



美國波士頓行願淨宗學會 - 行願淨業林 Amita Buddhism Society - Boston, USA

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February 07, 2010

## **The Buddha Speaks of the Infinite Life Sutra of Adornment, Purity, Equality and Enlightenment of the Mahayana School**

### **Chapter 4: The Causal Ground of Dharmakara**

"In past, inconceivable countless aeons ago, there was a Buddha who appeared in the world named Lokeshvararaja." (Infinite Life Sutra)

Buddha Lokeshvararaja appeared in this world when people were very conservative and law-abiding to the extreme, following the letter of the law and not the spirit. The name Lokeshvararaja means to be comfortable and at ease while still following the rules, which is what this Buddha was trying to convey.

Every Buddha, including Buddha Lokeshvararaja, has the same ten titles to represent their infinite wisdom, virtue and abilities.

First, "Thus Come One" is one who truly and thoroughly comprehends that the intrinsic nature and the extrinsic form are one inseparable entity.

Second, "Worthy of Offerings" indicates that the Buddha deserves the offerings from all beings for his perfection in knowledge and cultivation of virtue. Sowing in the field of merit, by making offerings to the Buddha, enables one to harvest good fortune in the future.

One of the most important reasons why Buddhists make offerings to Buddha Shakyamuni is to repay our gratitude for his being our original teacher; reminding us to respect teachers and their teachings, and not to blindly worship them. Another important reason is to acknowledge and emulate the virtuous; vowing to become a Buddha also.

Third, "Likeness of Perfect Enlightenment" is the abbreviated form of Supreme Unbiased Perfect Enlightenment.

Fourth, "Perfection in Wisdom and Cultivation" means one's understanding and practice reach full completion.

Fifth, "Skillful in Non-attachment." All Buddhas are neither bound by birth and death or the state of Nirvana.

Sixth, "Knower of the Worlds" comprehends everything in the universe.

Seventh, "The Unsurpassed Scholar."

Eighth, "Great Hero" is what the Buddha is by guiding all beings in their individual practices and solving their problems through his teachings, achieving what others cannot.

Ninth, "Teacher of Heavenly Beings and Men."

"Buddha, the World Honored One" is the person who has already attained perfect complete realization and the above nine virtues, thus deserving the respect of the world even though he is unaffected by his achievements, viewing himself as equal to all beings. This concludes the ten titles for all Buddhas.

Buddha Lokeshvararaja gave the teaching for forty-two aeons. This indicates that the life span of a human being at that time was even longer.

"At that time, a great king by the name of World Abundant heard the Buddha's teaching." (Infinite Life Sutra)

After King World Abundant received the teaching from Buddha Lokeshvararaja, he decided to give up his kingship to become a monk. He was renamed Dharmakara meaning Dharma treasure.

Giving up the kingship is an ex-ample of pursuing self-realization and dedicating oneself to educating others about the Buddha's teaching; thus, one serves all the sentient beings in the infinite universe and beyond.

To create good fortunes for all, one contributes one's wisdom and capabilities. Ordinary people only think of themselves, their family or perhaps even their country, whereas, a realized person strives to help all beings break through delusion to find true liberation.

Dharmakara started practicing the Bodhisattva's way, which helped him to attain an awakened mind.

A Bodhisattva can be any person in any place. They are no different from us except that they do not harbor any discrimination and attachments, and are unaffected by worries and troubles in their daily lives and work. For example, the clergy can also be Bodhisattvas, guiding beings from delusion, improper thoughts and view-points, and polluted thinking.

Dharmakara was an extraordinarily talented person, who in many ways already surpassed most people. In his past lives Dharmakara must have practiced extensively the giving of wealth, fearlessness and teaching in order to be born into a royal family and to have wealth, longevity, intelligence and wisdom.

By practicing diligently the Buddha's teaching, Dharmakara reached the utmost achievement.

## **Activities – 2/2010**

**\*02/06/2010 24-hour Buddha Recitation Ceremony (2pm)**

**02/13/2010 Chinese New Year's Eve Dinner (6pm) Buddha Recitation and Pray for the New Year (12am)**

**02/14/2010 Read Infinite Life Sutra - Offering and Pu Buddha (9:30am)**

**\*02/20/2010 Buddha Recitation, Sutra Reading and Offering (9:30am)**

**Spring Festival Dinner - Fund-raising for the Earthquake Victims in Haiti (6pm China Pearl)**

**02/27/2010 South Cove Manor Nursing Home (9:45am) 24-hour Buddha Recitation Ceremony (2pm)**

**02/28/2010 Sutra Reading – Offering and Pu Buddha (9:30am)**

**Registration required for Eight Precepts and Fast Observation.**

**For details please call ABS (508)580-4349 or email to [amtb.ma@gmail.com](mailto:amtb.ma@gmail.com)**