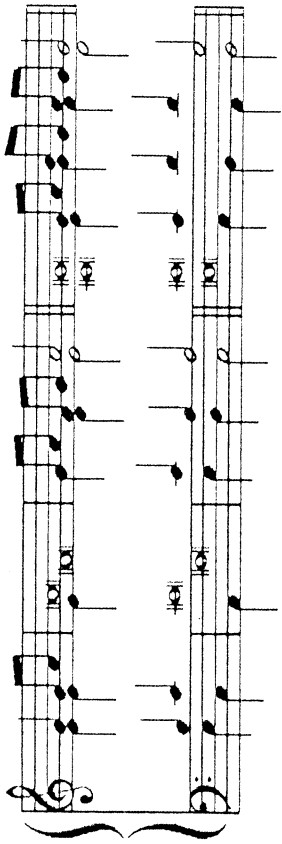


The Immeasurable Life of the Tathagata

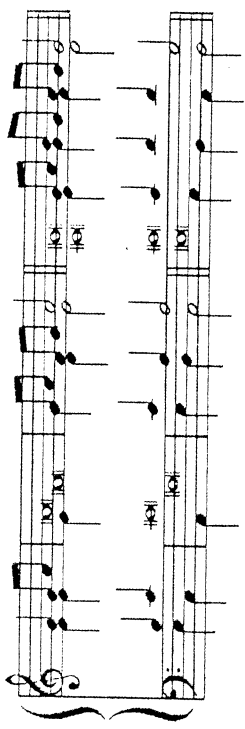


The World-honoured One, I then desiring to reiterate the Teaching's meaning, I spoke | thus in verse :

"Since I have realized Buddhahood, I the aeons through which I have passed are immeasurable hundreds of thousands of | millions of billions. ||
 Continuously have I voiced the Dharma, I teaching untold billions of beings how to turn their hearts around that they might enter the | Buddha's path; ;
 To ferry these sentient beings to the Other Shore I reveal to them, I by skilful means, I My parinirvana yet truly I am not extinct but always abiding here I giving | voice to the Dharma. ||

* I continue to abide in this world, I using my spiritual powers to make confused creatures not see Me, I though I am near, I so that they may look on Me as extinct and make offerings | to My relics; ;
 Cherishing longing desires I and giving rise to hearts | thirsting for hope. ||

When these | sentient beings in faith and humility, I honest and forthright in manner, I gentle in thought, I wholeheartedly yearn to see the Buddha, I not begrudging even | their own lives; ;



Then I, with all the Sangha, appear together on the Di|vine Vulture Peak. ||

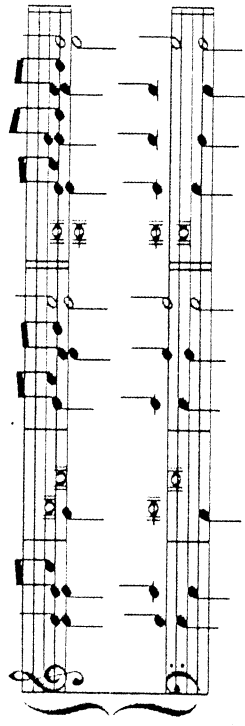
I then | tell these sentient beings that I continue to abide here with|out extinction; ;
 By the power of my skilful methods I show myself as extinct, | even though not extinct. ||

If in some | other region there are beings reverent and with | faith beseeching; ;
 Again I am in their midst to proclaim the unsurpassed Dharma, I though you who do not hear this will | say that I am extinct. ||

When I | behold sentient beings sunk in their suffering | and distress; ;
 I do not show myself but set them all to look up in their thirsting and, I when their hearts are filled with fervent longing, I then appear and pro|claim the Dharma. ||

Such are my | spiritually pervading powers that, I throughout the boundless aeons, I I abide on the Di|vine Vulture Peak ;
 As well as in every | other dwelling place. ||

When sen|tient beings see, I at kalpa's ending, I the raging fires con|suming all; ;
 Tranquil will this realm of Mine be, I ever filled with devas and humans in parks and groves, I amongst towers and palaces bedecked with | gems of every kind. ||



Under be jewelled trees, ' heavy with blossoms and
fruit, ' may these beings take their de|light and play, :
Whilst devas beat their heavenly drums, ' ever
making pleasing music, ' and showering down
coral tree flowers upon the Buddha and | His great
assembly. ||

My Pure | Land will not be destroyed, ' though sentient
beings may see it as utterly con|sumed by fire, :
Letting themselves be filled with grief and
horror, ' | distress and fear. ||

All these | besmirched creatures pass through countless
aeons, ' hearing not the name | of the Triple Trea-
sure :

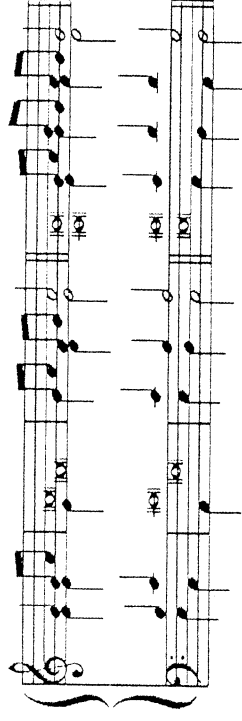
Due to | their wretched karma. ||
Those who | practise deeds of merit and are gentle,
hon|est and forthright, :

All see Me in body and hear Me | voice the Dharma. ||
At times | for the sake of that assembly I tell them that a

Buddha's | life is immeasurable, :
Then to those who, ' at long last, ' see a Buddha I say
that a | Buddha is rarely met. ||

Such is the | power of My wisdom and intelligence that
My light of insight shines forth | beyond measure, :
My life of countless aeons is due to the karma of
long | practice and training. ||

* You who | have intelligence and wit, ' do not let doubts
arise in | this regard, :



But sever them from yourself and bring them forever
to an end ' for the Buddha's Words are true, ' not
something that is | empty and vain. ||

Just as the | physician who would cure his demented
sons by clever and skilful methods ' proclaims his
own death whilst, in fact, he is alive, ' and none can
say he | willfully lies, :

I, too, ' being as a parent to this world, ' as one who
helps all those in misery and affliction ' because of
the topsy-turvy views of these ordinary people, ' I say
I am extinct, though | I am truly alive. ||

I do | this lest, by always seeing Me, they should beget
hearts unrestrained and | self-indulgent, :
Be dissolute and only fixed upon the five forms of
desire ' and thereby | fall into evil ways. ||

* I know | at all times whether a sentient being is treading
the Path or | walks in other ways :

And, ' according to what needs to be done to aid that
one, ' voice Teachings of various kinds, ' making
for each | this my intention, ||

'How may | I help this being enter the | unsurpassed
Way :

And quickly | realize Buddhahood?'''' ||