

Seeking Rebirth to Maitreya's Pure Land Is Much Harder

Some fellow practitioners discussed with me and said that they do not want to practice the Amitabha Pure Land Method, they want to practice the Maitreya Pure Land Method to seek rebirth into the Inner Court of Tusita Heaven. They want to go to the place where Maitreya Bodhisattva resides. Because Maitreya Bodhisattva is going to be the next Buddha in our world, everyone will attain enlightenment under his Three Dharma Assemblies of Long Hua. Just like Shakyamuni Buddha 3,000 years ago, many disciples followed Shakyamuni Buddha to the Saha World and also attained enlightenment.

This vow is also very good, but our Shifu said, "His achievement will not be as good as that of a Sukhāvātī rebirth." What are the reasons? First, once you arrive in Sukhāvātī, you attain the position of avaivartika bodhisattva right away. After you become an avaivartika bodhisattva, you can go wherever you want to go. Moreover, Maitreya Bodhisattva is also in Sukhāvātī. According to *Chapter on the Practices and Vows of Bodhisattva Samantabhadra*, "Once you arrive in Sukhāvātī, you will instantly see Mahasattva Avalokiteśvara, Mahāsthāmaprāpta, Mañjuśrī, Samantabhadra, and Maitreya."

When you see Maitreya Bodhisattva, you will certainly say, "Dharma-brother!" You call Maitreya Bodhisattva Dharma-brother. Why? Because we all learn from Amitabha. He came earlier, he is our senior Dharma-brother. We came later, we are his junior Dharma-brother. "Senior Dharma-brother, please take me to visit your Inner Court, okay?" The great Senior Dharma-brother Maitreya will certainly say, "Okay, that is great." He will take your hand and bring you to his Inner Court.

Once you get to Maitreya's Inner Court, your identity will be different. You are the junior Dharma-brother of Maitreya Bodhisattva, while the students of Maitreya Bodhisattva are your younger generation. You go there and say to them, "Look! I went to Sukhāvātī, now I come here." If you seek rebirth in Maitreya's Inner Court now, you could only be a younger generation at that time. This sounds like a joke, but it is indeed very true. If you want to see Maitreya Bodhisattva, the best way is to go to Sukhāvātī first. Even though Sukhāvātī is farther with the distance of ten trillion Buddha lands from us and Maitreya's Inner Court is closer, the Inner Court of Maitreya is difficult to reach. You must achieve the Samadhi of Mind-Consciousness. That samadhi is very difficult to attain.

In the past, there was Bodhisattva Buddhasiṃha, an Indian. He sought rebirth into Maitreya's Inner Court. Before entering the Inner Court, he became obsessed with celestial women at the Outer Court; he did not make it to the Inner Court. The enjoyment of five desires and six dusts in the celestial realm is incredible. The celestial women are way more beautiful than the most beautiful women in our world. It is hard to pass up. Just like an old saying goes, "Heroes often fall for beauty." So, it is very dangerous, not easy. One will be impeded if he does not have sufficient samadhi. But you will not be obsessed by temptation when you go to any place with your future-return-vow to help all beings once you have arrived in Sukhavati.

Maitreya Bodhisattva Will Also Speak *The Infinite Life Sutra*

In addition, even if you follow Maitreya Bodhisattva in the future, which means that you really make it to Maitreya's Inner Court and follow Maitreya Bodhisattva back to the Saha World, there will be only the Three Dharma Assemblies of Long Hua because Maitreya will only give three preachings. Maitreya Bodhisattva has great fortune and all beings will also have good spiritual capacity, so he will not have the need to speak for a long time. It is not like Shakyamuni Buddha who preached for forty nine years with over 300 assemblies.

Maitreya Bodhisattva will complete his mission in three assemblies, liberating all beings who are supposed to be liberated. Now it raises the question, what will he speak during the Three Dharma Assemblies of Long Hua? To make all beings attain Buddhahood in three assemblies, what sutra is the best to speak? Let me tell you, it is *The Infinite Life Sutra*. I am not pulling this out of thin air. There is a text as proof.

In the Vow of "Praises from All Buddhas," it mentions that Buddhas in ten directions will all proclaim *The Infinite Life Sutra*. So, how could Maitreya Bodhisattva be an exception? He becomes a Buddha, can he not proclaim *The Infinite Life Sutra*? If he does not proclaim *The Infinite Life Sutra*, Amitabha "will not procure Anuttara Samyak Sambodhi." Amitabha had already attained Anuttara Samyak Sambodhi, Maitreya Bodhisattva will thus definitely proclaim *The Infinite Life Sutra*.

Furthermore, near the end of this sutra, Maitreya Bodhisattva is the main character. The first half of this sutra, Ananda is the main character; while in the second half, Maitreya Bodhisattva is the main character. A main character acts as a representative, which symbolizes that he has a mission. What mission is it? To propagate this sutra in the future, this is his mission. Therefore, the Buddha entrusted *The Infinite Life Sutra* to Maitreya Bodhisattva. The intention is very obvious; in the future when you become a Buddha, you must pass down this mantle. You must continue to pass down this Dharma! That's why we are very sure that Maitreya Bodhisattva will proclaim *The Infinite Life Sutra*.

Then, why do you need to wait 5.67 billion years to listen to *The Infinite Life Sutra* in Maitreya Bodhisattva's Three Assemblies of Long Hua? If you listen and really understand *The Infinite Life Sutra* now, you can be reborn first. If you attain rebirth in this life, those listening to Maitreya Bodhisattva speaking *The Infinite Life Sutra* 5.67 billion years later, their rebirth will be much, much later than yours. At that time you would be top rank, a distinguished guest of Sukhāvati; while they would have just arrived, right? If you are clear about all these issues, you will wholeheartedly seek rebirth. Do not have the slightest doubt!

What Sutra Will You Speak after You Attain Buddhahood

After being reborn into Sukhāvātī and attaining the position of Buddha-successor of a Virtually Enlightened Bodhisattva, you would be able to manifest as a Buddha wherever all beings in ten directions have affinity with you. Allow me to ask, what sutra would you expound when you manifest as a Buddha? You would still expound *The Infinite Life Sutra*. Expounding *The Infinite Life Sutra* will result in the most blessings from Amitabha's Fundamental Vows, which is this 17th Vow, Praises from All Buddhas.

When you become a Buddha, you also speak and laud *The Infinite Life Sutra* and urge all beings in your land to seek Sukhāvātī rebirth to attain Buddhahood. After totally understanding these truths, I have decided to only expound *The Infinite Life Sutra* from now on and no longer speak other sutras. Because elaborating *The Infinite Life Sutra* attains the most of Amitabha's blessings, it truly makes you feel quite eloquent without any hindrance.

Even though I am not eloquent, I feel people who listen to my lectures love my speech of *The Infinite Life Sutra* the most. Every time I speak *The Infinite Life Sutra*, I always see Dharma-joy in everyone's faces. I am also affected and full of Dharma-joy. Why is this? It is due to truly attaining the blessings of Amitabha's Fundamental Vows by expounding this sutra. The moment of preaching is the moment that Buddha's light shines on us and eliminates our karma. After seven days, when you finish listening to the Forty Eight Great Vows of *The Infinite Life Sutra*, you may discover that your chronic illness of decades has disappeared.

"How come I feel particularly comfortable, and even the weather appears especially bright and clear!" Why? Let me tell you, it is the result of blessings from Amitabha's light and the merits of His Fundamental Vows. This is truly the case. So, for world-protection and disaster-elimination, what sutra is the best? *The Infinite Life Sutra* is the best.

Thanks for learning with us! Namo Amitabha!