

Phil Treloar *Feeling to Thought*

Sudhana Cycle No. 33

PRAMUDITANAYANAĀGADVIROCANA

~ Joyful Eyes Illuminating the World ~

for Double Septet & Trio

You enter the way to the powers of buddhas
In every moment of thought:
Striving to save all beings,
You show them incarnations like themselves.

Sudhana: gātā in praise of
Pramuditānayanāgadvīrocana

Already some considerable distance travelled on his journey towards ultimate truth, Sudhana encountered a succession of ten Night Goddesses. The third of these, and the thirty-third spiritual benefactor he meets, is *Pramuditānayanāgadvīrocana*.

He learned from her the inexhaustibility of tolerance and the practice of forbearance. He saw in her the sun of wisdom dispelling the darkness of ignorance and the omniscient knowledge of enlightened beings. He saw emanating from her the boundless energy needed to work for enlightenment without being disturbed or deflected; producing joy; showing the magical creativity of the ocean of concentrations of all enlightening beings; showing tirelessness investigating the oceans of all approaches to truth; praising the vow of practice of universally good enlightening beings; showing the endless power of great compassion; showing the practice of the transcendent way of knowledge, earnest acceptance of all truth, the preparations for transcendent wisdom; showing applications of the principles of great skill in means; cooperating circumstances of transcendent power; showing the integration of principles of knowledge; showing the continuous succession of penetrating knowledge of the cosmos, and the continuous succession of contemplative knowledge purifying the celestial ear. He saw some teaching with the sound of wind, water, fire, and with the thrilling sound of mountains crashing together; teachings with the sweet sound of celestial cities trembling; some with the voices of celestial beings, the song of nymphs, celestial music, and also the voices of all living beings. Sudhana saw *being* embodied by emanations from the goddess to develop sentient beings to maturity. And he saw the myriad manifest continuities of her streams of good thoughts as they had arisen in her past lives. Thus, through all these emanations and many more, he saw the range of the night goddess's liberation proceeding from her first aspiration.

From her hosts of projected bodies he saw infinitely varied multitudes of sentient beings being led to the stages of individual liberations. He listened, reflected, investigated, discerned, contemplated, approached, followed, entered, and made himself equal thereto by the mystical power of the night goddess's enlightening liberation characterized by the immensity of the inconceivable joy of universally good.

Sudhana, empowered by the buddhas of the ten directions, stood before the night goddess, *Pramuditāyanajagadvīrocana*, and sang in praise of her, ten stanzas of superb beauty in devotion to her omniscience and gratitude for her *dharmakāya*-like presence.

Infinite, tranquil, the reality-body
Is non-dual and pure;
Sentient beings cling to duality
You guide by myriad emanations.

Then, at Sudhana's behest, *Pramuditāyanajagadvīrocana* gave account of her own long journey across the ages so as to attain the eye of perfect wisdom. This goal she pursued in the service of countless buddhas. At first, awakened by a night goddess during an eon in the distant past called Silent Sound, she was at that time the main wife of a just king, the world ruler named Lord of the People. The king, born spontaneously from a lotus calyx and adorned with the thirty-two marks of a great person, was determined to perpetuate the lineage of buddhas. On her awakening she saw an immaculate light and immediately beheld the buddha at the enlightenment tree. Seeing this grandiose manifestation she joyfully aspired to supreme enlightenment.

Finally, in propitiation of the buddha, Paragon of Virtue Radiant As a Jewel, she attained tranquil concentration of broad vision, and the power of mental command. In light of this attainment, with her liberation and entry into the immense pure energy of the joy of universal good, she devoted herself, through a multitude of vows, to be a source of happiness for all beings, and, with endless preparation and development according to the myriad methods of the path, to the task of developing and guiding all sentient beings.

That king, Lord of the People, was none other than the bodhisattva of wisdom, *Mañjuśrī*, while his wife was *Pramuditāyanajagadvīrocana*, and the night goddess who awakened her was emanated by the enlightening being, Universally Good.

Detached from the internal and the external,
Having left the ocean of mortality,
You manifest infinite reflections
In the states of mundane existence.

With intense absorption Sudhana entered into her liberation of immense pure energy of the joy of universal good and recollected her teaching for the continuity of instruction with vigorous initiative to harmonize with spiritual benefactors.

Your body, of splendid appearance,
Is purified by the practice of universal good:
In command of the minds of beings,
You manifest the form of a goddess in the world.

In his commentary to the *Gaṇḍavyūha-sūtra* (*Avataṃsaka-sūtra*: Book 39), Thomas Cleary – the translator of the entire *Avataṃsaka-sūtra* – draws our attention to this stage on Sudhana's journey as being one of 'refulgence'. In this stage practitioners experience many kinds of miracles and extra-dimensional powers, such as

clairvoyance, clairaudience, knowledge of the past, and ability to go in and out of extraordinary states without falling under the sway of those states.

The Buddha constantly emits great beams of light;
In each beam are innumerable Buddhas.
Each makes displays of sentient beings' affairs;
This is the entry way of Wonderful Sound.

Avatamsaka-sūtra: Book one – The Wonderful Adornments of the
Leaders of the Worlds

Sudhana Cycle No. 33 Pramuditānayanajagadvīrocana
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