

and the golden king of mountains called Sumeru in the middle. Its peaks on the four sides are of silver, emerald, crystal and gold (2). On account of the sheen of the emerald, the southern region of the sky looks like the leaf of a blue lotus ; the eastern is white, the western bright and the northern yellow. On the right side is the Jambu (tree) whence it is called the Jambu Dvīpa. Its night and day go round with the motion of the sun, where the days and nights seem to be in contact. This has three northern mountain chains called Neela, Sveta, and Sṛṅgavat covering an extent of nearly two thousand Yojanas. Surrounded by these mountains are three continents of nine thousand Yojanas each. They are known as Ramaṇaka, Hiraṇmaya and Uttarakuru. To the south are the three mountain chains called Niṣadha, Hemakūta and Himaśaila extending over two thousand Yojanas each, in the midst of which are situated the three continents of Harivarṣa, Kimpuruṣavarṣa and Bhāratvarṣa each extending over nine thousand Yojanas. (1 Yojana = about 9 miles).

To the east of Sumeru is Bhadrāśva up to Mālyavat mountain and to the west is Ketumāla up to Gandhamādana mountain. In their midst is Ilāvṛtavarṣa. The diameter of Jambudvīpa is a hundred thousand Yojanas and stretches round Sumeru for fifty thousand Yojanas. These are surrounded by double their extent of salt water ocean. After them are the Dvīpas called Śāka, Kuśa, Krauñcha, Śālmala, Magadha and Puṣkara each twice the size of the one mentioned just before it, with beautiful mountains and surrounded by oceans, and spreading like a pile of mustard seeds. The seven oceans, except the first one of salt water, taste as sugarcane juice, wine, butter, curd, cream and milk (3). These are encompassed by seven seas, girdle shaped and encircled by Lokāloka mountains, and are estimated to be five hundred millions of Yojanas. This