

THE PALIVERSE PROJECT

The Universe of Buddha's Wisdom

The Triple Canon (Tipiṭaka)

The Canon of Discourses (Sutta Piṭaka)

1. The Collection of the Long Discourses (1. Dīgha Nikāya)

2. The Great Chapter (2. Mahāvaggapāḷi)

7. The Discourse on the Great Congregation
(7. Mahāsamayasuttaṃ)

[DN 20, PTS 2.253-2.262]



PaliVerse

1. The Collection of the Long Discourses

2. The Great Chapter

7. The Discourse on the Great Congregation

331. Thus have I heard - On one occasion the Blessed One was dwelling among the Sakyans at Kapilavatthu in the Great Wood together with a large Community of monks, about five hundred monks, all of them Worthy Ones; and deities from ten world systems had for the most part gathered together to see the Blessed One and the Community of monks. Then this occurred to four deities belonging to the Pure Abodes - "This Blessed One is dwelling among the Sakyans at Kapilavatthu in the Great Wood together with a large Community of monks, about five hundred monks, all of them Worthy Ones; and deities from ten world systems had for the most part gathered together to see the Blessed One and the Community of monks. What if we too were to approach the Blessed One; having approached, we should each speak a verse in the presence of the Blessed One."

332. Then those deities, just as a strong man might extend his bent arm or bend his extended arm, even so, having vanished from among the Pure Abode gods, appeared before the Blessed One. Then those deities, having paid respect to the Blessed One, stood to one side. Standing to one side, one deity spoke this verse in the presence of the Blessed One:

"A great assembly in the wilds, groups of gods have come together;
We have come to this Teaching assembly, to see the unconquered
Community."

Then another deity spoke this verse in the presence of the Blessed One:

"There the monks concentrated, they made their own minds straight;
Like a charioteer having taken the reins, the wise ones guard their faculties."

Then another deity spoke this verse in the presence of the Blessed One:

"Having cut the stake, having cut the bar, having uprooted the gate-post, they
are without longing;
They walk about pure, spotless, well tamed by the one with vision, young
elephants."

Then another deity spoke this verse in the presence of the Blessed One:

"Whoever have gone for refuge to the Buddha, they will not go to the plane of
misery;
Having abandoned the human body, they will fill up the group of gods."

The Gathering of Deities

333. Then the Blessed One addressed the monks: "Mostly, monks, deities from the ten world systems have gathered together to see the Truth-finder and the Community of monks. Monks, those who were Worthy Ones, Perfectly Enlightened Ones in the past period of time, for those Blessed Ones too, just such a supreme gathering of deities occurred, just as for me now. Monks, those who will be Worthy Ones, Perfectly Enlightened Ones in the future period of time, for those Blessed Ones too, just such a supreme gathering of deities will occur, just as for me now. I will tell, monks, the names of the groups of deities; I will explain, monks, the names of the groups of deities; I will teach, monks, the names of the groups of deities. Listen to that, pay close attention, I will speak." "Yes, venerable sir," those monks assented to the Blessed One.

334. The Blessed One said this -

"I will recite a verse, where the terrestrial deities are attached to that;
Those who are attached to mountain caves, resolute, concentrated.

"Like many lions secluded, having overcome terror;
With pure minds, purified, clear and untroubled."

Having known more than five hundred, in the forest near Kapilavatthu;
Then the Teacher addressed the disciples delighted in the teaching.

"Groups of gods have come, cognise them, monks";
And they made ardent effort, having heard the Buddha's teaching.

Knowledge appeared to them, the seeing of non-human beings;
Some saw a hundred, a thousand, then seventy thousand.

Some saw a hundred thousand non-human beings;
Some saw without end, all directions were pervaded.

And having directly known all that, having analysed, the one with eyes;
Then the Teacher addressed the disciples delighted in the teaching.

"Groups of gods have come, cognise them, monks;
Those whom I will explain to you, with words in due order.

335. "Seven thousand demons, terrestrial, belonging to Kapilavatthu,

Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"Six thousand from Himavā, demons of diverse colours;
Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"From Sātagira, three thousand demons of diverse colours;
Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"Thus these sixteen thousand demons of diverse colours;
Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"From Vessāmitta, five hundred demons of diverse colours;
Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"Kumbhīra of Rājagaha, whose dwelling is Vepulla;
More than a hundred thousand demons attend upon him;
Kumbhīra of Rājagaha, he too came to the forest, to the assembly.

336. "The king Dhataratṭha rules the eastern direction,
The lord of the gandhabbas, the great king of fame.

"His sons too are many, named after Inda, of great power;
Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"The king Virūḷha rules that southern direction;
The lord of the kumbhaṇḍas, the great king of fame.

"His sons too are many, named after Inda, of great power;
Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"The king Virūpakka rules the western direction;
The lord of the nāgas, the great king of fame.

"His sons too are many, named after Inda, of great power;
Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"The king Kuvera rules that northern direction;
The lord of the yakkhas, the great king of fame.

"His sons too are many, named after Inda, of great power;
Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"Dhataratṭha in the eastern direction, Virūlhaka in the south;
Virūpakka in the west, Kuvera in the northern direction.

"These four great kings, all around the four directions;
Stood shining brightly, in the forest near Kapilavatthu.

337. "Their deceitful slaves came, fraudulent and deceptive.
Māyā, Kuṭeṇḍu, Viṭeṇḍu, Viṭucca, together with Viṭuṭo.

"Candana and Kāmaseṭṭha, Kinnighaṇḍu and Nighaṇḍu;
Panāda and Opamañña, and Mātali the charioteer of the gods.

"And the gandhabba Cittasena, King Naḷa, Janesabha;
Pañcasikha came too, Timbarū and Sūriyavaccasā.

"These and other kings, gandhabbas together with their kings;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

338. "Then came the serpents from Nāgasa, the Vesālā together with the Tacchaka.

Kambala and Assatara came, the Pāyāga together with their kinsmen.

"The Yāmunā and Dhataratṭhā, the famous serpents came;
Erāvaṇa the great serpent, he too came to the forest, to the assembly.

"Those who forcibly seize the serpent kings, the divine twice-born birds with
pure vision;
Through the sky they arrived in the midst of the forest, the variegated
supaṇṇas - such is their name.

"There was then safety for the serpent kings, the Buddha made security from
the supaṇṇas;
Addressing each other with smooth words, the serpents and supaṇṇas made
the Buddha their refuge.

339. "Conquered by the one with the thunderbolt in hand, the titans dwelling in the
ocean.

These are the brothers of Vāsava, possessing supernormal power, famous.

"The Kālakañcas, the great terrifying ones, the titans, the Dānaveghasa
archers;
Vepacitti and Sucitti, Pahārāda together with Namuci.

"And a hundred sons of Bali, all named after Verocana;
Having arrayed the army of Bali, they approached the august Rāhu;
'Now is the time, venerable sir, to the forest, to the assembly of monks.'

340. "The water gods and earth gods, fire and air gods came there.

The Varuṇa gods and Vāraṇa gods, Soma together with Yasa.

"The friendliness and compassion bodily gods came, famous gods;
These ten classes in ten ways, all of diverse colours.

"Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"The Veṇḍu gods and Sahali, the Asamā and the two Yama gods;
The gods dependent on the moon came, having put the moon in front.

"The gods dependent on the sun came, having put the sun in front;
Having put the constellations in front, the slow-moving cloud gods came.

"Vāsava, foremost of the Vasu gods, Sakka came, the first of givers;
These ten classes in ten ways, all of diverse colours.

"Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"Then came the Sahabhū gods, blazing like flames of fire;
The Ariṭṭhaka and Roja gods, shining like flax flowers.

"The Varuṇā and Sahadhammā, the Accutā and Anejakā;
The Sūleyya and Rucirā came, the Vāsavanesī came;
These ten classes in ten ways, all of diverse colours.

"Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"The Samānā and Mahāsamānā, the Mānusā and Mānusuttamā;
The corrupted by play came, the corrupted by mind came.

"Then came the Haraya gods, and those who dwell in blood-red;
The Pāragā and Mahāpāragā, famous gods came;
These ten classes in ten ways, all of diverse colours.

"Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"The Sukkā, Karambhā, and Aruṇā came, together with the Veghanasā;
The Odātagayhā, the eminent ones, the wise gods came.

"The Sadāmattā and Hāragajā, and the famous Missakā;
Pajjunna came thundering, he who rains upon the directions.

"These ten classes in ten ways, all of diverse colours;
Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"The Khemiyā, Tusitā, Yāmā, and the famous Kaṭṭhakā;
The Lambītakā and Lāmaseṭṭhā, the Jotināmā and Āsā;
The Nimmānaratī came, then came the Paranimmitā.

"These ten classes in ten ways, all of diverse colours;
Possessing supernormal power, brilliant, beautiful, famous;
Rejoicing, they proceeded to the forest, to the assembly of monks.

"These sixty orders of gods, all of diverse colours;
Came according to their names, and others similar together with them.

"We shall see the one free from birth, without barrenness, a crosser of the

mental floods, without mental corruptions;
The serpent who has crossed the mental floods, like the moon gone beyond
darkness.'

341. "Subrahmā and Paramatta, sons together with the one of supernormal power,
Sanañkumāra and Tissa, he too came to the forest assembly.

"A thousand Brahma worlds, over which the Great Brahmā presides;
Reborn, brilliant, of fearsome body, glorious.

"Ten lords came here, each wielding power individually;
And from their midst came Hārita, surrounded by his retinue.

342. "And when all those had come forward, the gods with Indra, including the
Brahmās,

Māra's army advanced - see the foolishness of the Dark One.

'Come, seize them, bind them, may they be bound by lust for you;
Surround them on all sides, let none of you release any of them.'

"Thus there the great-armed Dark One sent forth his army;
Having struck the ground with his palm, having made a terrifying sound.

"Like a rain cloud of the rainy season, thundering with lightning;
Then he turned back, enraged, not in control of himself.

343. And having directly known all that, having analysed, the one with eyes;
Then the Teacher addressed the disciples delighted in the teaching.

"Māra's army has advanced, cognise them, monks;
And they made ardent effort, having heard the Buddha's teaching;
They departed from those without lust, they did not stir even a hair of theirs.

"All victorious in battle, gone beyond fear, glorious;
They rejoice together with beings, those disciples renowned among people."

The Discourse on the Great Assembly is concluded as seventh.



ABOUT THIS TRANSLATION

This translation is part of the PaliVerse Project - the first complete, unified English translation of the Pāli Canon together with its Commentaries (Aṭṭhakathā) and Subcommentaries (Tīkā), accompanied by interactive study tools. PaliVerse is an ongoing project. The AI translations are continuously improved through experts' revisions and feedback. This text is the latest translation as of the date of download.

PDF Creation Date: 16 August 2026

HOW TO CITE

PaliVerse (2026). The Triple Canon. The Canon of Discourses. 1. The Collection of the Long Discourses. 2. The Great Chapter. 7. The Discourse on the Great Congregation Retrieved from paliverse.org

© 2026 The PaliVerse Project · All Rights Reserved
Centre for Study and Practice of Theravāda Buddhism
Civic Non-Profit Company registered in Greece
This PDF may be freely distributed for study and practice.

PaliVerse.org