

THE HEART SUTRA

Thus have I heard one time:

The Bhagavan was staying at the king's palace at Vulture peak together with a large gathering of monks and Bodhisattvas. At that time, the Bhagavan was sitting in the type of samadhi called "Deep Light", and at the same time, the great Bodhisattva Arya Avolokitesvara, and investigating the profound practise of the Wisdom that Goes Beyond, saw the five skandhas and their void nature. Then, through the inspiration of the Buddha, Shariputra spoke to the great Bodhisattva Arya Avolokitesvara, saying; "How should those nobly born ones who wish to practise the profound Wisdom that Goes Beyond, how should they study it?". And the great Bodhisattva Arya Avolokitesvara said: "Sharipu, those nobly born ones who wish to practise the profound Wisdom that Goes Beyond should investigate thusly: They should understand that the five skandhas by nature are perfectly void. Form is voidness and voidness is form. Form is none other than voidness, and voidness is none other than form. In the same way, feeling, discrimination, volition, and consciousness are all void. Sharipu, in this way, all phenomena are voidness; there are no catagories, no birth or cessation, no defilement or lacking of defilement, no decreasing or increasing. And accordingly, Sharipu, in voidness there is no form, no feeling, no discrimination, no volition, no consciousness, no eyes, no ears, no nose, no mouth, no body, no mind, no form, no sound, no smell, no taste, no sensation, no phenomena; no sense qualities, no quality of thought, no quality of mind consciousness; no ignorance or lacking of ignorance, no old age and death or lack of old age and death. Accordingly, there is no suffering, no cause of suffering, no end of suffering, and no path; no wisdom, no attainment and no non-attainment. Sharipu, in this way all the Bodhisattvas have no attainment. They depend only on the Wisdom that Goes Beyond and thus have no obscurity of mind and no fear. Having completely transcended wrong views, they are emancipated. By means of the Wisdom that Goes Beyond, all the Buddhas of the three times are entirely enlightened in the perfect, insurpassable Bodhi. Therefore the mantra of the Wisdom that Goes Beyond is a mantra of deep insight, an unsurpassed mantra, an unequalled mantra, a mantra which calms all suffering. It is no lie, it is the truth. The mantra of the Wisdom that Goes Beyond is thus:

OM GATE GATE PARA GATE PARA SAM GATE BODHI SVAHA

Sharipu, in this way all the great Bodhisattvas study the profound Wisdom that Goes Beyond. Then the Bhagavan arose from his samadhi and said to the great Bodhisattva Araya Avolokitesvara: "Well done, very well done, O nobly born one. It is like that, just like that. The profound Wisdom that Goes Beyond should be practised exactly as you have said, and all the Tathagathas will rejoice." When the Bhagavan spoke thusly, Shariputra and the great Bodhisattva Arya Avolokitesvara, and the whole surrounding assembly of gods, men, demi-gods, smell-eaters, and the whole world were very pleased and they praised the words of the Bhagavan.

That is the noble Heart Sutra.