# Jesus as a Bodhisattva

# As Described in Paul’s Letter to the Philippians

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**BODHISATTVA**: In Mahayana Buddhism, a person who is able to reach nirvana but delays doing so out of compassion in order to save suffering [unenlightened] beings. (Google/Oxford dictionary; parenthetical addition is mine.)

**The Text (**Phil 2:6-11) **The Interpretation**

[Jesus], though he was in the form of God A perfected spirit, Jesus was one with God, fully

did not count equality with God in union with God, fully accepting his life in God.

a thing to be grasped, He was not a separate being, equal with the One in

Whom All Things Arise and Have Their Being.

but [he] emptied himself He abandoned himself in God. He forsook the

taking the form of a servant, thought of his own personal identity, and emptied

being born in the likeness of men. himself to be born into the world as a human, the

humble servant of all,( teaching them the Way to Divinity.)

And being found in human form Everyone knew him as a human being, and as a

he humbled himself human, he was obliged to suffer the sorrow and

and became obedient unto death, pain of dying and to enter death.

even death on a cross. His lesson in humility before God & conformity

with God’s will, especially to death as nothing.

Therefore God has highly exalted him Because he accepted God’s will even to death,

And bestowed on him the name God perfected Jesus by taking him into complete

which is above every name, union with himself. Who Jesus is and whence he

came will be remembered and revered forever

that at the name of Jesus by every other being—

every knee should bow, perfected, living, and dead.

in heaven and on earth

and under the earth,

and every tongue confess Jesus, in giving glory to God

that Jesus Christ is Lord, as one of his perfected servants,

To the glory of God the Father. will be acclaimed always for opening to all beings

the way to life in Divine Presence.

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