

The Scripture of Avalokiteshwara Bodhisattva

In verse, Mujinni Bodhisattva asked,
“World Honoured One, possessor of all grace,
What reason is there for the Buddha’s Son,
Great Kanzeon, to thus be so addressed?”
The Honoured One made answer too in verse,
“Just listen to the life of Kanzeon.
To calls from every quarter He responds;
Of oceanic depth His holy vows.
A myriad Buddhas has He truly served
For ages past beyond the thought of man
And made for aye great vows of purity.
When people hear His name, and see His form,
And think of Him not vainly in their hearts,
All forms of ill, in all the worlds, shall cease.
If, wishing harm, an enemy should try
To push another in a fiery pit,
The victim should, on Kanzeon’s great power,
Think, and straightway that fiery pit shall be
Transformed into a cool and silver lake.
If, drifting in the vast great ocean’s foam,
A man should be in danger of his life
From monstrous fish or evil beings, let
Him only think on Kanzeon’s great power,
At once the sea will all compassion be.
If, from the top of Sumeru, a man
Be hurled down by an enemy’s cruel hand,
Just let him think on Kanzeon’s great power
And, like the sun, he will remain aloft.
If, chased by wicked men, a man should fall
Upon a mountain, let him think again
Of Kanzeon’s power and no injury
Will e’en a single hair of him sustain.
If, ringed by enemies, a man should be
Threatened by them, all with their swords in hand,
Just let him think on Kanzeon’s great power,
Compassion then within their hearts will dwell.
When tyrants persecute a man and he
Stands at the place of execution let
Him only think on Kanzeon’s great power,
The executioner’s sword will broken be.
If, bound in chains, in prison, let a man
Just think on Kanzeon’s great holy power,

At once the shackles will then set him free.
When poisonous herbs, or magic, threaten harm,
The power of Kanzeon, if thought upon,
Will quickly send the curse back whence it came.
If poisonous creatures, evil ones, should come,
Upon great Kanzeon's power gently dwell,
Straightway those evil ones dispersed will be.
When snakes and scorpions attack a man,
Exhaling evil poisons, scorching him,
By dwelling on great Kanzeon's holy power
They will be turned away with shrieks of fear.
When lightning flashes and the thunder rolls,
When hailstones beat and rain in torrents pours,
The power of Kanzeon, if thought upon,
Will quickly clear the heavens of the storm.
If, struck by cruel disaster's evil hand
Or tortured by interminable pain,
A being flees to Kanzeon's gentle arms
He, being wise and full of mystic power,
Will save him from all worldly grief and care.
With all miraculous powers well endowed
And widely skilled in knowledge of all things,
In all the world, in all the quarters, there
Is not a place where Kanzeon does not go.
Hells, evil spirits, beastly creatures, all
The evil ways of living, all the pain
That comes from birth, old age, disease and death
Will, for eternity, all pass away.
Great Kanzeon views all the world in Truth,
Free from defilement, loving, knowing all,
Full of compassion; He must always be
Prayed to, adored for all eternity.
He is a Light pure, spotless, like the sun,
With wisdom does He darkness all dispel,
Subverting all effects of wind and fire;
His all-illuming light fills all the world.
As thunder shakes the universe does He
Control His loving body and His thought
Of great compassion, like a cloud from which
A rain of Dharma comes, as nectar, down,
Destroys the flames of evil passions all.
When, threatened by court judgments or, in camp,
The military should a man oppress,

Let him but think on Kanzeon's great power
And all his enemies will be dispersed.
He is a most exquisite Voice, a Voice
That all the world encompasses; the Voice
Of Brahma, Voice of oceans—One that all
The voices of the world does much excel,
Because of this our thought must always dwell
Upon Him. Let us never cherish thoughts
Of doubt about great Kanzeon Who is
All pure and holy and a refuge true,
Protecting in all grief, in trouble, death,
Disaster. He possesses merit all,
Regards all things with a compassionate eye
And, like the ocean, holds within Himself
A mass of virtues inestimable,
For this He must for ever be adored.”
Then rose up from his seat Jiji Bosatsu
To stand before the Buddha, saying thus,
“World Honoured One, they, who this Scripture hear
Of Kanzeon Bosatsu, must indeed
No small amount of merit gain for here
His life of perfect action is described.
This is the life of One Who, all endowed
With powers all miraculous, appears
In all directions.” When the Buddha thus
Finished the recitation in the hall
Of this great Scripture which makes clearly plain
The life and work of the All-Sided One,
All people present then, a great concourse,
In number four and eighty thousand strong,
With all their hearts cherished a longing deep
For the Supreme Enlightenment with which
Nothing in all the universe compares.