and Amitayus Tathagata in the west are the different names in their different worlds of the Original Sakyamuni Buddha. These Buddhas are like a magic pill for you to get some rest (as an example to understand this easily). The Eternal Original Buddha exists and protects always the entire universe from a faraway universe during many hundreds and thousands numbers of repetition of the Big Bang!



By the way, Amitayus Buddha is well-known. I believe you know this Buddha, too. He was dispatched to the world in the far west. He expounds the Lotus Sutra, then he became a Buddha. His world became a pure land. Amitayus Tathagata became a Buddha under the merit of the Lotus Sutra. Do not misunderstand! You must engrave it in your head and never forget that all Tathagatas attain Buddhahood only by the Lotus Sutra since three thousand dust-particles eons ago. The Lotus Sutra is the teaching to find true treasure. Amitayus Buddha who expounds the Sutra of Amitayus attained Buddhahood ten kalpas ago. He is still a baby compared to three thousand dust-particle *kalpas*.

Chapter 23

Magic City

Buddha Sakyamuni explains this matter in a parable, Magic City, for you to understand it easily.

“Listen attentively, all people who are here! One who will attain Enlightenment is a person who has faith and practices the Only One Wonderful Dharma Vehicle in the universe. However, I had presented a few provisional vehicles, many different teachings, for you in order to realize the existence of the Only One Dharma Vehicle, the Lotus Sutra. Why is that? It is because each individual is so different in his or her character, spirit and ability to understand Buddha Dharma.”



“For example, some people are greedy, seek fame, jealous, doubtful, and lusty. I know they hardly understand true dharma at the beginning; therefore, I use a provisional method for them to make them increase their abilities to understand Buddha Dharma little by little. With this merit, they became calm in their minds, their ability to understand Buddhism was upgraded, and their minds were purified. At this point, I revealed the two vehicles and three vehicles which are similar to the One Vehicle. But the two or three vehicles are not useful for them to attain Enlightenment. They are the methods for you just to approach the One Vehicle. It is similar to a parable of the Magic City,” said Buddha Sakyamuni and revealed the following story:

Chapter 24

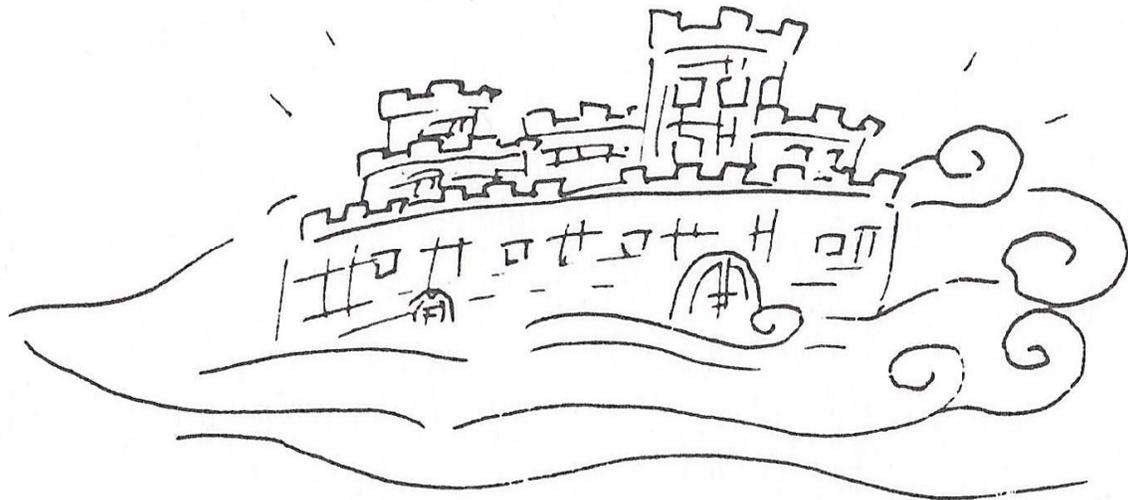
Overcome Sufferings

“Once upon a time there was a dangerous, bad road in a jungle. Now many people wished to pass through on this trail in order to reach a place of treasures of countless jewels, gold, silver, etc. As they advanced further along the trail, the trail was harder to find. Thick trees covered the area, big rocks and stones blocked the way. It was harder for them to walk. Besides that, poisonous snakes and savage beasts were here and there. The treasure hunters were so scared and almost fainted. They became thirsty but there was no water around there. They wished to get out of there in a hurry. Their minds were hasty, but the goal was still farther out.”



“At the half way point, the people got tired of walking. They said to the leader of the group, who knew the place of the treasures, “We are tired out. We are also afraid of the danger. We cannot go a step farther. We give up the treasures. We wish to go back.””

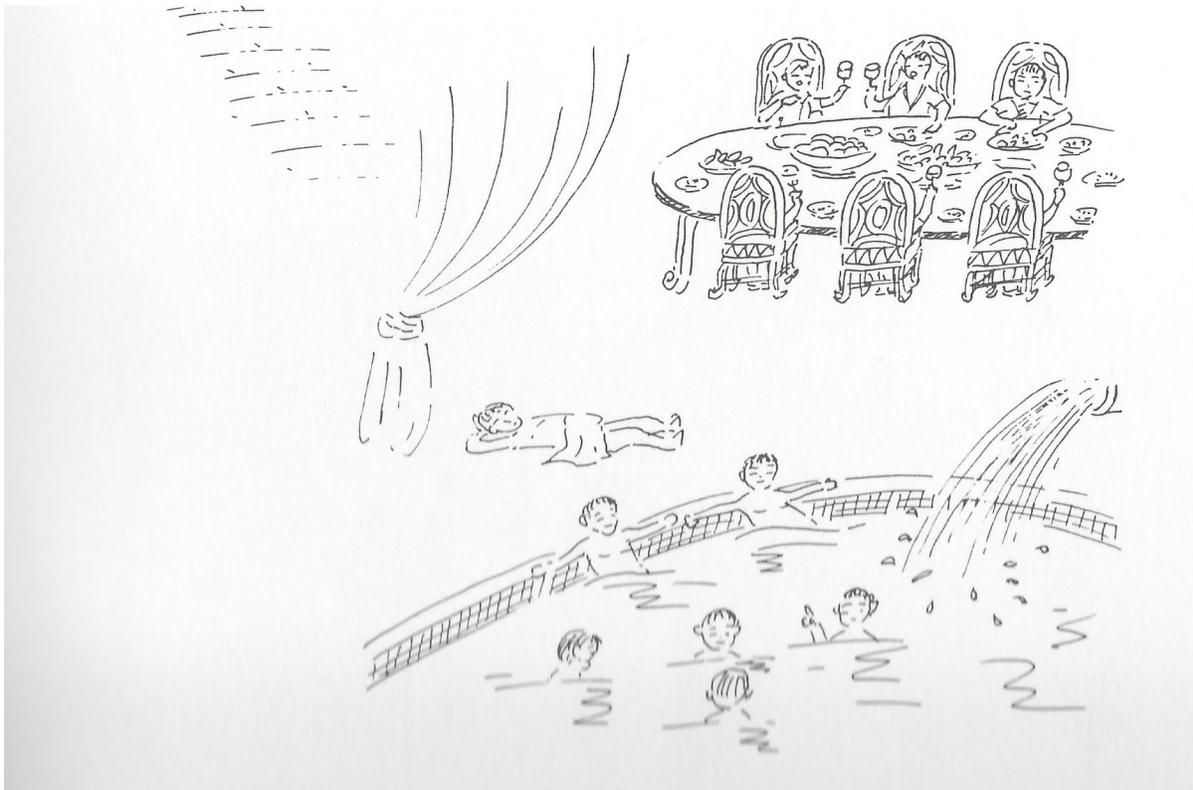
“The leader thought, ‘What a pity! They have reached this far. Their effort was all in vain if they give up the priceless treasures now. How can I save them to release their tiredness and refresh them? Having thought this, he expediently made a city instantly a short distance away with his supernatural power. There was a creek and a pond for them to take a bath, a magnificent tower at the entrance, many fruit trees, many men working hard, and many beautiful women living there. The leader said to them:



Chapter 25

Let's Take a Rest!

“Everyone! Here is a wonderful city. Do not be afraid! Do not go back! You can stay in that great city, and do anything you like.” The treasure hunting group was so happy and danced with joy. They took baths, ate delicious food until full in the stomach, and drunk a lot. There is nothing to complain about any more. They thought, “We do not need to go find the treasures. This is a place we can stay. We have no more worries and happiness here.”



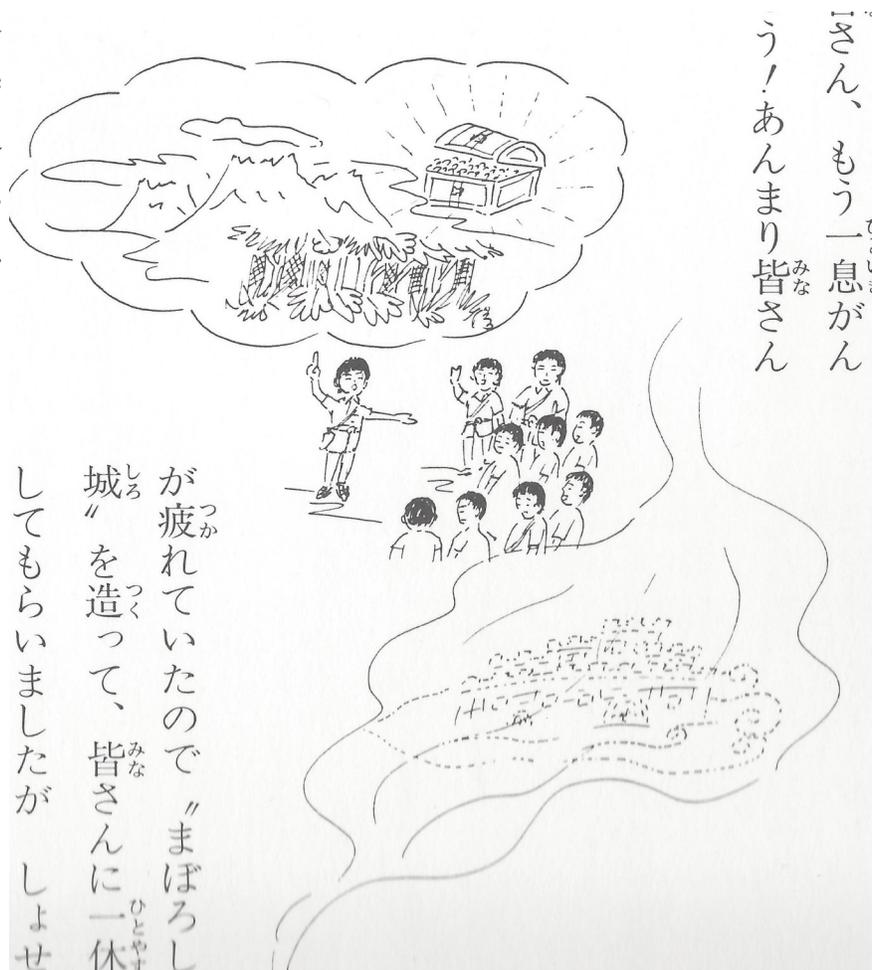
Seeing that they had already had a rest and relieved their fatigue, the leader caused the city to disappear and gathered them up and said to them:

Chapter 26

Let's Go! A Little More Effort!

“I made this city by magic in order to give you a rest! Now the place of treasures is near. Let's go! This is just a magic city. It is a provisional rest area. It is not the real treasure land. Let's make an effort to reach the goal!” This is the parable of the Magic City.

Do you understand what Sakyamuni Buddha is trying to say? What is the magic city? And what are the priceless treasures? The Buddha told to all multitude gathered at Mt. Sacred Eagle; “I am just like the leader. I act as a guide for all living beings in this Saha-World.”



Chapter 27

Fulfill Buddha's Wish

Even though people seek Enlightenment, halfway through they become tired, self-conceited, arrogant or wave about strong desires, and they give up. Seeing these people, the Buddha gives them a rest as an expedient and provides encouragement by saying, "You are great! You got out of suffering and attachment!" After that, the Buddha reveals the Only One Truth in the Universe.

In order to lead them to the One Truth, He shows different provisional teachings. But there is only one way to reach the truth.

Listen attentively! Real Enlightenment is to fulfill Buddha's wish, that is, to pray for world peace and happiness for all people around the world. That is to fulfill Buddha's wish.

The compassionate leaders give a rest for suffering people. Seeing they are refreshed, the leaders tell them, "We are getting there."

Do you understand this?

By the way, this parable of magic city was revealed for Purna and other twelve hundred Arhats, who had already obtained freedom of mind and thought as Buddha's disciples. More detail is in the next volume.

Chapter 28

Souls of Saha-World

Sakyamuni Buddha said, “Do not give up just before the final few steps. Have endeavor, courage, be patient always and also compassionate. Take one more big breath until the goal.”

Another important matter is that all souls of ours exist on this earth while repeating birth and death innumerable times since the five hundred dust-particle *kalpas* ago and practicing the Dharma led by the Eternal Buddha Sakyamuni. He is always saving all living beings on the earth including fish, bugs, beasts, plants, and human beings. All living beings are practicing the way to become Buddhas like Bodhisattvas who seek Enlightenment, Buddha’s disciples, and also the people who have not encountered Buddhism yet. All souls in the Saha-world are able to attain Buddhahood on this earth only but not in the pure land in the east or the west. They live to practice to reach Enlightenment on this earth only. Please do not forget that

The direct cause and the conditional causes for you to be born on this earth have been fixed since countless eons ago. Do not forget it! Shine your minds with endeavor, courage, patience, and compassion! Then you will reach Enlightenment.

Keep up and take one more breath to attain Buddhahood. It is the soul led by Sakyamuni Buddha in this Saha-World.

