



The Shurangama Sutra

**The Dharani Sutra Of The Buddha On
Longevity, The Extinction Of Offences And
The Protection Of Young Children**



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Thus have I heard:

The Buddha said, "If good men and good women are able to accept, uphold, read and memorize the words in this Dharani Mantra, or speak the Mantra for the fetus that dwells in the womb, the babies who leave the wombs, or sick children for seven days and seven nights, besides making offerings by burning the incense and showering the flowers. They must also write down, listen, accept and uphold the Mantra wholeheartedly. Then all the serious diseases and the former offences will be eradicated."

At that time, the Medicine King Bodhisattva, Qi-Po went forth to The Buddha and said, "World Honored One! I am known as The Great Medicine King, and I am able to cure all diseases. The small babies may be infected with nine kinds of diseases, which will cause them to die young. What are the nine kinds of diseases? The first is that the parents have coitus at wrong hours."

"The second is that the place where the baby is being delivered is defiled by the blood. So the earth spirits leave the home, and the evil ghosts get the chance to enter the household. The third is that during the delivery, the navel of the baby is infected with bacteria, as it is not properly cleansed with antiseptic. The fourth is that during the delivery, cotton wool with no antiseptic is used to wipe the defiled blood from the womb which envelopes the baby."

"The fifth is that animals are killed in the preparation of a feast for relatives and friends. The sixth is that during the pregnancy and the period for feeding, the mother partakes of all kinds of raw and cold fruits and food. The seventh is that when the child is sick, he is fed with all types of meat."

"The eighth is that during delivery, an evil state appears in the delivery room. If the umbilical cord is still attached to the mother, the mother will die. If the umbilical cord is already cut off, the baby will die."

"What is meant by the inauspicious appearance? For examples, people can see all types of dead carcasses, and different unusual, strange and unclean appearances. Because the eyes see unclean appearances, so, it is known as inauspiciousness. If we grind the Niu-Huang (Gorocana), pearls and granulated bright sand into powder and mix it with honey to feed the baby, it will help to stable his mind and spirit. And he will escape from all inauspiciousness."

"The ninth is that the baby is beaten by the evil ghost when he is brought for a walk at night. All newborn babies should be taken care of properly in order to avoid the above situations. Then he will not die young."

At the same time, in the place of the Mara, the Heavenly Mara Papiyan who had the penetration of others' thoughts knew that the Buddha was teaching The Dharani Mantra of Longevity, The Extinction of Offences and The Protection of Young Children to the multitude. So he was very angry. He scolded harshly and was worried and displeased.

The King of Mara had three daughters. They saw that their father was extremely angry, uneasy and worried. So they went forth to enquire of him, "May we know why our father, The King is so worried, angry and unhappy?"

The Mara's King answered, "That Monk by the surname Gautama is now speaking The Sutra of Longevity and The Extinction of Offences to innumerable and limitless living beings at Mount Grdhrakuta in Rajagriha. He intends to widely circulate and proclaim this Sutra to all present and future living beings, so that they will attain the bliss of longevity. By doing so, he has invaded my Mara's state and brought about great harm. So, how can I not give rise to evil thoughts?"

"Now, I want to lead my retinue of relatives and all the Mara's soldiers to conquer Him. Even if I cannot stop The Monk Gautama from proclaiming The Sutra of Longevity and The Extinction of Offences, but with my present strength of awesome spiritual penetration, I can close the ears of all heavenly beings and the multitudes in that assembly so that they will be unable to hear The Buddha speaks The Sutra."

After hearing that, the three daughters of Mara immediately advised their father by using the verses,

"The Heavenly Mara Papiyan has three daughters,

Who made obeisance before their father, The King and said,

"The monk Gautama is The Teacher of God and People,

The power of the Mara is unable to affect him.

Formerly He dwelt under the Bodhi Tree,

When He first sat on the Auspicious Dharma Seat,

The three of us tried to lure Him with our beauty,

As we are the most beautiful among the Heavenly ladies."

" 'We used hundreds kinds of beautiful dances to capture His attention,

But the Bodhisattva did not even give rise to a thought of indulgence.

He contemplated the three of us like old ladies,

So now He is able to attain The Bodhi of Proper Enlightenment.

And becomes The Teacher of all beings.

Father, you with your bow and arrows tried to frighten Him,

With your soldiers and weapons that fully filled up the empty space,

But the Bodhisattva contemplated them like a show for children,

He was not frightened; neither did He retreat from The Bodhi Mind.

So now He is certified to The Bodhi Path and becomes The Dharma King.

We only hope that our father, The King will put to rest the evil thoughts.' "

After listening to the verses of his daughters, the Heavenly Mara Papiyan renewed his plan and readjusted his retinue of relatives into new groupings. Besides, he chose an efficient troop of intelligent soldiers and told them, "I will go with you all to the dwelling of The Buddha. We must pretend that we want to surrender. We must make use of different kinds of skills-in-means so that The Buddha will believe in us."

"If we are able to get his trust, then we can use the chance to do all kinds of evil deeds, in order to obstruct the propagation of this Sutra." After saying that, he together with his retinue of Mara went to the dwelling of The Buddha. They circumambulated The Buddha for seven times. After that he said,

"World Honored One, are you tired after speaking the Dharma? I now bring my retinue of relatives along to listen to The Sutra of Longevity and The extinction of Offences. We wish to become the disciples of The Buddha. I only hope that The World Honored One who is kind and compassionate will accept us. May I obtain what I have desired."

The World Honored One scolded the King of Mara immediately; "You were already full of anger when you were at your palace. Your plan is to come here and pretend to walk about in my assembly, waiting for chances to commit all evil deeds. In the Buddha Dharma, we do not allow you to deceive others."

Immediately the King of Mara Papiyan was ashamed of himself. He stopped putting on his deceitful appearance and said to The Buddha, "World Honored One! My stupid and deceitful plans are surely unable to be concealed from you. May The Buddha, who is greatly kind and compassionate, forgive my offences! Now, as I have heard The Dharani Mantra on Longevity, The Extinction of Offences and The Protection of small children, I vow that,

" 'In the Dharma Ending Age, if there are living beings who accept uphold, write down, read and recite this Sutra, wherever they may be, I will protect them, so that no evil ghosts will have the chance to harm them.'"

" 'If those people who have already fallen into the hells are to remember and be mindful of this sutra for just an instant, I will use my spiritual power to take the water of the great seas and pour on the offenders, so that they will feel refresh with the moisture of water. I will transform the great Hells into lotus ponds too.'"

At that time, many Flying Raksas, with Eating Children Raksa as their leader, came together with their retinue of Raksas of the same family. They came down from the empty Space and circumambulated The Buddha for a thousand times. They told The Buddha, "World Honored One! We for innumerable kalpas have been born as Raksas. Our retinues of relatives are as many as there are sands in the Ganges River."

"Everyone of us suffers from hunger; wherever we go, we will look for fetuses and new born babies. We then eat their flesh and drink the blood. Our retinues always spy on all living beings, and we wait for the time when the husband and wife are having coition in order to eat the sperms. Then, they will have no children. Or at times, we follow them and enter the wombs to destroy the fetus and partake the blood."

"Or we try to find chances to kill the new born baby within the first seven days. Even for a child who is under ten years old, our retinues will change themselves

into all kinds of evil worms and poisonous bacteria to enter the stomach of the child. We consume his internal organs, sperms and blood. By doing so, the child will vomit the milk and be infected with dysentery. Sometimes he may be infected with intestinal disorders of Malaria."

"Or at times, we will cause him to be so sick that his eyes become greenish blue in color. The body will be swollen with water and the belly inflated. Gradually, we are able to take away his life. Now, we have listened to The Buddha's teaching on Longevity, The Extinction of Offences and The Protection of Young Children, we will uphold the order of The World Honored One even if it means that our retinue will have to suffer from hunger. We will never again dare to eat the fetuses and babies."

The Buddha told the raksas, "You all should accept and uphold the precepts in the Buddha Dharma. By upholding the precepts, after the passing away of the raksa's body, you will then be able to attain a rebirth in the heaven to enjoy the blessing and bliss."

Again, The Buddha told the multitudes in the assembly, "If there is a child who is suffering from all kinds of diseases, you should teach the kind mother to take out a small portion of the breast milk and disperse it into empty space, to give all the raksas. And with a pure body and mind, she should accept and uphold this Dharani Sutra on Longevity, The Extinction of Offences and The Protection of Young Children. She may write it down, read and recite it. The child will soon recover from the sicknesses."

When all the raksas heard this, they were extremely happy and told The Buddha, "If we are able to attain a rebirth in the heaven, our retinue will never again harm the children and take their milk. Even if we were to swallow iron pellets, we will never drink the children's blood."

"After the Buddha has entered Nirvana, if there is a man who can read, recite, accept and uphold this sutra, wherever he may be, we will carry the Vajra Rod of The Buddha to protect him. We will never let the evil men to get the chance to disturb and harm The Dharma Master, neither do we allow the evil ghosts to cause any harm and misery to the young children."

At that time, all the great Heavenly Kings and their retinue, all the Dragon Kings, Yaksa Kings, Asura Kings, Garuda Kings, Kinnaras Kings, Mahoragas Kings, Xue-Li-Dou Kings, Pi-She-Zhe Kings, Fu-Dan-Na Kings, Jia-Zha-Fu-Dan-Na Kings and other Kings who each brought along their retinue of followers and relatives.

They made obeisance to The Buddha. Then they brought forth the same mind, put their palms together and said, "World Honored One! From now onwards, wherever there are Bhikshus, Bhiksunis, Upasaka and Upasika who are able to accept and uphold this Sutra of Longevity, or write it down, I together with my retinue will always protect such a person and the place where he dwells."

"We Kings are able to chase away all evil ghosts. There are evil ghosts who disturb and harm the living beings and cause them to be infected with diseases. If such a patient is able to write down, accept, uphold, read and recite this Sutra with a pure body and mind, we Kings will subdue all the evil ghosts so that they will be unable to harm this man. Neither will he die in accidents or experience great pain and torture in his death bed."

At that time, The Heavenly Spirits of Firm and Solid Earth also left his Seat. Respectfully he said to The Buddha, "World Honored One! If the disciple of The Buddha accepts and upholds this Sutra of Longevity, the Extinction of Offences and The Protection of Young Children, we Heavenly Spirits of Earth will always provide him with abundant food from the earth in order to strengthen him. He will obtain an increase in the blessing of a long lifespan.

"We will always offer all kinds of gold and silver, wealth, grains and rice to the man who has faith in this Sutra, so that he will never be in lack of anything. He will obtain a healthy and peaceful body with no more worries, suffering and anger."

"His mind is always blissful for he has obtained the superior fields of blessing. No evil ghosts will be able to take away his life. If there is a new born baby, within the first seven days of his birth, we earth spirits will protect him so that he will not die at a young age."

After that, The Vajra of Great Strength also said to The Buddha at the assembly, "World Honored One! After The Thus Come One has spoken This Dharani Mantra of The Sutra of Longevity, The Extinction of Offences and The Protection of Young Children, all the different Heavenly Kings and their retinue, those raksa kings, The Dharma Protectors and the good spirits all brought this vows to protect those who read, recite and write down this Sutra. Besides, they also offer them whatever they need, so that they will not be in lack of anything."

"I once asked the Great Virtuous One Bhagavan who spoke the Great Spiritual Strength Mantra of Auspicious words. If there are living beings that are able to hear these words for once, in hundreds of thousands of lifetime, they will not experience the suffering of a short life span. Besides they will be endowed with

innumerable blessing and life span. Besides their bodies will be free from sicknesses."

"Even with the four Mara who are still dwelling in the body, they will be under control. So such a being will increase in life span. He may live up to one hundred and twenty years old. He can even attain a state with no aging and no-death. He will obtain the Fruition position of non-retreating."

"If those disciples of The Buddha who are infected with serious diseases are able to hear this mantra, the evil ghosts will have no way to take away their lives." Then The Great Strength Vajra said The Mantra:

" 'Duo-Ti-Ye-Ta, Zhan-Ta-Li, Zhan-Ta-Luo-Pi-Ti, Zhan-Ta-Luo-Mo-Niu, Zhan-Ta-Luo-Pa-Ti, Zhan-Ta-Luo-Pu-Li, Zhan-Ta-Luo-Men-Yi, Zhan-Ta-Luo-Ti-Li, Zhan-Ta-Fei-Mie, Zhan-Tu-Luo, Zhan-Ta-Luo-Po-Luo-Zi, Zhan-Ta-Luo-Fu-Ta-Li, Zhan-Ta-Luo-Po-Ti-Yi, Zhan-Ta-Luo-Po-Mie, Zhan-Ta-Luo-Fa-Zhi, Zhan-Ta-Luo-Lu-Ji, Su-Po-Ho.' "

The Buddha said, "Good indeed! Good indeed! The Great Strength Vajra! Now, as you are able to speak this Auspicious Spiritual Mantra of Protecting the Young Children, you will soon become The Greatest Leader and Teacher of all sentient beings."

The Buddha then turned to speak to Manjushri Bodhisattva, "Manjushri! You should know that all the past Buddhas proclaimed this Mantra. It has the awesome strength to protect all cultivators. Besides, it helps to increase the life span of Gods and People and to eradicate all offences, defilement and evil views. It also helps to protect those who uphold this Sutra, so that they will increase in blessing and obtain a prolongation of life span."

Again, the World Honored One spoke to the Dharma Prince Manjushri, "After my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, if there is a Bhikshu who goes against the rules of precepts which are taught by me, who is attached to Bhiksunis and other girls, or who desires the Shramanas and Shramaneras, or who partakes meat and drinks wine, who has strong and uncontrollable desired for love, or who carries out other impure worldly affairs, but still does not give rise to a sense of shame of remorse. Such a mind resembles that of a piece of hard wood, and he is sure to be despised by worldly people. Indeed he will destroy my Dharma. You should know that such a Bhikshu is not my disciple. He belongs to the group of Bhikshus who practices the five unwholesome deeds. He also belongs to the retinue of Heavenly Mara, and is in the group of six teachers of the deviant path."

Bhikshus like these will presently obtain a short life span. Those Bhiksunis who break the precepts will also receive the same retribution. But if they are able to repent and reform sincerely, and never to commit such offences, besides receiving and upholding this Sutra, then they will be free from offences and obtain longevity."

"Moreover, Manjushri! After my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, if there are Bodhisattvas who slander others, who enjoy praising themselves for being full of merits, virtues, goodness and beauty, who are stingy in teaching and passing on the Great Vehicle Sutras to others, such Bodhisattvas indeed belong to the retinue of the Mara. They are not true Bodhisattvas."

"But if such a Bodhisattva is able to sincerely and wholeheartedly receive and uphold this Sutra, to write it down, read and recite it, then he will also obtain an indestructible, permanent Vajra Body just like all the Buddhas. Moreover, Manjushri, after my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, if there is a king who kills or harms his parents, who kills the relatives without any reasons, who does not carry out his duty in accord to the Proper Dharma, who invades other countries for no reason at all and who kills the loyal officers if they try to advise him. On top of that, he himself indulges deeply in sexual desires, and goes against The Proper Dharma, which was set up by his forefathers in the King's Lineage. Besides he destroys the Buddha's pagodas and temples, and burns down the Buddha's images and sutras. The country of such an evil king will face the calamities of flood and drought. The wind and rain will not come at proper time and so the citizens will suffer from thirst and hunger. Many of them will die of plague."

"As the king is unruly, so he will obtain a short life span in this life. After he has passed away, he will fall into the Great Avici Hell. But if he is able to write down this Sutra, to propagate the Sutra widely, besides making offering to it, to repent and reform sincerely his offences, and to carry out the tasks and country's affairs in accordance to the Proper Dharma set up by his forefathers in the King's Lineage, then he will gain longevity."

"Moreover, Manjushri! After my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, if there are High Officers and those officers appointed by the Royal Palace, who enjoy the salary but do not carry out the duties wholeheartedly. These unfaithful officers are not shameful, nor do they feel remorseful in their misdeeds. They are pretentious and deceitful. They praise falsely, and are not loyal to the country. They are greedy and corrupted, and go against the law. On top of that, they bully the people and kill the innocent beings."

"With their power, strength and position, they claim others' wealth and jewels as their own without any consideration. They also harm the people in their country. In addition, they look down on Sutras, and obstruct the propagation of the Great Vehicle Buddha Dharma. People like these will obtain a short life span presently. After they have passed away, they will fall into the Avici Hell and never will they obtain a release."

"But if they are able to sincerely repent and reform, in addition to accepting and upholding this Sutra, write in down, read and recite it, then they will obtain longevity, and are able to retain their position as High officers and enjoy the wealth. Moreover, Manjushri, after my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, if there are Good Men or Good Women who dwell in the home life to practice The Buddha's teaching, but later they change their faith and believe in the confused and evil views of the deviant path for they no longer have faith in the Proper Dharma of The Great Vehicle."

"People like these are very stingy. They prefer to store up the innumerable amount of hundreds of thousands of gold and silver pieces, but refuse to give them away. Their greed is never satiated for they will continue to seek and acquire more wealth and benefit. These rich people do not enjoy giving in order to relieve the poor. Besides, they cannot write down, accept, uphold, read and recite the Twelve Divisions of Sutras. They will never be able to escape the suffering which is brought about by the Ghost of Impermanence."

"The household of such a person will not be peaceful. Inauspicious events will take place in the most unlikely manner without any reason at all. For examples, there may have the sudden appearance of sparrows under the stove; the snake will glide into the halls and bedrooms; the dog may suddenly climb up the house while the rats will practice hundreds of kinds of sounds. Many wild animals and birds will try to push their way into his house."

"Hundreds of kinds of ghastly ghosts of the forests will appear in his house. Because of seeing the ghosts and strange sights, the man will be afflicted and is extremely frightened. Such a man may die young because he is tortured by these afflictions and frightening appearances. But if he is able to accept, uphold and write down this Sutra, and widely circulate it for people to read and recite, then he will over-power the above strange happenings. He will then obtain a long life span."

"Moreover, Manjushri, after my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, there are those living beings who as the parents in the family, will continue to pity and worry about their grown up children. Because of worries and over concern their mind is always unsettled. What is the reason behind this?"

"For examples, the boy who has grown up to be a man is forced to enter the military force according to the law of the country. He is not free to go anywhere, and his parents will continue to worry about him. Such is called the sickness of the mind. Or may be the grown-up daughter who has already married is being looked down upon by the husband's family. The husband and wife never live in harmony. The daughter will be bullied by the mother in laws. Because of over concern for their daughter, their mind is never at ease."

"Because of an unsettled mind, a man is tortured by worries, suffering and anger throughout the day. This will again cause him to fall sick easily. He will suffer from all kinds of diseases in the present life span. Finally he is sure to die young."

"But if a man is able to write down, accept and uphold this Sutra, then he will obtain longevity. Because of the strength of the Sutra and Mantra, the marriage will be successful and blissful. The in-laws will live in harmony. The son will return home peacefully, and so the sickness of the mind will be eradicated."

"Moreover, Manjushri! After my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, there are living beings that are not replete with a mind of kindness and compassion. They kill and harm the living beings, and devour the flesh of all kinds of animals. Manjushri! Such behavior is the same as killing one's parents, and it also resembles the eating of our next of kin and friends."

"Because of killing and harming the living beings, in addition to destroying the fetus, such a man will lead a short life span presently. Even when the husband and wife are having coition, the sperms will be eaten by the Evil Raksas and so they will have no children in future."

"But if he is able to write down, accept, uphold, read and recite this Sutra, then he can escape the evil fruition of a short life with no children to carry down his surname. Moreover, Manjushri, after my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, all living beings are born without spiritual penetration of the past lives. So they do not know the cycle of cause and effect. When they temporarily obtain the human forms, they feel that they should fully enjoy themselves presently."

"Besides, such a man will create all sinful karma with his body. Maybe he enjoys slandering others, or he may make use of his powerful, honorable and wealthy disposition to threaten others' lives. He will give rise to all kinds of evil thoughts. On top of that, he will have no faith in the Great Vehicle Sutra for he is arrogant and proud."

"People like these will not live long presently. But if such a man is able to repent and reform sincerely, and with a subdued, soft and gentle mind, he is able to write down this Sutra. Besides he will accept, uphold, read and recite it. With the strength of such good roots, he may have the chance to prolong his life span. Even if he is seriously ill, and has to face all calamities and dangers, he will never die in accidents."

"Moreover, Manjushri! After my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, if there is a living being who has to represent the country to go to another country with the order of the King, or who has to seek for treasures and wealth so as to fulfill the wishes and instructions of his parents. He may have to go through dangerous path and cross over the deep sea to carry out the business affairs."

"And after such a man has obtained much wealth and benefits, he becomes proud, arrogant and stubborn. He practices all evil deeds such as playing chess, gambling and dancing. He will make friends with the evil men, and spend his money on prostitutes."

"As he does not follow the order of the King, neither does he listen to the teaching and advice of his parents, he will lose his life finally for spending too much time in drinking and seeking the companionship of beautiful women."

"Or at times, he may be lucky enough to stay alive with a little more treasure and wealth. But because of drinking, his mind gets confused, and so he is unable to differentiate the safety of the roads. Finally he will enter the dangerous path, and be robbed by evil robbers. He will then be killed."

"But if he is able to write down this Sutra, to widely bring forth the deep vows, then wherever he dwells, the evil robbers will not come forth. All evil animals will be unable to harm him. His mind is blissful and so the body is naturally calm at ease. His wealth and jewels will always be with him. With the strength of the Sutra and Mantra, he will obtain a long life span."

"Moreover, Manjushri! After my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, there are living beings who have created bad karma and fallen into the hells, they will be born as animals."

"Even if such a man is able to obtain a human form, his six roots will be incomplete. Maybe he is born deaf, blind, dumb and mute. The shape of the body hunch-backed, deformed, with abnormal curvature of the spine. Or at times such a person is born as a woman who is illiterate and unable to read the Sutras. Even if he is born as a man, he will be deluded, stupid and dull in nature because of

the evil karma from past lives. He will not be able to read and recite The Sutra of Longevity."

"As he is always worried, and experiences all kinds of sufferings and anger, his mind is never at ease and so he will die at a young age."

"But if he is able to invite the Good Knowing Adviser to write the Sutra for him, in order to give to others, besides making obeisance respectfully and wholeheartedly to the Sutra, with the innumerable merits and virtues thus accumulated, he will never have to undergo such evil retribution. Presently he will obtain a long life span."

"Moreover, Manjushri! After my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, if there is a living being who after his death, his relatives are able to practice good deeds on his behalf so as to create merits and virtues for him within the first seven days or forty-nine days, if the merits and virtues were to be divided into seven portions, the dead one can only obtain the benefit of one portion."

"On the contrary, within forty-nine days, if a man who during his present life span is able to stop all household and worldly activities to write this Sutra, to offer incense and flowers to it and to make obeisance to The Buddha. He also specially prepares seven times of Vegetarian Food as Dana to offer to the Sangha, in order to cultivate offering widely. The merits and virtues thus accumulated will be as many as there are sands in the Ganges River."

"By doing so, such a man will obtain a long life span presently. He will never fall into the three evil paths to there undergo acute sufferings. If he has already passed away, his next of kin can then use his wealth and property to practice giving widely, to relieve the poor and make offering to the virtuous ones in the ten directions. If they can cultivate such blessings and virtues for him, the dead one will obtain all the seven portion of merits and virtues."

"Moreover, Manjushri! After my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, if there are those living beings who are not filial to their parents, who are unkind and with no compassion. Instead, they create the five unwholesome deeds. Besides, they are not grateful to their parents, neither do they show any love towards their brothers and sisters."

"But the Heavenly King Who Practices The Path still goes around all worlds under the Heavens, playing all kinds of music. He also sends His retinue of relatives to Jambudvipa during the Vegetarian Diet Months, so as to bring benefit to all living beings. If a man is involved in accidents or falls sick seriously,

The Heavenly King Who Practices The Path will still help him to get rid of the evil ghosts. Then he will recover from sickness."

"But, if the living beings are not filial to their parents, are full of jealousy and create evil deeds, they will fall sick for encountering the Ghost King Who Disperses Diseases. The Ghost King will blow the foul air at them. They will then be infected with diseases of plague, or feel cold and hot alternately. They will be weak because of Malaria, or get confused when evil ghosts control them. Or the whole body is infected with ringworm and other chronic diseases."

"But if such a man is able to purify his body and mind, burn incense and shower flowers before writing down this Sutra, on the first day of the first Lunar month, or make obeisance to The Buddha and offer Dana to the Sangha besides upholding the precepts and observing the vegetarian diet before reciting this Sutra for seven days, then, he will never fall sick forever because of the good merits and virtues. He will gain longevity."

"Moreover, Manjushri! After my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, the root of living beings has gradually deteriorated and the blessing is getting less. At the end of the kalpa, there will appear in the sky the seven suns, which shine at the same time. Even if there are not as many as seven, but due to the King who is lack of virtue, the land will face drought, with the air resembles that of burning fire."

"All the grass, herbs, wood and forests, the hundreds kinds of grains and sugar cane, the rice, hemp, flowers, fruits and others on the earth will wither and die."

"But if the King and all living beings are able to read and recite, accept and uphold this Sutra, the Dragon King Nanda, Prananda and others will show pity on living beings. They will lift the water from great seas to moisturize all woodland, forests, grains, herbs, flowers, fruits, sugar cane and others. The rain like sweet dew will moisturize all beings. Everyone will gain longevity because of the strength of the Sutra and Mantra."

"Moreover, Manjushri! After my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, if there are living beings who without righteousness are greedy for wealth while carrying out business affairs. They cheat the customers by adjusting the weighing machines and giving wrong measurements. Such sinful karma will bring them down to Hells after death."

"After the retribution in the Hells, they will be born as animals like cows, horses, goats, donkeys, pigs, elephants, birds and other wild lives, worms, mosquitoes, ants and other insects."

"If there is a great Bodhisattva who is replete with kindness and compassion, who recites this Sutra repeatedly before all animals, birds, wild lives, snakes, worms, rats, ant and others, so that they will hear this Sutra in their original consciousness, then these beings will each attain liberation from their group and kinds with the strength of Sutra and Mantra."

"These animals and minute beings will leave their present life forms and be born in the Heavens to enjoy bliss. But is there is a Bodhisattva who is not replete with kindness and compassion, who does not have pity on living beings, and is unable to widely proclaim this Sutra, then he is not the disciple of The Buddha. He belongs to the retinue of Mara."

"Moreover, Manjushri! After my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, if there are living beings who are arrogant, and have no faith in the Sutra of Buddha Dharma, besides they slander my Dharma."

"Or when there is a man who speaks The Buddha Dharma, but the audience is not attentive, then with the above offences, they will obtain a short life span. After passing away, they will be born in the Hells."

"If there is a Way-Place which lectures in this Sutra of Longevity, and all living beings are able to go and listen to the Sutra, or exhort others to do so besides sharing the seats with them, such people are the great Dharma Protectors in Buddhism. They will obtain longevity, and never fall into the three Evil Paths. If there is a man who wishes to speak this Sutra, then he can simply arrange a pure Way-Place in accordance to the size of the room."

"Moreover, Manjushri! After my extinction, in the Evil World of Five Turbidities, all those pregnant women who kill and devour the flesh of living beings or eat the eggs so as to strengthen their bodies, such a woman, who is lacking in kindness and compassion, will get the retribution of a short life span presently. She will face a difficult delivery and might even die from it."

"Even if she can deliver the child safely, he is indeed the creditor or enemy who comes to seek a repayment of debts. He can never be the good knowing adviser who is beneficial to the family."

"But if this woman is able to bring forth good vows besides writing down this Sutra, accept, uphold, read and recite it, then she will not have to face a difficult delivery. Safely she will deliver the child without any hindrance. Mother and child will both be blissful. She will get what she has vowed for, either a son or a daughter."

"Again, the Buddha spoke to Manjushri Bodhisattva, "This Sutra on Buddha's Nature of Longevity, The Extinction of Offences and The Twelve Conditioned Links of causation that I am now speaking was also spoken by all Past Buddhas. If living beings are able to accept, uphold, read and recite this Sutra, they will obtain great blessings and benefits. Their present life span will be more than one hundred and twenty years."

"When they are to pass away, torturing such as the cutting of bodies with the knives of wind will not be experienced by them. In fact they will be free from all sufferings. They will obtain The Buddha's Vajra, Permanent and Indestructible body for reading the Sutra of Buddha's Nature. Such a body is naturally clear and pure, with firm and solid mindfulness in every thought. Wherever they are, they will constantly be protected and illuminated by all Bodhisattvas."

"The Bodhisattva Who Contemplates The Sound of The World and The Great Strength Bodhisattva will come to welcome the man who is mindful of Buddha. They ride on white elephants with six tusks, and travel on clouds of five colours. They brought along a Lotus Flower dais to lead him to attain rebirth in the Non-Moving Buddha land. He will naturally be blissful and does not have to undergo eight sufferings."

"Manjushri, you should know that all deluded living beings do not realize that their life span with little blessing is as short as the sparks from rubbing stones or the lightning. Their life span also resembles the foam on the surface of water. So they are not frightened nor worried while soaking in the seas of birth and death."

"As these livings do not realize their danger, which resembles that of burning eye-brows, so they greedily indulge in the benefits of wealth, love and sensual desires. Or they consume so much wine that their life span is at stake. There are also those who are jealous, deluded and arrogant. Most of them will sink in the seas of suffering with no chance for liberation."

"Only the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas are able to cross over the seas of birth and death. The common sentient beings are sure to sink into them. The ghastly ghost of Impermanence comes at unpredictable times. Even if we wish to bribe him with innumerable and limitless amount of gold, silver, money and precious jewels and seek to lengthen our life, it will still be in vain."

"All living beings should know and contemplate constantly that the body is just like the four great poisonous snakes with innumerable worms that feed on it throughout the days and nights. They should contemplate that the body is full of evil. It is like a dead dog, which is not to be desired. And the body is impure, with the nine apertures that produce the smelly dirt, wax and sweat constantly."

And it is also like a city's pond which becomes the dwelling place for Raksas Ghosts."

"Living beings should also contemplate that the body is like the morning dew which cannot dwell long. It will be eaten by birds and hungry dogs, so we should renounce the foul and smelly body to seek the mind of enlightenment. We should contemplate the time of death, when a man suffers acute pain just as though millions of arrows are penetrating his heart, with the two empty hands open widely."

"When the root of life is completely cut off, the body swells and is covered with greenish bruises, within the first five days. Blood, pus and foul liquid will ooze out. Even our beloved parents, wives and sons will not desire to take a look at it."

"Even if it is buried in the earth, the flesh and bones will all be separated. The bones of the skeleton such as the tibia, scapula, ribs, spine and others will be at different positions. The flesh, intestines, stomach, liver, kidney, lung, heart and others will all be the feeding place of abundant worms and bacteria."

"If we are able to contemplate thus, then we will realize that there is no one who is really in existence. Then, even if we were to be born in the world, all the gold, silver, pearls, carnelian, money and the treasury are none of our business. Then such a man will know how to renounce the foul, smelly body in search of Bodhisattva Path."

"If there are living beings who seek to escape from these sufferings, then they should sacrifice all exterior possessions, even to the point of sacrificing their heads, eyes, brains and marrow, in order to write down this sutra besides accepting, upholding, reading and reciting it."

"This Sutra on The Buddha's Nature of Twelve Conditioned Links of Causation is the secret store of all Buddhas. If a man is able to make offering to it, circulate it and be mindful of it wholeheartedly, then he will be certified to The Unsurpassed Proper, Equal and Perfect Enlightenment. He will not die at a young age, neither will he suffer death accidentally."

After The Buddha had spoken the Dharma of Buddha's nature of Twelve Conditioned Links of Causation in the Great Assembly, all The Bhikshus, Bhiksunis, Upasaka, Upasika, Heavenly Dragons and Eight-Fold Division, the Humans and Non-Humans and others, The King Prasenajit and His Retinue of relatives, and other beings as many as the sands in the Ganges River, all obtained The Unsurpassed, Proper, Equal and Perfect Enlightenment. They were certified to The Dharma Patient of No-Birth.

They praised this blissful Dharma, which was unprecedented. The multitude made obeisance wholeheartedly before The Buddha, accepted and upheld it joyfully.



The Dharma Protector Bodhisattva



Transference of Merit

*May the Merits and Virtues accrued from
this work,
Adorn the Buddhas' Pure Lands,
Repaying the Four Kinds of Kindness
above,
And aiding those suffering in the paths
below.*

*May those who see and hear of this,
All bring forth the resolve of Bodhi,
And when this retribution body is over,
Be born together in Ultimate Bliss.*

