

The Fifth Paramita — Meditation (Dhyana)

【The Samadhi that Overpowers the Thunder】

The Buddha spent his entire life traveling to all the kingdoms and villages in India to spread his teachings. One day, as he was heading from Kusinagara to Pravari city, he rested and meditated under a tree by the side of the road. His presence was serene and his mind was calm just like clear, purified water with no residue.

A while later, a caravan of merchants consisting of 500 carts and horses passed by noisily and filled the air with dust. As the villagers looked out from their houses to watch this grand procession, they saw that the Buddha was sitting on the ground nearby, still and calm, unmoving.

Questioned by the curious villagers, the Buddha told them, “I had entered into a samadhi (meditative concentration) earlier. I did not sense any commotion nor notice any convoy of merchants passing; yet I was not asleep either, I was awake and my mind was fully aware.”

The villagers were amazed; they bowed to the Buddha and left filled with Dharma joy. An Arhat named Fugwei standing nearby, was also amazed and remained by the Buddha. The Buddha saw that Fugwei enjoyed learning, so he told him another story.

Long ago, the Buddha traveled to the village of Ayue, and was meditating in a hut. Suddenly, a bolt of lightening from the sky, accompanied by a deafening thunderclap, struck four cows and two brothers who were farmers.

All the villagers gathered together and talked about what just happened. At that time, the Buddha was exiting from samadhi and strolling mindfully in the garden. He asked, “Why are you people gathering here?”

The villagers responded with great surprise and asked how the Buddha could not have heard the thunder. The Buddha replied, “I was meditating in the hut”. All the village people were astonished by the Buddha’s extraordinary ability to cultivate this state of awareness, in which he was undisturbed by worldly surroundings.

After hearing the incredible power of samadhi, Fugwei was further filled with Dharma joy. He respectfully kneeled down and presented a precious yellow blanket to the Buddha.

