AN 6.34 — With Mahāmoggallāna

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
Source: https://suttacentral.net/an6.34/en/sujato
Source revision: 3bc8665e0e28e70518eba94304a2fafcab80f933
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Text

Numbered Discourses 6.34

4. Deities

With Mahāmoggallāna

At one time the Buddha was staying near Sāvatthī in Jeta's Grove, Anāthapiṇḍika's monastery.

Then as Venerable Mahāmoggallāna was in private retreat this thought came to his mind, "Which gods know that they are stream-enterers, not liable to be reborn in the underworld, assured, destined for awakening?"

Now, at that time a monk named Tissa had recently passed away and been reborn in a realm of divinity. There they knew that The divinity Tissa was very mighty and powerful.

And then Venerable Mahāmoggallāna, as easily as a strong person would extend or contract their arm, vanished from Jeta's Grove and reappeared in that realm of divinity.

Tissa saw Moggallāna coming off in the distance, and said to him, "Come, my good fellow Moggallāna! Welcome, my good fellow! It's been a long time since you took the opportunity to come here. Sit, my good Moggallāna, this seat is for you." Moggallāna sat down on the seat spread out. Then Tissa bowed to Moggallāna and sat to one side.

Moggallāna said to him, "Tissa, which gods know that they are stream-enterers, not liable to be reborn in the underworld, assured, destined for awakening?"

"The gods of the four great kings know this."

"But do all of them know this?"

"No, my good Moggallāna, not all of them. Those who lack experiential confidence in the Buddha, the teaching, and the Saṅgha, and lack the ethics loved by the noble ones, do not know that they are stream-enterers. But those who have experiential confidence in the Buddha, the teaching, and the Saṅgha, and have the ethics loved by the noble ones, do know that they are stream-enterers."

"But Tissa, is it only the gods of the four great kings who know that they are stream-enterers, or do the gods of the thirty-three … the gods of Yama … the joyful gods … the gods who love to create … and the gods who control what is created by others know that they are stream-enterers, not liable to be reborn in the underworld, assured, destined for awakening?"

“The gods of these various classes know this.”

“But do all of them know this?”

“No, my good Moggallāna, not all of them. Those who lack experiential confidence in the Buddha, the teaching, and the Saṅgha, and lack the ethics loved by the noble ones, do not know that they are stream-enterers. But those who have experiential confidence in the Buddha, the teaching, and the Saṅgha, and have the ethics loved by the noble ones, do know that they are stream-enterers.”

Moggallāna approved and agreed with what the divinity Tissa said. Then, as easily as a strong person would extend or contract their arm, he vanished from that realm of divinity and reappeared in Jeta’s Grove.