

THE FLOWER GARLAND OF EXISTENCE

Verses Based on the *Avatamsaka Sutra*

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Part 1

The myriad aspects of existence are as clouds floating in the sky,
Or jeweled mirrors spread in wondrous arrays,
Each reflecting the Light of Buddha.

The realms within the Great Ocean manifest in infinite ways,
Varied appearances from varied roots,
Beauty filling the universe.

Some realms rest lightly in jewel trees,
Others waft on fragrant towers of flames;
Some drift on great bodies of water,
Some shine forth from the still Heart of the world.

Some realms rise and pass in a flash of lightning,
Some live ages in the Lotus Sea:
In all these transitory realms is to be found Great Compassion.

There are realms that sparkle like exquisite gems:
Numberless facets that radiate Light--
The wonderful Light of the Eternal, pure and undefiled.

Part 2

Like reflections, illusions, boundless and vast,
Like flames flaring up shot through with gold,
The realms of existence rise and pass
Within the stream of Goodness everlasting.

There are realms of merit, realms of the Heart, open and willing,
Realms sustained by generosity of spirit, generosity of thought,
Realms that show the True Mind of Buddha.

Part III

Some realms are tiny, some are vast,
Some dwell within great mandalas of realms.
Worlds and aspects of the mind take countless forms in countless realms--
Countless forms, countless worlds.

Within each atom of the cosmos lie hidden worlds,
All realms, all worlds, all minds:
All are contained within one great Undying Truth--
Unborn, Undying Love.

As the waves are to the sea,
So are all realms and worlds to the Eternal.

As waves on the ocean, as leaves on the wind,
As planets arcing through the night sky,
The realms of existence, majestic and lovely,
Move 'cross the face of Eternity.

Conclusion

The True Life of Buddha permeates the universe.
There is no place where It is not:
The pure of heart can recognize It in all realms and in all worlds;
Eyes of faith can see the One in all.