dīgha nikāya 20

Long Discourses 20

mahāsamayasutta

The Great Congregation

evam me sutam-

So I have heard.

ekam samayam bhagavā sakkesu viharati kapilavatthusmim mahāvane mahatā bhikkhusamghena saddhim pañcamattehi bhikkhusatehi sabbeheva arahantehi;

At one time the Buddha was staying in the land of the Sakyans, near Kapilavatthu in the Great Wood, together with a large Sangha of around five hundred mendicants, all of whom were perfected ones.

dasahi ca lokadhātūhi devatā yebhuyyena sannipatitā honti bhagavantaṃ dassanāya bhikkhusaṃghañca.

And most of the deities from ten solar systems had gathered to see the Buddha and the Sangha of mendicants.

atha kho catunnam suddhāvāsakāyikānam devatānam etadahosi:

Then four deities of the Pure Abodes, aware of what was happening, thought:

"ayam kho bhagavā sakkesu viharati kapilavatthusmim mahāvane mahatā bhikkhusamghena saddhim pañcamattehi bhikkhusatehi sabbeheva arahantehi;

dasahi ca lokadhātūhi devatā yebhuyyena sannipatitā honti bhagavantaṃ dassanāya bhikkhusaṃghañca.

yannūna mayampi yena bhagavā tenupasankameyyāma; upasankamitvā bhagavato santike paccekam gātham bhāseyyāmā"ti.

"Why don't we go to the Buddha and each recite a verse in his presence?"

atha kho tā devatā seyyathāpi nāma balavā puriso samiñjitam vā bāham pasāreyya pasāritam vā bāham samiñjeyya; evameva—suddhāvāsesu devesu antarahitā bhagavato purato pāturahesum.

Then, as easily as a strong person would extend or contract their arm, they vanished from the Pure Abodes and reappeared in front of the Buddha.

atha kho tā devatā bhagavantam abhivādetvā ekamantam atthamsu.

They bowed to the Buddha and stood to one side.

ekamantam thitā kho ekā devatā bhagavato santike imam gātham abhāsi:

Standing to one side, one deity recited this verse in the Buddha's presence:

"mahāsamayo pavanasmim,

"There's a great congregation in the woods,

devakāyā samāgatā;

a host of gods have assembled.

āgatamha imam dhammasamayam,

We've come to this righteous congregation

dakkhitāye aparājitasanghan"ti.

to see the invincible Sangha!"

atha kho aparā devatā bhagavato santike imam gātham abhāsi:

Then another deity recited this verse in the Buddha's presence:

"tatra bhikkhavo samādahamsu,

"The mendicants there are immersed in samādhi,

cittamattano ujukam akamsu;

they've straightened out their own minds.

sārathīva nettāni gahetvā,

Like a charioteer who has taken the reins,

indriyāni rakkhanti paņditā"ti.

the astute ones protect their senses."

atha kho aparā devatā bhagavato santike imam gātham abhāsi:

Then another deity recited this verse in the Buddha's presence:

"chetvā khīlam chetvā paligham,

"Having cut the stake and cut the bar,

indakhīlam ūhacca manejā;

they're unstirred, with boundary pillar uprooted.

te caranti suddhā vimalā,

They live pure and immaculate,

cakkhumatā sudantā susunāgā"ti.

the young dragons tamed by the seer."

atha kho aparā devatā bhagavato santike imam gātham abhāsi:

Then another deity recited this verse in the Buddha's presence:

"ye keci buddham saranam gatāse,

"Anyone who has gone to the Buddha for refuge

na te gamissanti apāyabhūmim;

won't go to a plane of loss.

pahāya mānusam deham,

After giving up this human body,

devakāyam paripūressantī"ti.

they swell the hosts of gods."

1. devatāsannipāta

1. The Gathering of Deities

atha kho bhagavā bhikkhū āmantesi:

Then the Buddha said to the mendicants:

"yebhuyyena, bhikkhave, dasasu lokadhātūsu devatā sannipatitā honti, tathāgatam dassanāya bhikkhusamghañca.

"Mendicants, most of the deities from ten solar systems have gathered to see the Realized One and the mendicant Sangha.

yepi te, bhikkhave, ahesum atītamaddhānam arahanto sammāsambuddhā, tesampi bhagavantānam etapparamāyeva devatā sannipatitā ahesum seyyathāpi mayham etarahi.

The Buddhas of the past had, and the Buddhas of the future will have, gatherings of deities that are at most like the gathering for me now.

yepi te, bhikkhave, bhavissanti anāgatamaddhānam arahanto sammāsambuddhā, tesampi bhagavantānam etapparamāyeva devatā sannipatitā bhavissanti seyyathāpi mayham etarahi.

ācikkhissāmi, bhikkhave, devakāyānam nāmāni;

I shall declare the names of the heavenly hosts;

kittayissāmi, bhikkhave, devakāyānam nāmāni;

I shall extol the names of the heavenly hosts;

desessāmi, bhikkhave, devakāyānam nāmāni.

I shall teach the names of the heavenly hosts.

tam sunātha, sādhukam manasikarotha, bhāsissāmī"ti.

Listen and pay close attention, I will speak."

"evam, bhante"ti kho te bhikkhū bhagavato paccassosum. "Yes, sir," they replied.

bhagavā etadavoca:

The Buddha said this:

"silokamanukassāmi,

"I shall invoke a paean of praise!

yattha bhummā tadassitā;

Where the earth-gods dwell,

ye sitā girigabbharam,

there, in mountain caves,

pahitattā samāhitā.

resolute and composed,

puthūsīhāva sallīnā,

dwell many like lonely lions,

lomahamsābhisambhuno;

who have mastered their fears.

odātamanasā suddhā,

Their minds are bright and pure,

vippasannamanāvilā.

clear and undisturbed."

bhiyyo pañcasate ñatvā,

The teacher knew that over five hundred

vane kāpilavatthave;

were in the wood at Kapilavatthu.

tato āmantayī satthā,

Therefore he addressed

sāvake sāsane rate.

the disciples who love the teaching:

'devakāyā abhikkantā,

"The heavenly hosts have come forth;

te vijānātha bhikkhavo';

mendicants, you should be aware of them."

te ca ātappamakarum,

Those monks became keen.

sutvā buddhassa sāsanam.

hearing the Buddha's instruction.

tesam pāturahu ñānam,

Knowledge manifested in them,

amanussānadassanam;

seeing those non-human beings.

appeke satamaddakkhum,

Some saw a hundred.

sahassam atha sattarim.

a thousand, even seventy thousand,

satam eke sahassānam,

while some saw a hundred thousand

amanussānamaddasum; non-human beings.

appekenantamaddakkhum, But some saw an endless number

disā sabbā phuṭā ahum.

spread out in every direction.

tañca sabbam abhiññāya, And all that was known

vavatthitvāna cakkhumā; and distinguished by the Seer.

tato āmantayī satthā, Therefore he addressed

sāvake sāsane rate.

the disciples who love the teaching:

'devakāyā abhikkantā, "The heavenly hosts have come forth;

te vijānātha bhikkhavo; mendicants, you should be aware of them.

ye voham kittayissāmi, I shall extol them for you,

girāhi anupubbaso'. with lyrics in proper order.

sattasahassā te yakkhā, There are seven thousand spirits,

bhummā kāpilavatthavā; earth-gods of Kapilavatthu.

iddhimanto jutimanto, They're powerful and brilliant,

vaṇṇavanto yasassino; so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum, Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnaṃ samitiṃ vanaṃ.
to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

chasahassā hemavatā, From the Himalayas there are six thousand

yakkhā nānattavaṇṇino; spirits of different colors.

iddhimanto jutimanto, They're powerful and brilliant,

vaṇṇavanto yasassino; so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum, Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnam samitim vanam.
to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

sātāgirā tisahassā,

From Sātāgira there are three thousand

yakkhā nānattavaņņino;

spirits of different colors.

iddhimanto jutimanto,

They're powerful and brilliant,

vannavanto yasassino;

so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum,

Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnam samitim vanam.

to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

iccete solasasahassā,

And thus there are sixteen thousand

yakkhā nānattavannino;

spirits of different colors.

iddhimanto jutimanto,

They're powerful and brilliant,

vannavanto yasassino;

so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum,

Rejoicing, they've come forth

regoreing, mey re come jorni

bhikkhūnaṃ samitiṃ vanaṃ.

to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

vessāmittā pañcasatā,

From Vessamittā there are five hundred

yakkhā nānattavaņņino;

spirits of different colors.

iddhimanto jutimanto,

They're powerful and brilliant,

vannavanto yasassino;

so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum,

Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnam samitim vanam.

to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

kumbhīro rājagahiko,

And there's Kumbhīra of Rājagaha,

vepullassa nivesanam;

whose home is on Mount Vepulla.

bhiyyo nam satasahassam,

Attended by more than

yakkhānam payirupāsati;

a hundred thousand spirits,

kumbhīro rājagahiko,

Kumbhīra of Rājagaha

sopāgā samitim vanam. also came to the meeting in the wood.

purimañca disam rājā, King Dhataraṭṭha rules

dhataraṭṭho pasāsati; the eastern quarter.

gandhabbānam adhipati, *Lord of the fairies*,

mahārājā yasassiso. he's a great king, glorious.

puttāpi tassa bahavo, And he has many mighty sons

indanāmā mahabbalā; all of them named Inda.

iddhimanto jutimanto, They're powerful and brilliant,

vannavanto yasassino; so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum, Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnaṃ samitiṃ vanaṃ. to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

dakkhinañca disam rājā, King Virūlha rules

virūļho tam pasāsati; the southern quarter.

kumbhaṇḍānaṃ adhipati, *Lord of the goblins*,

mahārājā yasassiso. he's a great king, glorious.

puttāpi tassa bahavo, And he has many mighty sons

indanāmā mahabbalā; all of them named Inda.

iddhimanto jutimanto, They're powerful and brilliant,

vannavanto yasassino; so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum, Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnaṃ samitiṃ vanaṃ. to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

pacchimañca disam rājā, King Virūpakkha rules

virūpakkho pasāsati; the western quarter.

nāgānañca adhipati, *Lord of the dragons*,

mahārājā yasassiso. he's a great king, glorious.

puttāpi tassa bahavo, And he has many mighty sons

indanāmā mahabbalā; all of them named Inda.

iddhimanto jutimanto, They're powerful and brilliant,

vannavanto yasassino; so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum, Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnam samitim vanam. to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

uttarañca disam rājā, King Kuvera rules

kuvero tam pasāsati; the northern quarter.

yakkhānañca adhipati, *Lord of spirits*,

mahārājā yasassiso. he's a great king, glorious.

puttāpi tassa bahavo, And he has many mighty sons

indanāmā mahabbalā; all of them named Inda.

iddhimanto jutimanto, They're powerful and brilliant,

vannavanto yasassino; so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum, Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnaṃ samitiṃ vanaṃ. to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

purimam disam dhatarattho, Dhatarattha in the east,

dakkhinena virūļhako;

Virūļhaka to the south,

pacchimena virūpakkho, Virūpakkha to the west,

kuvero uttaram disam. and Kuvera in the north.

cattāro te mahārājā, These Four Great Kings,

samantā caturo disā; all around in the four quarters,

daddallamānā atthaṃsu, stood there dazzling

vane kāpilavatthave. in the wood at Kapilavatthu.

tesam māyāvino dāsā, Their deceitful bondservants came,

āgum vañcanikā saṭhā; so treacherous and crafty—

māyā kuṭeṇḍu viṭeṇḍu, the deceivers Kuṭeṇḍu, Viṭeṇḍu,

vitucca vituto saha.

with Vitucca and Vituda.

candano kāmaseṭṭho ca, And Candana and Kāmaseṭṭha,

kinnighandu nighandu ca; Kinnughandu and Nighandu,

panādo opamañño ca, Panāda and Opamañña,

devasūto ca mātali. and Mātali, the god's charioteer.

cittaseno ca gandhabbo, Cittasena the fairy came too,

nalorājā janesabho; and the kings Nala and Janesabha,

āgā pañcasikho ceva, as well as Pañcasikha,

timbarū sūriyavacchasā. *Timbaru, and Suriyavaccasā.*

ete caññe ca rājāno, These and other kings there were,

gandhabbā saha rājubhi; the fairies with their kings.

modamānā abhikkāmum, Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnam samitim vanam.
to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

athāgum nāgasā nāgā, Then came dragons from Nābhasa,

vesālā sahatacchakā; and Vesālī, with the Tacchakas.

kambalassatarā āgum, The Kambalas and Assataras came

pāyāgā saha ñātibhi. from Pāyāga with their kin.

yāmunā dhataraṭṭhā ca, From Yamunā the Dhatarattha

āgū nāgā yasassino; dragons came, so glorious.

erāvaņo mahānāgo, And Erāvaņa the great dragon

sopāgā samitim vanam. also came to the meeting in the wood.

ye nāgarāje sahasā haranti, Those who seize the dragon kings by force—

dibbā dijā pakkhi visuddhacakkhū; divine, twice-born birds with piercing vision—

vehāyasā te vanamajjhapattā, swoop down to the wood from the sky;

citrā supaṇṇā iti tesa nāmaṃ. their name is 'Rainbow Phoenix'.

abhayam tadā nāgarājānamāsi, But the dragon kings remained fearless,

supannato khemamakāsi buddho; for the Buddha kept them safe from the phoenixes.

saṇhāhi vācāhi upavhayantā, Introducing each other with gentle words,

nāgā supanṇā saraṇamakamsu buddham. the dragons and phoenixes took the Buddha as their refuge.

jitā vajirahatthena, Defeated by Vajirahattha,

samuddam asurāsitā; the demons live in the ocean.

bhātaro vāsavassete, They're brothers of Vāsava,

iddhimanto yasassino. powerful and glorious.

kālakañcā mahābhismā, There's the terrifying Kālakañjas,

asurā dānaveghasā; the Dānaveghasa demons,

vepacitti sucitti ca, Vepacitti and Sucitti,

pahārādo namucī saha. Pahārāda with Namuci,

satañca baliputtānam, and a hundred of Bali's sons,

sabbe verocanāmakā; all named after Veroca.

sannayhitvā balisenam, Bali's army armed themselves

rāhubhaddamupāgamum; and went up to the auspicious Rāhu, saying:

'samayo dāni bhaddante, 'Now is the time, sir,

bhikkhūnam samitim vanam'. for the meeting of mendicants in the wood.'

āpo ca devā pathavī, The gods of Water and Earth,

tejo vāyo tadāgamum; and Fire and Wind came there.

varuṇā vāraṇā devā, The Varuṇa and Vāruṇa gods,

somo ca yasasā saha. and Soma together with Yasa.

mettā karuņā kāyikā, A host of the gods of Love

āgum devā yasassino; and Compassion came, so glorious.

dasete dasadhā kāyā, These ten hosts of gods

sabbe nānattavannino. shone in all different colors.

iddhimanto jutimanto, They're powerful and brilliant,

vannavanto yasassino; so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum, Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnaṃ samitiṃ vanaṃ. to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

vendudevā sahali ca, The Venhu and Sahali gods,

asamā ca duve yamā; and Asama, and the twin Yamas came.

candassūpanisā devā, The gods living on the moon came,

candamāgum purakkhatvā. with the Moon before them.

sūriyassūpanisā devā, The gods living on the sun came,

sūriyamāgum purakkhatvā; with the Sun before them.

nakkhattāni purakkhatvā, And with the stars before them

āguṃ mandavalāhakā. came the silly gods of clouds.

vasūnam vāsavo settho, And Sakka came, the stronghold-giver,

sakkopāgā purindado; known as Vāsava, the best of the Vasus.

dasete dasadhā kāyā, These ten hosts of gods

sabbe nānattavaṇṇino. shone in all different colors.

iddhimanto jutimanto, They're powerful and brilliant,

vannavanto yasassino; so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum, Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnaṃ samitiṃ vanaṃ. to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

athāgum sahabhū devā, Then came the Sahabhū gods,

jalamaggi sikhāriva; blazing like a crested flame;

aritthakā ca rojā ca, and the Aritthakas and Rojas too,

umāpupphanibhāsino. and the gods hued blue as flax.

varuṇā sahadhammā ca, The Varunas and Sahadhammas,

accutā ca anejakā; the Accutas and Anejakas,

sūleyyarucirā āgum, the Sūleyyas and Ruciras all came,

āgum vāsavanesino; as did the Vāsavanesi gods.

dasete dasadhā kāyā, These ten hosts of gods

sabbe nānattavannino. shone in all different colors.

iddhimanto jutimanto, They're powerful and brilliant,

vannavanto yasassino; *so beautiful and glorious.*

modamānā abhikkāmum, Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnaṃ samitiṃ vanaṃ. to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

samānā mahāsamanā, The Samānas, Mahāsamānas,

mānusā mānusuttamā; Mānusas, and Mānusuttamas all came,

khiddāpadosikā āgum, and the gods depraved by play,

āgum manopadosikā. and those who are malevolent.

athāgum harayo devā, Then came the Hari gods,

ye ca lohitavāsino; and the Lohitavāsīs.

pāragā mahāpāragā, The Pāragas and Mahāpāragas came,

āgum devā yasassino; such glorious gods.

dasete dasadhā kāyā, These ten hosts of gods

sabbe nānattavaṇṇino. shone in all different colors.

iddhimanto jutimanto, They're powerful and brilliant,

vannavanto yasassino; so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum, Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnaṃ samitiṃ vanaṃ. to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

sukkā karambhā aruṇā, The Sukkas, Karumhas, and Aruṇas

āgum veghanasā saha; came along with the Veghanasas.

odātagayhā pāmokkhā, And the Odātagayhas came as chiefs

āgum devā vicakkhaṇā. of the Vicakkhaṇa gods.

sadāmattā hāragajā, The Sadāmattas and Hāragajas,

missakā ca yasassino; and the glorious Missakas;

thanayam āga pajjunno, Pajjuna came thundering,

yo disā abhivassati. he who rains on all quarters.

dasete dasadhā kāyā, These ten hosts of gods

sabbe nānattavaṇṇino; shone in all different colors.

iddhimanto jutimanto,

They're powerful and brilliant,

vaņņavanto yasassino;

so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum,

Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnam samitim vanam.

to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

khemiyā tusitā yāmā,

The Khemiyas, Tusitas, Yāmas,

katthakā ca yasassino;

and the glorious Katthakas came;

lambītakā lāmasetthā,

The Lambītakas, Lāmasetthas,

jotināmā ca āsavā;

those called the Jotis and Āsavas.

nimmānaratino āgum,

The Gods Who Love to Create came too,

athāgum paranimmitā.

and those who delight in the Creations of Others.

dasete dasadhā kāyā,

These ten hosts of gods

sabbe nānattavannino;

shone in all different colors.

iddhimanto jutimanto,

They're powerful and brilliant,

vannavanto yasassino;

so beautiful and glorious.

modamānā abhikkāmum,

Rejoicing, they've come forth

bhikkhūnam samitim vanam.

to the meeting of mendicants in the wood.

satthete devanikāyā,

These sixty hosts of gods

sabbe nānattavannino;

shone in all different colors.

nāmanvayena āgacchum,

They came in order of their names,

ye caññe sadisā saha.

these and others likewise, thinking:

'pavutthajātimakhilam,

'We shall see those rid of rebirth, kind,

oghatinnamanāsavam;

the undefiled ones who have crossed the flood,

dakkhemoghataram nāgam,

and the dragon who brought them across,

candaṃva asitātigaṃ'. who like the Moon has overcome darkness.'

subrahmā paramatto ca, Subrahmā and Paramatta came,

puttā iddhimato saha; with sons of those powerful ones.

sanaṅkumāro tisso ca, Sanaṅkumāra and Tissa

sopāga samitim vanam. also came to the meeting in the wood.

sahassam brahmalokānam, Of a thousand Brahmā realms,

mahābrahmābhitiṭṭhati; the Great Brahmā stands forth.

upapanno jutimanto, He has arisen, resplendent,

bhismākāyo yasassiso. his formidable body so glorious.

dasettha issarā āgum, The ten Issarās came there,

paccekavasavattino; each one of them wielding power,

tesañca majjhato āga, and in the middle of them came

hārito parivārito. *Hārita with his following.*"

te ca sabbe abhikkante, When they had all come forth—

sainde deve sabrahmake; the gods with their Lord, and the Brahmās—

mārasenā abhikkāmi, Māra's army came forth too:

passa kanhassa mandiyam. see the stupidity of the Dark Lord!

'etha ganhatha bandhatha, "Come, seize them and bind them," he said,

rāgena baddhamatthu vo; "let them be bound by desire!

samantā parivāretha, Surround them on all sides,

mā vo muñcittha koci nam'. don't let any escape!"

iti tattha mahāseno, And so there the great general

kanho senam apesayi; sent forth his dark army.

pāṇinā talamāhacca, He struck the ground with his fist

saram katvāna bheravam. to make a horrifying sound

yathā pāvussako megho, like a storm cloud shedding rain,

thanayanto savijjuko; thundering and flashing.

tadā so paccudāvatti, But then he retreated,

sankuddho asayamvase. furious, out of control.

tañca sabbam abhiññāya, And all that was known

vavatthitvāna cakkhumā; and distinguished by the Seer.

tato āmantayī satthā, Therefore he addressed

sāvake sāsane rate. the disciples who love the teaching:

'mārasenā abhikkantā, "Māra's army has arrived;

te vijānātha bhikkhavo'; mendicants, you should be aware of them."

te ca ātappamakarum, Those monks became keen.

sutvā buddhassa sāsanam; hearing the Buddha's instruction.

vītarāgehi pakkāmum, The army fled from those free of passion,

nesam lomāpi iñjayum. and not a single hair was stirred!

'sabbe vijitasangāmā, "All are triumphant in battle,

bhayātītā yasassino; so fearless and glorious.

modanti saha bhūtehi, They rejoice with all the spirits,

sāvakā te janesutā""ti. the disciples well-known among men."

mahāsamayasuttam niṭṭhitam sattamam.