

configuration is well established inside the cosmic egg. The egg is a minute particle of the Pradhāna like a firefly in the sky. In the nether world, in the seas and in the mountains live the Asuras, Gandharvas, Kinnaras, Kimpuruṣas, Yakṣas Rākṣasas, Bhūtas, Pretas, Piśāchas, Apasmāras, Apsaras, Brahmarākṣasas, Kuṣmāṇḍas, Vināyakas and such like divine beings, while in the Dvīpas live the virtuous Devas or heavenly beings and the men.

Sumeru is the land of garden of the Tridaśa deities ; there are four gardens called Miśravaṇa, Nandana, Chaitra-ratha, and Sumānasa, the Council of the deities called Sudharmā, the city called Sudarśanapura and the palace called Vaijayanta. The planets, asterisms and stars, fastened by the pole-star and restrained by the movement of the wind, are going round the Sumeru at different points above it. In the Mahendraloka live six classes of deities, viz. Tridaśas, Agniṣvāttas, Yāmyas, Tuṣitas, Aparinirmita-vaśavartīs, and Parinirmita-vaśavartīs. They have all their desires fulfilled and are possessed of supernormal powers like reducing one's self, their life-periods extend over Kalpas ; they are held in reverence, are fond of pleasures, their bodies are not formed by parents, and they have families consisting of good-looking and docile Apsarās (nymphs). In the great Prājāpatya region there are five groups of deities—Kumudas, Ṛbhus, Pratardanas, Añjanābhas, and Prachitābhas. They have mastery over the gross elements, and meditation is their food. They live for a thousand Kalpas (eons). In Brahmā's first sphere called Janaloka, there are four classes of Devas—the Brahma-purohitas, the Brahma-kāyikas, the Brahma-mahākāyikas and the Amaras. They have power over the elements and the sense-organs and have double the longevity of those mentioned before. In the second sphere called Tapoloka,