

33. Chapter 33

STHAVARA

33. 1 Then Sudhana, the head merchant's son, eventually reached the goddess of the earth, Sthavara, in the land of Magadha's bodhimanda. When he arrived there, one million earth goddesses proclaimed to one another, "Someone who will be a refuge for all beings is coming here! Someone who has the essence of the Tathagatas and who will break open the enclosing egg of ignorance of all beings is coming here! Someone who is in the family of the kings of Dharma and will attain the state of an unimpeded, stainless king of the Dharma is coming here! Someone who is a hero with the thunderbolt weapon that has the great power of wisdom and who will subdue the circle of opponents is coming here!?"

33. 2 At that moment, Sthavara and the other one million earth goddesses shook the great earth, caused a loud sound like deep thunder, and illuminated the world realm of a billion worlds with a vast light. Their bodies were adorned by all adornments and precious jewelry. They shone and moved in the sky like a mass of streaks of lightning.

33. 3 They rose up out of the ground, causing the seedlings of all trees to sprout; causing all flowering trees to blossom; causing all rivers to flow; causing lakes, ponds, and reservoirs to rise; causing a great rain of scented water to fall; causing a great wind that scattered a cloud of flowers to blow; causing a quintillion musical instruments to sound; [F.78.a] causing a multitude of divine aerial palaces and ornaments to spread; causing the lords of cows, bulls, elephants, tigers, and deer to make their cries; causing the leaders of devas, asuras, Nagas, and bhutas to roar; causing the great lords of mountains to clash together; and causing trillions of masses of

treasures to emerge.1280

33. 4 Then the earth goddess Sthavara said to Sudhana, the head merchant's son, "Noble one, it is excellent that you have come here. This area is where in the past you dwelled and generated roots of merit, where I am the1281 witness for that. Do you wish to see just a fraction of their ripening?"

33. 5 Sudhana, the head merchant's son, bowed his head to the feet of the earth goddess Sthavara. He circumambulated the earth goddess Sthavara many hundreds of thousands of times, keeping her to his right. Then he stood before her and, with his hands placed together in homage, said, "Arya, I do wish it!"

33. 6 Then the earth goddess Sthavara stamped on the ground with the sole of her foot and revealed an array of countless millions of millions of precious treasures and said, "Noble one, these millions of millions of precious treasures follow you. They go before you. You can use them as you like. They come from the ripening of your merit. They are protected by the power of your merit. You can take from among them whatever you need.

33. 7 "Noble one, moreover, I have attained the Bodhisattva liberation called the essence of invincible wisdom. [F.78.b] Through my possessing this Bodhisattva liberation, since the time of the Tathagata Dipankara I have constantly followed Bodhisattvas and always protected them. Since that time, noble one, I have practiced the mental conduct of the Bodhisattvas, been immersed within the scope of wisdom, entered the domain of prayer, realized pure Bodhisattva conduct, followed the ways of all samadhis, permeated the vast motivations and higher cognitions of all Bodhisattvas, and realized, possessed, and acquired mastery of the powers of all Bodhisattvas, the pervasion of the network of all realms, the acquisition of prophecies from all

the Tathagatas, the sight at all times of the attainment of buddhahood, all the ways of turning the wheel of the Dharma, all the ways of the clouds of Dharma that elucidate the sutras, the way of illumination by the great radiance of the Dharma, the way of completely ripening all beings, and the way of the display of all the miraculous manifestations of the Budas.

33. 8 ?Noble one, I received this Bodhisattva liberation, the essence of invincible wisdom, far beyond and even more beyond as many past kalpas as there are atoms in Sumeru, during a kalpa called Avabhasa vyuha, in a world realm called Candra dhvaja, from the Tathagata Sunetra. [F.79.a]

33. 9 ?Noble one, in that way, until this Bhadra kalpa, while cultivating, practicing, increasing, and augmenting this Bodhisattva liberation called the essence of invincible wisdom, I have never been deprived of the sight of the Tathagatas.1282

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33. 10 ?During that time, I have propitiated as many Tathagata arhat samyak-sambuddhas as there are atoms in an anabhilapyanabhilapya of Buda realms. I have seen the miraculous manifestation of all those Tathagatas going to the bodhimanda. I have witnessed the roots of merit of all those Tathagatas.

33. 11 ?Noble one, I know only the Bodhisattva liberation called the essence of invincible wisdom. How could I know the conduct or describe the qualities of Bodhisattvas who attend all Tathagatas, who follow the teaching of all Budas, who enter into the impenetrable wisdom of the Tathagatas, who have the power to pervade the entire realm of phenomena in one instant of mind, who have bodies that are the same as those of the Tathagatas, who have the essence of the stainless intention of all the Budas, who always realize all appearances of Budas, and who are emissaries inseparable from

the activity of the Buddhas?1284

33. 12 ?Depart, noble one. In this Jambudvīpa, in the land of Māgadha, in the city of Kāpilavastu, is the goddess of the night named Vāsanti. [F.79.b] Go to her and ask her, ?How should a Bodhisattva train in Bodhisattva conduct? How should a Bodhisattva practice it?? ?

33. 13 Then Sudhāna, the head merchant's son, bowed his head to the feet of the earth goddess Sthāvara, circumambulated the earth goddess Sthāvara many hundreds of thousands of times, keeping her to his right, and, looking back again and again, departed from the earth goddess Sthāvara.