

The Woman in Samadhi

Long ago, Manjushri, the Bodhisattva of Wisdom, went to a gathering of buddhas. By the time he arrived, all had departed except for Shakyamuni Buddha and a woman who was seated in a place of highest honor next to the Buddha, deep in meditation. Manjushri asked the Buddha, “Why can a woman sit beside the Buddha when I cannot?”

The Buddha replied, “Just bring her out of samadhi and ask her yourself.”

Manjushri circled the woman three times, snapped his fingers, raised her up to the Brahma heaven, and employed all his supernatural powers, but he was unable to bring her out of samadhi.

The Buddha then said, “Even a hundred thousand Manjushris wouldn’t be able to bring this woman out of samadhi. But down below, past twelve hundred million lands as innumerable as the sands of the Ganges River, there is a bodhisattva called Wisdom about Delusion who will be able to awaken her.”

At that very moment Wisdom about Delusion emerged from the ground and paid homage to the Buddha. Then she sat before the woman and snapped her fingers twice. At this the woman emerged from samadhi.