

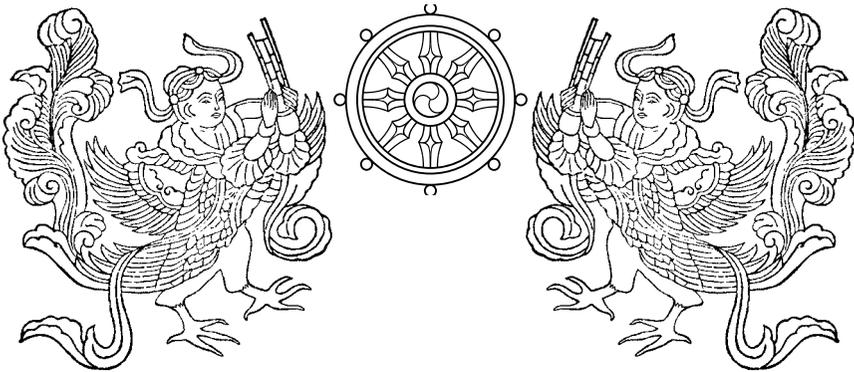
# THE FLOWER ADORNMENT SUTRA

*The Great Expansive  
Buddha's Flower Adornment Sutra*

An Annotated English Translation

WITH A COMMENTARIAL SYNOPSIS  
OF THE FLOWER ADORNMENT SUTRA

## VOLUME TWO



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rendered from Tripitaka Master Śikṣānanda's circa 699 CE Sanskrit-to-Chinese

80-fascicle translation as *Da Fangguang Fo Huayan Jing* (大方廣佛華嚴經 / Taisho

Vol. 10, no. 279). It consists of 39 chapters that introduce an interpenetrating,

infinitely expansive, and majestically grand multiverse of countless buddha

worlds while explaining in great detail the cultivation of the bodhisattva path

to buddhahood, most notably the ten highest levels of bodhisattva practice

known as 'the ten bodhisattva grounds.' To date, this is the first and only

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## CHAPTER 31

### Life Spans<sup>323</sup>

At that time, Mind King Bodhisattva-mahāsattva told the bodhisattvas in that congregation:

Sons of the Buddha, a single kalpa in Śākyamuni Buddha's buddha *kṣetra* equals a single day and a single night in Amitābha Buddha's buddha *kṣetra* known as the World of Ultimate Bliss.

A single kalpa in the World of Ultimate Bliss equals a single day and a single night in Vajra Solidity Buddha's<sup>324</sup> buddha *kṣetra* known as Kaṣāya Banner World.

A single kalpa in the Kaṣāya Banner World equals a single day and a single night in Lotus Blooming in Excellent Light Buddha's<sup>325</sup> buddha *kṣetra* known as Voice of the Irreversible Wheel.<sup>326</sup>

A single kalpa in the Voice of the Irreversible Wheel World equals a single day and a single night in Dharma Banner Buddha's<sup>327</sup> buddha *kṣetra* known as the Stainlessness World.

A single kalpa in the Stainlessness World equals a single day and a single night in Lion Buddha's<sup>328</sup> buddha *kṣetra* known as the Lamp of Goodness World.

A single kalpa in the Lamp of Goodness World equals a single day and a single night in Light Treasury Buddha's buddha *kṣetra* known as the Sublime Light World.

A single kalpa in the Sublime Light World equals a single day and a single night in Lotus Blooming in Dharma Light Buddha's buddha *kṣetra* known as the Unsurpassable World.

A single kalpa in the Unsurpassable World equals a single day and a single night in Light of All Superknowledges Buddha's buddha *kṣetra* known as the Wisdom Adornment World.

A single kalpa in the Wisdom Adornment World equals a single day and a single night in Lunar Intelligence Buddha's<sup>329</sup> buddha *kṣetra* known as the Mirror Light World.

Sons of the Buddha, following an orderly sequence such as this on through beyond a hundred myriads of *asaṃkhyeyas* of worlds, a kalpa in the very last of those worlds is equal to a day and a night in Worthy Supremacy Buddha's buddha *kṣetra* known as the Supreme Lotus World. It is completely filled with bodhisattvas such

as Samantabhadra Bodhisattva and other such bodhisattvas who cultivate the same practices.

**The End of Chapter Thirty-One**

323. HH points out in his HYQS: “This chapter compares the length of the life spans of those buddha *kṣetras*. Hence it is referred to as the ‘Life Spans’ chapter.” (這一品, 是比較那個佛刹的壽量長, 故名壽量品。)
324. Per the surviving Sanskrit text of this chapter found in “Bhikṣuṇī Vinītā, A Unique Collection of Twenty Sūtras in Sanskrit Manuscript from the Potala,” Volume I, 2, the Sanskrit for this Buddha’s name is Vajra-sāra.
325. Although the above-mentioned Sanskrit text has the name of this buddha as Suniścita-padma-phullita-gātra, the anonymous BDK in-house manuscript reviewer is of the opinion that it should instead be \*Sunīscarita-prabhā-phullita-gātra.
326. Per the same Sanskrit text, the Sanskrit for the buddha *kṣetra* known as “Voice of the Irreversible Wheel” (不退轉音聲輪) is *avaivartika-cakra-nirghoṣā*.
327. “Dharma Banner” Buddha (法幢佛) = *dharma-dhvaṇa*.
328. “Lion” Buddha (師子佛) = *Siṃha*.
329. “Lunar Intelligence Buddha” (月智佛) = *Candra-buddhi*.
330. As is clear from referencing the extant Sanskrit of Chapter 39, *zizai* (自在) is often used in SA’s translation to translate not only the usual *vaśī* or *vaśītā*, “mastery” or “sovereign masteries” but also *adhipateya*, “dominance,” or, as is likely in this case, *vikurvita*, “magic” or “feats of spiritual power.” My support for this is the BB translation’s rendering of this line as “the buddhas’ sovereign mastery of the spiritual powers is inconceivable.” (諸佛神力自在不可思議。 / T09n0278\_p0590b18)
331. Both QL and HH interpret these “three kinds of sovereign mastery” (三種自在) as referring to sovereign mastery in the three types of karmic actions (physical, verbal, mental).
332. HH says this refers to “in a single mind-moment, manifesting the Dharma body of all buddhas of the past, the present, and the future.” (在一念中, 現出過去、現在、未來三世諸佛的法身。 / HYQS)
333. HH notes that “Dharma position” corresponds to realization of the unproduced-dharmas patience (*anutpattika-dharma-kṣānti*).
334. Number six in this list was left out in this SA translation. It is however included in the BB translation: “一切諸佛。常度一切眾生。” (BB = T09n0278\_p0592b10). Hence its inclusion in brackets here as a suggested emendation.
335. What I translate here as “syllables” (味身), per BCSD, p. 250, is *vyāñjana-kāya*. Perhaps this is referring to esoteric issues related to either mantras or *sandhi*.