

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.