

Chapter 3: Example

Mañjuśrī 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 I did not get the same sanctifications. That had made me felt self-pity for being deprived of 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 True Nature 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 pragmatic 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 feels 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, Jain⁵ and Brahma⁶ believers, I say that I have taught you the omniscient dharma throughout twenty thousand buddhas period. You have long learnt from me, and I have used myriad means to lead you into my dharma.

Mañjuśrī! In the past I had taught you the ultimate goal of a Buddhist. Now you forgot and assume you had succeeded. Today to make you and other disciples remember your base and actions I will teach from a Mahāyāna text called Lotus Nobel Law for Bodhisattvas.

Mañjuśrī! Through many coming eons, you will pay homage to thousands of buddhas and dharma till you fulfill all roles of a bodhisattva. Then you will become a buddha called Padmaprabhā⁷ endowed with full ten epithets. Your reigning world, Viraja⁸, is flat, still, beautiful, wealthy, and happy with many celestial beings and human. Lands are made off lapis lazuli⁹. There are eight traffic roads with gold rails and blossomed jewel trees along sides. Buddha Padmaprabhā will also use Three Paths to enlighten all beings.

Mañjuśrī! Buddha Padmaprabhā come to the world not because it is wicked but because of his vow to help all beings. That is why he speaks of the Three Paths. This period is called “Adorned Great Jewels”¹⁰. Why “Adorned Great Jewels”? Because in that world bodhisattvas are the “Great Jewels”. There are many bodhisattvas that no one without a buddha’s knowledge can possibly count. When they walk flowers lift their feet.

¹ true nature of phenomena is freed from perceiving, s: citta-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

⁸ Ruling world of buddha Padmaprabhā, s: Viraja, v: Ly Cấu

⁹ A precious blue stone mined in ancient civilizations, v: ngọc lưu ly

¹⁰ Period of buddha Padmaprabhā, s: Mahāratnaprati, v: Đại Bử Trang Nghiêm