

妙法蓮華經淺釋

The Dharma Flower Sutra with Commentary

【觀世音菩薩普門品第二十五】

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE:

THE UNIVERSAL DOOR OF GUANYIN BODHISATTVA

修訂版 Revised version



宣化上人講解

國際譯經學院記錄翻譯

Commentary by the Venerable Master Hua

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應以毘沙門身得度者，即現毘沙門身而為說法。毘沙門，是四大天王之中的北方天王。這四大部洲，有四大天王——東天王、南天王、北天王、西天王。毘沙門，就是北方天王的的名字。應該以毘沙門身得到佛法來度化的，觀世音菩薩就現出北方天王的身，來給他說法。

應以小王身得度者，即現小王身而為說法。什麼叫小王？小王就是管理一個國家的王，僅僅在一國稱王。應該以小王身得度的，觀世音菩薩就現一個小國王的身，來給他說法。

應以長者身得度者，即現長者身而為說法。怎麼叫「長者」呢？在講《楞嚴經》的時候有提到，他的姓也貴、年也高，又有道德，又有名望，上邊的人也歡喜他，下邊人也恭敬他，所以這叫「長者」。有道德的也可以做長者，有智慧的也可以做長者，或者富貴的，有種種的德行，就是所謂的「大富長者」，好像《金剛經》上所講的那位「須達多長者」。這種的長者，居心很平等的，他對一切人都一視同仁，歡喜幫助所有人，所以大家都認為他是一位長者。如果有應該以長者身得度這種的人、這種的機緣，觀世音菩薩也就現一位大富長者、大丈夫的身，來給他說法。

待續

To those who can be saved by Vaiśravaṇa, she appears as Vaiśravaṇa and teaches them the Dharma.

Vaiśravaṇa is one of the four heavenly kings. Each of these four kings rules over one continent in one direction: the north, south, east, and west each has a heavenly king. Vaiśravaṇa rules over the northern great continent of Uttarakuru, and his name means “erudition.” Guanyin Bodhisattva appears as Vaiśravaṇa and teaches the Buddhadharma to beings who are receptive to being taught by him.

To those who can be saved by a minor king, she appears as a minor king and teaches them the Dharma. A minor king rules over only one country.

To those who can be saved by an elder, she appears as an elder and teaches them the Dharma. The word “elder” is explained in the *Sūtraṅgama Sūtra*. Who can be called an “elder”? Elders have good reputations, respectable names, and are usually advanced in years. They have virtue and renown. Their superiors like them and their subordinates respect them. Elders don't have to be old; however, they're usually wealthy and honored and have virtue and wisdom, like Elder Sudatta in the *Vajra Sūtra*. Elders are very fair-minded and treat everyone with equal kindness. They like to help people. Because they like to help people, they become known as elders. If someone is to be saved by the body of an elder, Guanyin Bodhisattva will appear as a great wealthy elder and teach the Dharma for that person.

To be continued