

The Scripture of Avalokiteshwara Bodhisattva

In | verse, Mujinni Bodhisattva | asked, :
“World | Honoured One, po|ssessor 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 re|sponds; :
Of | oceanic | depth His holy vows. ||
A | myriad Buddhas has He truly | served :
For | ages past be | yond 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 with | in
their hearts will dwell. ||
When | tyrants persecute a man — and he stands at the place of
exe|cution :
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, :
U|pon 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 a | way
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 en|dowed :
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 eterni|ty, all pass away. ||
 Great | Kanzeon views all the world in | Truth, :
 Free | from defilement, | loving, knowing all, ||
 Full | of com|passion: :
 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 e|ffecis of wind
 and fire; ||
 His | all-illumining | 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 Dharmā comes, as nectar, down, — destroys the flames of | evil
 passions all. ||
 When, | threatened by court judgments or, in camp, — the military should
 a man op|press, :
 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
 encompas|ses: :
 The | Voice of Brahma, — Voice of oceans — One that all the voices of
 the | world does much excel, ||
 Be|cause of this our thought must | always dwell upon Him. ||
 Let | us never cherish thoughts of doubt about great Kanze|on :
 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
 inestima|ble, :
 For | this He must for|ever be adored." ||

Then | rose up from his seat Jiji Bo|satsu :
 To | stand before the | Buddha, saying thus, ||
 "World | Honoured One, — they, who this Scripture hear of Kanzeon
 Bo|satsu, :
 Must | indeed no small a|mount of merit gain ||
 For | here His life of perfect | action is described. ||
 This | is the life of One Who, — all endowed with powers all
 mir|aculous, :
 Ap|pears 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 :
 No|thing in all the | universe compares. ||