

Chapter 3: Example

Mañjuśrī was excited. He raised up and praised the Buddha: “Listening to your teaching today I am as happy as I have never been before. Why? In the past I have followed you and witnessed bodhisattvas blessed to become buddhas. But arhats like me did not get the same sanctifications. That had made me felt self-pity missing out the perfect omniscience of a buddha.

Lord! When I was by myself in a forest, sitting or walking, I thought: “We all committed to the intrinsic dharma¹ why the Lord used ordinary discourse² to save us?” That was our fault, not yours. Why? If we had waited for you to reveal the causal condition doctrine³, we would have achieved Buddhahood. We did not understand that you used expedient means to lead us and hurriedly accepted them as the true path.

Lord! I had been blaming myself. But today listening to your unprecedented teaching I had stopped self-doubts and had felt peace. I now realize I am truly a Buddhist, arrived from voice of buddha, born from dharma, and belong to the dharma of buddha”.

The Buddha told Mañjuśrī: “Today in front of heavenly beings⁴, men, Jain believers⁵, Brahma believers⁶, I say that I have taught you the omniscient dharma throughout twenty thousand buddhas. You have long learnt from me, and I have used expedient means to lead you into my dharma.

Mañjuśrī! In the past I had taught you the aims of Buddhism. Now you forgot and assume you had succeeded. Today to make you and other disciples remember your base and your actions I talk about the Mahāyāna text named Lotus Nobel Law for Bodhisattvas.

Mañjuśrī! In the future, through many eons, you will serve thousands buddhas and the dharma till you fulfill all roles of a bodhisattva, you will become buddha Padmaprabhā⁷

¹ True nature of phenomena freed from perceiving, s: dharmatā, v: pháp tính

² Small Vehicle/Path, s: hīnayāna, v: pháp tiểu thừa

³ principle of cause and condition of all existence, s: hetupratyaya, v: pháp sở-nhân

⁴ devine beings, gods, s: deva, v: trời

⁵ Jainism is a pre-Buddhist religion believing in individual ascetic, s: śramaṇa, v: sa môn

⁶ Brahminism is a pre-Buddhist religion for priestly or virtuous persons, s: brāhmaṇa, v: bà la môn

⁷ Literally mean bright lotus, s: Padmaprabhā, v: Hoa Quang Như Lai