

TR Yumen

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From what I heard, once the Buddha was at the garden Jetavana in the country Śrāvati, he got together with 500 Mahā-bhiksus. At that time, Ananda asked with right shoulder bare and right knee knelt: "Tathā-gatas should observe everything as same as a mirror reflecting every object. They know the past, present and future throughout, such as the names of the past Buddhas, the number of their attendants and Bodhisattvas who follow these Buddhas. In addition, they observe (the things in) a kalpa, a hundred kalpas, to innumerout kalpas. They know the names of kings, officials, people and can distinguish them one from the other. They also know the boundries of all countries. In a far future, Maitreya will appear on the earth and achieve the true sambodhi. I would like to ask the reason. How many disciples will he have? How prosperous will his country be? How long will it last?"

At that time, the Buddha answered: "You go back to your seat and listen to me. When Maitreya appear on the earth, how many disciples will he have? How prosperous will the country be? I think about these questions a lot and always keep them in my mind." Ananda followed the Buddha's words and went back to his seat. The Buddha said: "In a far future, there will be a town named Kutematī on the earth. It will be 12 yojanas in width and 7yojanas in length. Agricultural products will be prosperous. There will be many people and weaved streets. At that time, a naga king called Shui-kuang水光 in this city, who will make fregrant rain at night in order to have a clear day during the day-time. There will a raksa called Yeh-hua榮華 in this town whose behaviors will follow the true Dharma. He will always give away his evils and

dirty stuffs at night after people fell in sleep. He will also spread fragrant water on ground to make ground fragrant and clean. Ananda, you should know, at that time mountains, rivers, cliffs on the Jambudvīpa within the area of 10000000 yojanas will be all extinguished by themselves. Water of the four great seas will be reduced by themselves. The ground of the Jambudvīpa will be as flat as a clear mirror. The grain product will be prosperous. There will be many people and they will have many jewels. Each village will be adjacent to the other. People can hear cock-crow of other villages. Ruined and bad flowers, fruits, withered trees, and evils will disappear spontaneously. Delicious and beautiful fruits, fragrant trees will grow up naturally. Weather will be very comfortable and have four seasons in sequence. People will not worry about old age, greed, desire, jealousy, stupidity, idiot, laziness. Every one will have the same mind and thought. They will be happy while seeing each other, and they will speak to each other with same words. It is the same as the people from Yu-tan 優單 or Yueh越 who have no differences. At that time, on the Jambudvīpa, people's sizes will be all the same. There will be no differences. While men and women want to urinate or defecate, the ground will be opened by themselves. After they finish, it will be closed up spontaneously. On the Jambudvīpa, rice will grow up without shells naturally. It will be delicious and will have no bad tastes. Gold, silver, precious jewels, tridacnagigus, agate, pearls, amber will be scattered on ground, but nobody will pay any attention to them. At that time, people will hold these and speak to each other: 'Long time ago, because of these, people hurt each^{other,} and were put into jail to suffer innumerable miseries. Right now, these are

the same as tiles and rocks which nobody guards.' At that time, a great king whose name is Śankha will appear on the earth. He will govern his country with the true law and will have seven perfect treasures, namely, a wheel, an elephant, a horse, a pearl, a young girl, a weapon, a guard. Due to these seven treasures, wars will be extinguished spontaneously on the Jambudvīpa. Ananda, there will be four precious treasures. In the country Ch'ien-t'o-yüeh 乾陀越, the treasure of I-lo-po 伊羅鉢, will contain immeasurable unusual jewellery. In the second country Mi-ti-lo 彌提羅, the treasure of Ch'ou-lo 綢羅, will consist of a lot of jewellery too. The third country Hsü-lai-ch'a 須賴吒, will have a great treasure consisting of many precious jewels. The fourth country P'o-lo-nai-jang-chieh 波羅捺伽佉 will have a lot of precious jewels too which cannot be calculated. These four treasures will occur naturally. The guardians of these four treasures will come to the king individually and ask: 'We hope you, the great king, give alms with these treasures to the poor.' At that time, the king Śankha will not remember these treasures. This indicates that he has no thought of property and treasure. At that time, on the Jambudvīpa, cloth will grow on trees spontaneously. It will be very delicate and soft. People can pick it up from trees and put it on."

"There will be a great official of the king Śankha, whose name is Subrahmā. He grows up together with the king. The king respects and likes him very much. Subrahmā's appearance will ^{be} correct. He will be not tall, not short, not fat, not slender, not white, not black, not old, not young. His wife will be called Brahmabaddiya who is the most beautiful daughter of the king. She will be as beautiful as Indrani.

Her mouth will have fragrance of Utapala. Her body will have the fragrance of sandalwood. She will not have 84 (bad) poses which women usually have. She will not have illnesses and vain imaginations. At that time, Maitreya will reside in Tushita to observe his future parents on the earth who are neither old nor young."

"Then he will descend to the earth and will be born from his mother's right ribs which is the same as I was. Devas of the Tushita heaven will sing: 'Maitreya Bodhisattva is born now.' At that time Subrahma will give the name, Maitreya, to his son. Maitreya will have 32 lakṣanas, 80 minor characteristics. His skin will be golden in color."

"At that time, lives of human beings will be very long and people will have no illnesses. People will live up to the age of 84,000. Females will get married at the age of 500."

"Maitreya will not stay home very long, then he will join the monkhood to learn the true law. Not too far from Ketumatī, there will be tree called Nāga-puṣpa which will be one yojana in height and 500 steps in width. Maitreya will achieve the supreme sambodhi under that tree. Maitreya will leave his home at midnight. He will achieve his enlightenment at the same night. At that time, the ground of the great continents will be shaken, earthly gods will tell each other: 'Now Maitreya becomes a Buddha.' Then the news that Maitreya achieves Buddhahood will be heard in the palace of four heavenly guardian kings, then, it will be heard in the Trayastrimsat, Yen 鬱 鬱, Tushita, Nirmānarati, Paranirmita-vaśavartin heavens, then to the Brahman heaven. "

"At that time, there will be a rakṣaking called Ta-chiang 大將, who governs his country with the law, having heard about the fame of the Tathāgata (Maitreya), will be too happy to control himself. He will not

be able to go to sleep for seven days and nights. He will lead innumerable people and devas of Kamadhātu (the realm of desire) to Maitreya's place to pay respect to Maitreya. The holy Maitreya will teach the marvellous philosophies of the Law gradually to the people and devas. What are the philosophies? They are the philosophies of giving alms, following rules, being reborn in heavens and having no evil thoughts. At that time, Maitreya sees all people being happy, he will also widely discourse and discuss with the people and devas the teachings of the past Buddhas and the Holy One, and the theories of ceasing sufferings. At that time, 84,000 kings who take part in this meeting will achieve the pure Dharma-eyes (which are able to penetrate all things) and be away from evils. At that time, the king Ta-chiang 大將 will tell the people: 'You should join the monkhood immediately. The reason is that Maitreya is on the other shore (achieves enlightenment) now, he will help you to go to the other shore too.'

"At that time, in the city Kutematī, there will be an old sage whose name is Sudhana, who has heard the king's words, and also heard Maitreya's good name. He will lead 84,000 people to Maitreya's place. They will bow to him with deep obeisance and be seated on one side of Maitreya. Maitreya will teach the marvellous philosophies gradually, namely, the philosophies of giving alms, following rules, being reborn in heavens, and having no evil thoughts. At that time, Maitreya sees people understand what he is saying, moreover, he will widely teach the Law which is usually taught by other Buddhas and discourse the ways of ceasing sufferings. At that time, 84,000 people who participate in this meeting will all achieve the Dharma-eyes and be away from evils. At that time Sudhana and 84,000 people

will go to the Buddha (Maitreya) and ask to join the monkhood in order to practice brahman disciplines (the disciplines of celibacy). They will all achieve arhathood."

"At that time, in the first meeting of Maitreya, there will be 84,000 people achieving arhathood. Śankha hears that Maitreya has achieved Buddhahood, he will go to Maitreya's place and ask for his teachings. Maitreya Buddha will explain Dharma to the king. He will also deeply explain different levels of good virtues. The king will adopt his heir as a new king and bestow barbers precious jewels. In addition, he will also give other jewels to Brahmācarin (a young brahman in the first asrama or period of his life). He will lead 84,000 people to the Buddha's place and ask to be sramanas. Finally, all of them will achieve enlightenment and to be arhats."

"The great sage Subrahmā hears that Maitreya has achieved enlightenment, he will lead 84,000 brahmācarins to the Buddha's place to ask to become śrāmanas. Among them, only Subrahmā will cut off the three ties (the ties of false views, disciple, and doubt) and be out of sufferings. At that time, the Buddha's (Maitreya) mother, Brahmabaddiya, will also lead 84,000 waiting women to the Buddha's place to ask to become śrāmanas. Among them, only Brahmabaddiya will cut off the three ties and become a Srotā-āpanna (one who has entered the stream of holy living, one who goes against the stream of transmigration). At that time, females hear that the Tathāgata Maitreya has appeared on the earth and achieved sambodhi, some hundred and thousands people will go the Buddha's place to bow to the Buddha and sit on one side. Everyone will will to be a śrāmana with sincere heart in order to learn the Buddhas' teachings. Some of them will achieve partial enlightenment. Some of them will not achieve enlighten-

ment. Anada, the ones who will achieve complete enlightenment will be the ones who follow the teachings of Dharma. They dislike the happiness of the material world and have practice the supreme happiness. At that time, Maitreya will teach the doctrine of Tri-yanas frequently as what I do today."

"Among all my disciples, since Mahākāśyapa has carried out 12 Dhutas (discipline to remove the trails of life and attain nirvana), the good deeds which had been performed by the past Buddhas, he will help Maitreya to convert people (to Buddhism)." At that time, Mahākāśyapa was seated in pādama-asana not too far waay from the Tathāgata (Śākyamuni). He concentrated his mind and thought to mediataion. The Holy One told Mahākāśyapa: "Right now I am old and move toward eighty some years old. However, there are four great śrāvakas who are in the state of blissful abstraction. They are equipped with immeasurable wisdom and all kinds of virtues. Who are the four? They are the bhikusu Mahakasyapa, the bhikusu T'u-po-tan 屠鉢鞞, the bhik su Pindolabhāradvāja, the bhik su Rāhula. You, the four great śrāvakas, do not want to enter into nirvana until the law of my teachings is spread all over. Then, you will go to nirvana. Mahākāśyapa will refuse to go to nirvāṇa, and you will wait for Maitreya coming on the earth. The reason for that is the disciples whom will be converted by Maitreya are all my disciples because they have not understood the essences of my teachings completely."

"In the village Vide of the country Makara, Mahākāśyapa lived in a mountain. The Tathāgata Maitreya will lead innumerous people to surround the mountain, then, he will go to the mountain. Due to the favour of Buddhas, all ghosts and gods will open the door for him in order to let him see the meditation cave of Mahākāśyapa. At that time, Maitreya will point to Mahākāśyapa with his right hand and say to people: 'Long time ago there was a disciple of Śākyamuni Buddha whose

name was Mahākāśyapa. Now he is the best ascetic of all who practice Dhutas.' At that time people will admire Mahakasyapa continuously. Innumerable people will all achieve the Dharma-eyes and be away from the phenomenal world. In addition, more people will come to see Mahākāśyapa in person. The name of this meeting is the first meeting, in which, 9,600,000,000 people will achieve arhathood. Those people are all my disciples. The reason they do so is because of my teaching. Moreover, it is also due to the cause of four offerings, giving alms, benevolence, loving other poeple. At that time, Ananda, the Tathagata Maitreya will of course take the saṅgha of Śākyamuni from Mahākāśyapa and put it on. Meanwhile, Mahākāśyapa's body will extinguish suddenly. Maitreya will make offerings with various flowers, incenses to Mahākāśyapa. The reason for what he does is that all Buddhas and the Holy one pay respect to Dharma with sincere heart. Maitreya has also received the teaching of this true Law from me, and he will attain the supreme true enlightenment. Ananda, you should know this. In the second meeting of Maitreya, 9,400,000,000 people will become arhats because they are also my disciples and have made offerings with four objects. In the third meeting of Maitreya, 9,200,000,000 men will become arhats because they are also my disciples at the present time. At that time, the names of these Bhiksus will be all called Maitreya's disciples. It is the same as present śrāvakas who are called Śākyamuni's disciples."

At that time Maitreya will teach to his disciples: 'You, all Bhiksus should thing about the changes of the phenomenal world, people's desire, selfness and selfless ness, voidness and existence, changing colors, bruises, flatulence, indigestion, floody pus, the supreme happiness in the world. The reason for that is all bhiksus should know. All these ten things were taught by Śākyamuni before. They will help you free from your Asrava mind(the mind of distress, pain, affliction).

Among these people who were Śākyamuni's disciples before. During the Śākyamuni's time, they had practiced brahman disciplines, having made offerings to the three ratnas, having performed good roots immediately, having carried out the four virtues, having received five rules and having taken refuges to the three ratnas, having built temples, having repaired old temples, having received eight prohibitory rules and fasting commandments, having made offerings with incenses and flowers, having cried while hearing the teachings, having listened to the teaching very carefully, having performed good brahman deeds until their death, having recited and copied sutras, and had made offerings to Buddhas, they will come to my place.'"

"At that time, Maitreya will then say the following hymn: 'The ones who have followed the rules or have increased their virtues, who have meditated and have practiced brahman disciplines, will come to my place. The ones who have persuaded others to resolve their happy minds or have practiced their good original thoughts,^{and} who have not had other thoughts, will come to my place. The ones who have resolved their equal mind or have offered to all Buddhas, who have given alms with rice to sage people, will come to my place. The ones who have recited rules and sūtras, having taught the origin of Dharma to others, will come to my place. The ones who have planted their priestly seeds which make him converted easily, having made offerings to relics, having offered to Dharma, will come to my place. If ones have copied sutras, having propagandized the teachings of these sūtras, and have made offerings to these sūtras, will come to my place. The ones who have offered silk, banners and other stuffs to temples, having called themselves as Namah Buddha, will come to my place.'"

"Then Maitreya will make the following hymn: 'The ones have offered to the present and past Buddhas, having realized

the equality of everything by meditation no more or less, having followed Buddhas' teachings and made offerings to all holy beings, and have been devoted themselves to the Tri-ratnas, will finally come to my place.'"

"Ananda, you should know that. Maitreya will speak this hymn among the crowds. At that time, all people and devas think about these ten thoughts. They will all achieve the Dharma-eyes. Within 1000 years of Maitreya's life, all monks will not have any evil and bad behavior. At that time, people will use a hymn as a prohibitive rules: there is no evil words, thoughts and behaviors, they do not disobey the rules. If you carry out these three deeds, you will be out of the circle of transmigration instantly."

"After 1000 years, there will be some men who will disobey the rules. Then the rules will be re-established. Maitreya Tathāgata will live up to 84,000 years old. His teachings will remained in the world for 84,000 years after he enter nirvāṇa. Therefore, all living beings will attain good roots. Good men and women will be able to see the Buddha Maitreya, the śrāvakas of the three meetings of Maitreya, Kutemati, Sankha and the four great treasures. They will be able to eat the rice which grows up by itself, wear the cloth which appears by themselves. They will be able to go to heavens after their death. Those good men and women will work hard and vigorously. Furthermore, they will make offerings too all priests with incenses of grounded fragrances. They will make no mistakes. Therefore, Ananda, people had better learn these." At that time, Ananda and the people who took part in this meeting felt very happy.

Footnote:

1. The Chinese translation is reprinted in Daizōkyō, no. 453. It was translated by Dharmarakṣa in 303 A.D.