The story:

During the Five Dynasties period (907-960) [a period in the Chinese history], there was a king named High Pleasure. He was the leader of Hsiang and took pleasure in killing. At that time, an official in charge of the treasury, named Sun-jin-deh, involuntary committed a serious crime. (Textual research showed that it was Sun's brother who committed the crime, and as the criminals relative Sun was implicated). Awaiting death while imprisoned, Sun recited the Universal Door Sutra of Avalokiteshvara (Kuan-Yin) Bodhisattva day and night without resting.

Suddenly one might he dreamt of a monk, speaking to him, “You cannot escape the death sentence by reciting this sutra. I advise you to recite instead the High King Avalokiteshvara Sutra one thousand times, and then your death sentence will be lifted,”

“How can I obtain this sutra while I am in the prison?” asked Sun. The monk said, “I will teach you orally and you can memorize it in your dream.” After learning it, Sun sincerely recited the sutra nine hundred times.

Then the time came for Sun to be taken to the market to be executed in public. In fear, Sun asked the prison official how far away was the market. The official asked Sun why he wanted to
know. Sun then told about the monk appearing in his dream and how the High King Avalokiteshvara Sutra was supposed to help him from dying, and begged the official to slow down so that he could finish the remaining one hundred recital options. Sun managed to complete the recitations by the time they arrived at the market. When the executioner sank his sword into Sun’s neck, the sword broke into three pieces, leaving Sun unscathed.

Being informed of this event, the king was in awe and asked what kind of magic Sun had employed. Sun told the king that he had not used any magic, but how he had been afraid of dying while in the prison and had recited the Universal Door Sutra of Avalokiteśvara Bodhisattva. Then he told how a monk had appeared suddenly to him in a dream and taught him to recite the High King Avalokiteśvara Sutra a thousand times, thus obtaining the blessing. The king spoke to Sun, “You are stronger than I am; I regard you as I regard the Buddhas.”

The king then ordered the prison officer to write down the sutra and he ordered all the prisoners, including the ones waiting for executions, to recite this sutra one thousand times. He then tried the sword on them. Everyone survived. Thus the king decreed that everyone in the state should recite this sutra to receive the fruits of blessing.

That is how it came to be known as the High King Avalokiteśvara Sutra. It is unprecedented for a sutra to have such spiritual power. Therefore, the author writes this preface to record how it originated and how powerful it is, so that sincere persons who revert to good deeds have a way to follow.

The Sutra:

Translated by Janny Chow:

_GAO WANG GUAN SHI YIN ZHEN JING:_
High King Kuan Yin Sutra:

_GUAN SHI YIN PU SA,_
Homage to Kuan Yin Bodhisattva

_NA MO FO,_
Homage to the Buddhas,

_NA MO FA,_
Homage to the Dharma,

_NA MO SENG,_
Homage to the Sangha.
An affinity with the Pure Lands opens the Dharma Doors,

By engaging permanence, bliss identity and purity, one is blessed with the Dharma.

Namo Maha Prajna Paramita, a great spiritual mantra.

Namo Maha Prajna Paramita, a great wisdom mantra.

Namo Maha Prajna Paramita, a supreme mantra.

Namo Maha Prajna Paramita, an unequalled mantra.

Namo the Pure Light Secret Buddha,

the Dharma Treasury Buddha,

the Tranquil King Buddha with Lion's roar and divine speed,

the Sumeru Light King Buddha announced by Buddha,

the Dharma Protector Buddha,

the Vajra Treasury Roaming Lion Buddha,

the Precious Victory Buddha,

the Supernatural Power Buddha,

the Medicine Crystal Light King Buddha,

the Universal Light Merit Mountain King Buddha,
SHAN ZHU GONG DE BAO WANG FO,
the Merit Retaining jewel King Buddha,

GUO QU QI FO,
the Seven Past Buddhas,

WEI LAI XIAN JIE QIAN FO,
the Future Thousand Buddhas of this fortunate eon,

QIAN WU BAI FO,
the Fifteen Hundred Buddhas,

WAN WU QIAN FO,
the Fifteen Thousand Buddhas,

WU BAI HUA SHENG FO,
the Five Hundred Flower Victory Buddhas,

BAI YI JIN GANG ZANG FO,
the Ten Billion Vajra Treasury Buddhas,

DING GUANG FO,
and the Fixed Light Buddha,

LIU FANG LIU FO MING HAO:
The Buddhas of Six Directions:

DONG FANG BAO GUANG YUE DIAN YUE MIAO ZUN YIN WANG FO,
To the East the Precious Light Moon Palace Venerable Wonderful Voice King Buddha,

NAN FANG SHU GEN HUA WANG FO,
to the South the Tree-Root Flower King Buddha,

XI FANG ZAO WANG SHEN TONG YAN HUA WANG FO,
to the West the Spiritual Power Flower Blazing King Buddha,

BEI FANG YUE DIAN QING JING FO,
to the North the Moon Palace Purity Buddha,

SHANG FANG WU SHU JING JIN BAO SHOU FO,
Above, the countless Vigor jewel Crown Buddhas,

XIA FANG SHAN JI YUE YIN WANG FO.
Below, the Tranquil Moon Sound King Buddha.

WU LIANG ZHU FO,
All the countless Buddhas,
DUO BAO FO,
Many Jewels Buddha,

SHI JIA MOU NI FO,
Shakyamuni Buddha,

MI LE FO,
Maitreya Buddha,

AH CHU FO,
Akshobhya Buddha,

MI TUO FO,
Amitabha Buddha.

ZHONG YANG YI QIE ZHONG SHENG,
All beings in the Central Realm,

ZAI FO SHI JIE ZHONG ZHE,
and those in the Pure Lands,

XING ZHU YU DI SHANG, JI ZAI XU KONG ZHONG
while moving upon the Earth and through the Heavens,

CI YOU YU YI QIE ZHONG SHENG,
shower limitless compassion upon all living beings,

GE LING AN WEN XIU XI
affording them equanimity and peace,

ZHOU YE XIU CHI
that they might cultivate day and night

XIN CHANG QIU SONG CI JING
By constantly invoking this sutra,

NENG MIE SHENG SI KU, XIAO CHU ZHU DU HAI,
one is liberated from the suffering of birth and death, and freed from all the many kinds of suffering.

NA MO DA MING GUAN SHI YIN,
Homage to the great wisdom Kuan Yin,

GUAN MING GUAN SHI YIN,
the observant Kuan Yin,

GAO MING GUAN SHI YIN,
the noble Kuan Yin,
KAI MING GUAN SHI YIN,
the expansively-minded Kuan Yin,

YAO WANG PU SA,
the Medicine King Bodhisattva,

YAO SHANG PU SA,
the supreme Medicine Bodhisattva,

WEN SHU SHI LI PU SA,
Manjusri Bodhisattva,

PU XIAN PU SA,
Samantabhadra Bodhisattva,

XU KONG ZANG PU SA,
Akasagarbha Bodhisattva,

DI ZANG WANG PU SA,
Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva,

QING LIANG BAO SHAN YI WAN PU SA,
the billions of Clear Cool Treasure Mountain Bodhisattvas,

PU GUANG WANG RU LAI HUA SHENG PU SA,
the Universal Light Venerable King Tathagata Bodhisattva.

NIAN NIAN SONG CI JING,
Chanting this sutra continually.

QI FO SHI ZUN, JI SHOU ZHOU YUE:
the Seven World-Honored Buddhas recite this mantra: