

For only in millions and millions of myriads of eons,
Inconceivable in number,
Can one get to hear
The Lotus Sutra.
And only in millions and millions of myriads of eons,
Inconceivable in number,
Do the Buddha's, World Honored Ones,
Happen to speak this Sutra.
Therefore, the practitioner
After the Buddha's passing,
On hearing this Sutra,
Should not give rise to doubts
But should, with a single mind,
Extensively proclaim this Sutra,
So that life after life he may meet the Buddha's
And quickly realize the Buddha Way.



Lotus Sutra Chapter 20 Bodhisattva Never Disparaging

In the past there was a Buddha
By the name of King of Awesome Sound.
With limitless spiritual powers and wisdom,
He guided all living beings.
Gods, humans, dragons, and spirits
Made offerings to him.
After this Buddha's passing into stillness,
When the Dharma was about to become extinct,
There was a Bodhisattva
By the name of Never-Disparaging.
At that time the four assemblies
 were attached to the Dharma.
The Bodhisattva Never-Disparaging
Would approach them
And say to them,
"I will not disparage you,
For you are practicing the Way
And shall become Buddha's."
Hearing that, they disparaged him,
Slandered and reviled him,
And Never-Disparaging Bodhisattva endured it all.
When his punishment was finished,
At the end of his life,
He got to hear this Sutra,
And his six sense faculties were purified.
By the power of spiritual penetrations,
His life span was increased,
And for the sake of others,
He vastly spoke this Sutra.

The multitudes who were attached to Dharma
All received this Bodhisattva's
Teaching and successfully
Were led to dwell in the Buddha Way.
When Never-Disparaging's life ended,
He met with countless Buddha's,
And because he spoke this Sutra,
He obtained limitless blessings.
Gradually perfecting his merit and virtue,
He quickly realized the Buddha Way.
At that time Never-Disparaging
Was indeed myself!
At that time the four assemblies
Were attached to the Dharma.
Hearing Never-Disparaging's words,
"You shall become Buddha's,"
By means of those causes and conditions
Were countless Buddha's encountered.
The multitude of five hundred
Bodhisattvas in this assembly
And the men and women of pure faith
Within the four assemblies
Are now in front of me,
Listening to the Dharma.
In former lives
I exhorted these people
To listen to and receive this Sutra,
Which is the foremost Dharma.
I instructed them
And led them to dwell in Nirvana,
And life after life, to receive and uphold
A Sutra such as this.