

# Mahā-Moggallāna

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## [2. Mahā-Moggallāna]

Anomadassi, Blessed One,  
the World's Best One, the Bull of Men,  
was living in the Himalayas,  
Honored by the Gods' Assembly. (1) [374]

I was then a king of snake-gods,<sup>1</sup>  
known by the name of Varuṇa.<sup>2</sup>  
Taking on the form of Cupid<sup>3</sup>  
I was dwelling in the ocean. (2) [375]

Being in a musical group,  
I provided the percussion.<sup>4</sup>  
After serving the Sambuddha,  
the divine nymphs<sup>5</sup> then sang [their songs]. (3) [376]

When the drums were being beaten  
the gods then also beat on drums.  
Upon hearing the sound of both,  
the Buddha himself then listened. (4) [377]

Having invited Sambuddha  
that he come over to my house,  
providing an appointed seat.  
I announced that it was [now] time. (5) [378]

With one thousand flawless arahants<sup>6</sup>  
following behind, that World-Chief,<sup>7</sup>  
shining light in all directions  
did come over to my house [then]. (6) [379]

I satisfied with food and drink  
the Great Hero who had arrived,  
the God of Gods, the Bull of Men  
along with the monks' Assembly. (7) [380]

The Great Hero was delighted,  
the Self-Existent, Top Human;  
seated in the monks' Assembly  
he spoke these verses [about me]: (8) [381]

<sup>1</sup>*nāgarājā*

<sup>2</sup>PTS reads *Varuṇa*.

<sup>3</sup>lit., "transformed into the form of *Kāma*;" could be less specific: transforming into sexy shapes

<sup>4</sup>lit., "established the *turiya*"

<sup>5</sup>*accharā*, Skt. *apsarā*

<sup>6</sup>lit., "with one thousand who were free of *āsavas* (outflows, defilements)"

<sup>7</sup>or "World-Leader:" *lokanāyako*

“He who worshipped the assembly  
and also the Buddha, World-Chief,<sup>8</sup>  
due to the pleasure in [his] heart,  
will go into the world of gods. (9) [382]

He will exercise divine rule  
seventy-seven [different] times.  
He will reside upon the earth,  
[and] have eight hundred earthly reigns. (10) [383]

And he’ll be a wheel-turning king  
five and fifty [different] times.  
All the time they will bring for him  
uncountable [amounts of] wealth. (11) [384]

Aeons beyond measure from now,  
arising in Okkāka’s clan,  
the one whose name is Gotama  
will be the Teacher in the world. (12) [385]

After having come out of hell  
he will go to a human state.  
Known by the name of Kolita  
he’ll be a kinsman of Brahma.<sup>9</sup> (13) [386]

He’ll afterwards go forth, renouncing,  
incited by [his] wholesome roots.  
He’ll be second chief-follower  
of the Blessed One, Gotama. (14) [387]

Resolved,<sup>10</sup> with strenuous effort,<sup>11</sup>  
he’ll excel in superpowers.  
Knowing well all the defilements  
he’ll reach nirvana, undefiled.” (15) [388]

Depending on [some] evil friends,  
overpowered by lust [and] anger,  
being cruel-minded I slew  
my mother and my father too. (16) [389]

In whichever womb I’m reborn  
in hell or [else] among humans

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<sup>8</sup>or “World-Leader,” *lokanāyakaṇ*

<sup>9</sup>*brahmabandhu*, i.e., a brahmin

<sup>10</sup>*pahittato*. RD “of resolute will.” Cty (following Buddhaghosa) explains the term as derived from: *peseti*, “sent:” “having a mind that is sent forth to nirvana;” RD dismisses this as false etymology.

<sup>11</sup>*āraddhviriyā*, lit., “with strenuous effort”

since<sup>12</sup> I possess that bad karma  
I get murdered,<sup>13</sup> head split open. (17) [390]

This is the final time for me;  
[my] last rebirth is proceeding.<sup>14</sup>  
And also here, like that, for me  
a time for getting killed will be. (18) [391]

Binding [myself] to solitude,  
fond of *samādhi*-meditation,  
knowing well all the defilements,  
I am [now] living, undefiled. (19) [392]

Excelling in superpowers  
I shake with only my left thumb  
this very earth which is so deep,  
thick and difficult to destroy. (20) [393]

I don't feel the pride of "I am;"  
no pride at all exists in me.  
Even regarding novices  
I act with reverence in [my] heart. (21) [394]

I brought forward the karma done  
in an aeon so long ago.<sup>15</sup>  
That I has now attained the earth;<sup>16</sup>  
I've reached the end of defilements. (22) [395]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;  
all [new] existence is destroyed.  
Like elephants with broken chains,  
I am living without constraint. [396]

Being in Best Buddha's presence  
was a very good thing for me.  
The three knowledges are attained;  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! [397]

The four analytical modes,  
and these eight deliverances,  
six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (23) [398]

<sup>12</sup>following BJTS in reading *samanginnā* (sing. abl) for PTS *samangīnaṃ* (pl. dat/gen)

<sup>13</sup>reading, with BJTS and PTS alt, *marām' ahaṃ* for PTS *bhavām' ahaṃ*

<sup>14</sup>*carimo vattate bhavo*

<sup>15</sup>lit., "in an aeon immeasurably [past]."

<sup>16</sup>reading *bhummanupatto* (BJTS) for *bhumim anupatto* (PTS).

Thus indeed Venerable Mahāmogallāna Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Mahāmogallāna Thera is finished.