Ananda replied, "The beggar cannot be compared to the king, as his impoverished and wretched condition, even if improved a hundred, thousand, million, or incalculable times, could not match that of the king. How come?

This destitute beggar lives a lowly existence in extreme poverty. He does not have enough clothing to cover his body and has barely enough food to stay alive. Suffering from hunger and cold, he lives a life devoid of morality. His condition is a result of not cultivating a foundation of goodness in past lives.

In the past, when he acquired wealth, he refused to give; when he became rich, he was even more stingy; he always wanted more with insatiable greed. He did not believe in doing good; instead, he piled up a mountain of evil deeds.

When his life ended, his wealth left him. Everything he had accumulated through hardship and worry could not help him anymore, but belonged to other people. Lacking in goodness and virtue, he fell into the lower realms of misery, where he suffered for a long time. After finishing the retribution of his offenses, he was reborn in a lowly existence, foolish, despised, and barely considered human.

"In this world, this king is honored by everyone due to his virtuous actions in past lives. Kind and benevolent, he gave generously to others. Humane and caring, he lived a life of service. Trustworthy, he practiced goodness. He did not fight with others.

At the end of his life, his blessings allowed him a good rebirth where he was born in the heavens. There he was happy, enjoying his blessings.

In his present life, his remaining blessings allowed him to be reborn as a human in a royal family. Honored from birth, his appearance is noble and dignified. Everyone respects and serves him, providing wondrous clothing and rare delicacies according to his wishes. These rewards come from the blessings from past lives."
The Buddha said to Ananda, "What you say is true. Even though the king is most honored among humans, with a noble and dignified appearance, when compared to a wheel-turning emperor, he is lowly and inferior, like the beggar standing next to the king. Although the wheel-turning emperor's majestic appearance is unsurpassed in this world, when compared to the ruler of Trāyastriṃśa Heaven, his appearance is one trillion times inferior. But that heaven's ruler, when compared to the ruler of the Sixth Heaven, is ten trillion times inferior. The ruler of the Sixth Heaven, when compared to the Bodhisattvas and sravakas in the land of Infinite Life Buddha, is a hundred quadrillion incalculable times inferior."

The Buddha said to Ananda, "The devas in the land of Buddha Infinite Life are provided with clothes, food and drink, flowers, incense, garlands, canopies, banners, and wondrous music. Their houses, palaces, and pavilions adapt to their height and size. One, two, or even up to infinite gems appear before them according to their wishes. Furthermore, exquisite fabrics studded with various jewels cover the ground where the devas walk. This Buddha-land is draped with immeasurable jeweled nets adorned by gold threads, pearls, and a hundred thousand types of wondrous and rare treasures."
Everywhere on the jeweled nets hang the finest and most beautiful jeweled bells, dazzling and glimmering in brilliant color.

“A spontaneous breeze of virtue blows gently. Harmonious, warm and refreshing, it is neither too cold nor too hot, neither too slow nor too fast.

When this breeze blow through these nets and jeweled trees, infinite wondrous Dharma sounds and myriad refined fragrances of virtue pervade everywhere.

Defilements and unwholesome habits naturally do not arise in those who hear these sounds or smell these fragrances.

Feeling this breeze on the body brings joy like that of a bhikshu who has attained the samadhi of complete cessation.”

“Moreover, this breeze scatters flowers throughout this Buddha-land, arranging them according to their colors.

The flowers are soft, luminous, and rich in fragrance. When stepped on, they sink four inches. When the foot is lifted, they return to their original state.

Once these flowers are no longer needed, the ground opens up and the flowers vanish, leaving the ground clean without any traces.

Six times a day, this breeze scatters flowers in this way.

“Furthermore, this world is filled with jeweled lotuses, each with ten thousand trillion pedals and a radiance of countless different colors.
“Blue lotuses shine with blue light, white lotuses shine with white light, and black, yellow, red, and purple lotuses shine with lights of their corresponding color. The radiance of these lotuses is brilliant and dazzling, surpassing the light of the sun and moon.

Moreover, each Buddha emanates a hundred thousand lights that expounds the wondrous Dharma to beings in the ten directions.

In this way, each of these Buddhas establishes infinite living beings on the proper path of the Buddha.”

end of Part One of *Sutra of the Buddha’s Teachings on Infinite Life*