

"On nomme kalpa l'ensemble des quatre périodes pendant lesquelles un univers se forme, demeure, se détruit et reste vide. Quand un parfait bouddha vient dans le monde, on parle de kalpa lumineux. Sinon il s'agit d'un kalpa obscur. Jadis, lors du grand kalpa Ultra Joie, 33.000 bouddhas apparurent. Suivirent 100 kalpa obscurs. Ensuite, pendant le kalpa appelé Parfait, il vint 800 millions de bouddhas et il se passa 100 kalpa sans Dharma. Puis 840 millions de bouddhas apparurent pendant le kalpa appelé Excellence, qui fut suivi de 500 kalpas obscurs. Pendant le kalpa Plaisant-au-regard, 800 millions de bouddhas apparurent, puis il advint 700 kalpas obscurs. 60.000 bouddhas apparurent lors du kalpa dit Joyeux, qui suit le présent kalpa appelé Bon kalpa.

Avant que ce kalpa se forme, le trichiliocosme n'était qu'un immense océan sur lequel apparurent 1000 lotus à 1000 pétales. Les dieux du monde de Brahma s'en demandèrent la raison et, grâce à leur clairvoyance, ils comprirent que cela signifiait que 1000 bouddhas viendraient en ce kalpa. "Voici un bon kalpa", firent-ils, et Bon fut le nom de ce kalpa.

Depuis l'époque où les hommes vivaient 80.000 et où vint le bouddha Destructeur-du-Samsara, jusqu'à celle où les hommes pourront vivre un nombre incalculable d'années et où viendra le bouddha Aspiration Infinie, mille bouddhas doivent venir au Trône de Diamant (Vajrasana) qui est au centre du continent de Jambu dans ce monde, y atteindre la bouddhité parfaite et faire tourner la roue du Dharma. C'est pourquoi notre kalpa actuel est un kalpa lumineux.

Il sera suivi de 60 kalpas périphériques et obscurs, et ensuite viendra le Kalpa des Grands Nombres, au cours duquel 10.000 Bouddhas apparaîtront. Suivront 10.000 kalpas obscurs. Dans cette alternance de kalpas lumineux et obscurs, si nous naissons au cours d'un kalpa obscur, nous ne saurons même pas que les Trois Joyaux existent."

(Le Chemin de la Grande Perfection, Patrul Rinpoche, Editions Padmakara, 2ème Ed. 1997 - Chap.1, les cinq richesses extrinsèques, p. 63)

"The time it takes for the universe to form, to stay in existence, to be destroyed and to remain in a state of emptiness is called a kalpa. A kalpa in which a perfect Buddha appears in the world is called a 'bright kalpa', while one in which a Buddha does not appear is called a 'dark kalpa'. Long ago, during the great Kalpa of Manifest Joy, thirty-three thousand Buddhas appeared. A hundred dark kalpas followed. Then, during the Perfect Kalpa, eight hundred million Buddhas appeared, again followed by a hundred kalpas without Dharma. Then eight hundred and forty million Buddhas appeared during the Excellent Kalpa, after which there were five hundred dark kalpas. During the Kalpa Delightful to See, eight hundred million Buddhas appeared, and then there were seven hundred kalpas of darkness. Sixty thousand Buddhas appeared during the Joyous Kalpa. Then came our own kalpa, the Good Kalpa.

Before our kalpa arose, this cosmos of a billion universes was an immense ocean on whose surface appeared a thousand thousand-petalled lotuses. The gods of the Brahma-world, wondering how this could be, through clairvoyance understood it to signify that during this kalpa one thousand buddhas would appear. "This will be a good kalpa", they said, and "Good" became its name.

From the time when beings' lifespan was eighty thousand years and the Buddha Destroyer-of-Samsara appeared, and up to the time when beings will live incalculably long and the Buddha Infinite-Aspiration will come, one thousand Buddhas will have taken their place in this world on the Vajra Seat at the centre of the Continent of Jambudvīpa. Each one of them will have

attained perfect BUddhahood there and turned the Wheel of Dharma. Therefore our present kalpa is a bright kalpa.

It will be followed by sixty peripheral, bad kalpas, and after that, in the Kalpa of Vast Numbers, ten thousand Buddhas will appear. Then another ten thousand bad kalpas will ensue. In this alternation of bright and dark kalpas, should we happen to be born during a dark kalpa, we would ,ever even hear that there was such a thing as the Three Jewels."

(Words of My Perfect Teacher, Patrul Rinpoche, Padmakara Translation Group, Ed. Altamira, 1998)