

TR You-mun

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Sāriputra, the first disciple of the Buddha, thought about the worldly beings with compassionate mind. He went to the Buddha's place and knelt in front of the Buddha with ajañli mudra and asked: "You, the Holy One, always say that after you pass away, Maitreya should come after you. I would like to hear why you say so ." The Holy One said: "When the Buddha Maitreya is about to come, trees, woods of Jambudvīpa are burned and dead which cover 600,000 lis in width of the present Jambudvīpa. When Maitreya comes, on the Jambudvīpa, about 400,000 lis width from east to west and 320,000 lis long from south to north, there will be five kinds of fruits and melons all growing up spontaneously. There will be no mountains, mounds, valleys. The ground will be as flat as a flat stone. Trees are grown up. At that time, only few people will be greedy, lewd, jealous, angry, stupid, idiotic. There will be many people. They will live together in many villiages. Cock-crow of other villages will be heard. The people will live up to 8,400 years old. Females will get married at the age of 500. There will be no pains and illnesses. Throughout the world, there will be only three weaknesses. The first ^{will} be desire ; the second ^{will} be hungry and thirsty; the third ^{will} be old age. The faces of its people will be all pink in color. The people will all respect to each other."

"There will be a city named Ketumatī which is a kingdom. Surrounding the city about 480 lis, the city walls will be made out of earth and covered with wood. In addition, it will be ornated by gold, silver, glass, crystal, precious jewelery. There will be 12 gates at four sides. All of them will be carved and adorned with gold, silver, glass, crystal, pre-

ciuous jewels. The king will be called Śankha. Within this region, all will belong to Śankha. When Śankha wants to go to some place, he will fly towards there. On his way, people, ghosts, and gods will all yield the roads. There will be four treasures. The first is gold which will be guarded by a Naga king whose name is Ni-tsuen-fêng 倪蟄銓 . He will guard the gold. The Naga king will live in a mountain called Gandha. The second is silver which will be guarded by a Naga king too whose name is P'an-t'ou 幡頭 in this kingdom; the third is a bright pearl which is located at Hsü-chien 須漸 . It will be guarded by the Naga King Pin-chieh 賓竭 ; the fourth is crystal which is located at the city Fan-lo-na-i 汎羅那夷 ."

"There will be a brahman named Subrahmā who will be Maitreya's father. Maitreya's mother name will be Mahā-Brahmabaddiya. Maitreya will be their son. According to Maitreya's karma, he should be born as a brahman. There will be 32 lakṣanas and 80 minor characteristics of his body. He will be 16 changs 丈 tall. When Maitreya is born, his eyesight will see through 10,000 lis. The radiances out of his head will illuminate 4,000 lis. When Maitreya achieve his enlightenment and becomes a Buddha, he will be seated under the Nāga-puṣpa tree which is 40 lis in height and its shade will cover 40 lis in width. At the time when Maitreya achieves Buddhahood, 84,000 brahmans will come to his place and become his followers. They will all give away their families and become śramanas. Maitreya will go to that tree and be seated under the tree. At the time when stars come out on the eighth day of the fourth month, Maitreya will achieve enlightenment."

"When the king Śankha hears that Maitreya has attained his Buddha-

hood, Śankha will lead 84 kings to give away their countries and give their thrones to their heirs. They will all come to Maitreya's place. All their beard and hair will be shaven. They will become śramanas. In addition, 1800 more brahmins will all come to Maitreya's place to become śramanas. Among them, Maitreya's parents will be included. Furthermore, 1084 Mahā-brahmins will also come to Maitreya's place to become śramanas. There is a great sage of the country called Hsü-t'an 須檀, also called Sudatta (Ch. Hsü-ta 須達), who will tell people again to carrying gold to offer to the Buddha Maitreya and all śramanas. Maitreya's fame will be spread to distant places day by day. In addition, Sudatta will lead 14,000 sages and good men to Maitreya's place to become śramanas. In addition, there will be two brothers; the older is called Ku-ta 鼓達; the younger is called Fu-lan 扶瀾. Both of them will say: "What can we do in this worldly place? We would rather go to the Buddha's (Maitreya) place to become śramanas." Both will say: 'If we are good, we will go to Maitreya's place as śramanas.' Moreover, there will be 84,000 females who will be all dressed in good garments, white pearls, gold, silver, jewels, to go to Maitreya's place. (When they see Maitreya,) they will all take off jealousy which they wear, putting them on ground, and speak to the Buddha Maitreya: 'We would like to offer these to the Buddha, you, and all śramanas. We would like to be bhikṣuṇīs.' The Buddha will order them to be bhikṣuṇīs.

The Buddha Maitreya will be seated among bhikṣus, monks, bhikṣuṇīs and speak: 'All of you were the people who had recited sutras, had had compassionate mind, had given alms, had not been jealous and angry, had built stupas or temples, had carried the Buddha's (Śākyamuni) relics to

the stupa, had burned incense, had lightened lamps, had hung silk, had scattered flowers, had read sutras during the Buddha Śākyamuni's time. These bhikṣuṇīs who had obeyed the rules, or had had great sincerities towards the Buddha at the Buddha Sakyamuni's time are able to come to this meeting to listen to my teaching.' The bhikṣuṇīs who come to the place where Maitreya teaches will all achieve enlightenment under Nāga-puṣpa tree.

"In the first meeting of Maitreya's teaching, 96,000,000 people will achieve arhathood. In the second meeting of Maitreya's teaching, 94,000,000 bhikṣus will attain arhathood. In the third meeting of Maitreya's teaching, 92,000,000 śramaṇas will achieve arhathood. At that time, devas in the celestial world will spread flowers on Maitreya's body. Maitreya will lead all arhats to the city which is governed by Ketumatī's king. The king will make offerings to them with all the rice which the palace has. The whole city will be entirely illuminated as bright as daytime. Maitreya will be seated in the palace and teach sutras. He will say: 'Comments have to be made. Dharma has to be learned. Sūtras have to be praised.' After the Buddha Maitreya finishes his teaching, all bhikṣus and kings, officials will obey the teachings of sūtras and rules and help others to achieve enlightenment." This is what the Buddha (Śākyamuni) said. About 6,000,600,000 years later, Maitreya should come to the earth.

Footnote:

1. The Chinese translation is reprinted in Daizokyō, no. 457. It was translated by an unknown translator in the Eastern Chin (265-317 A.D.) period.