

## INDRA'S NET

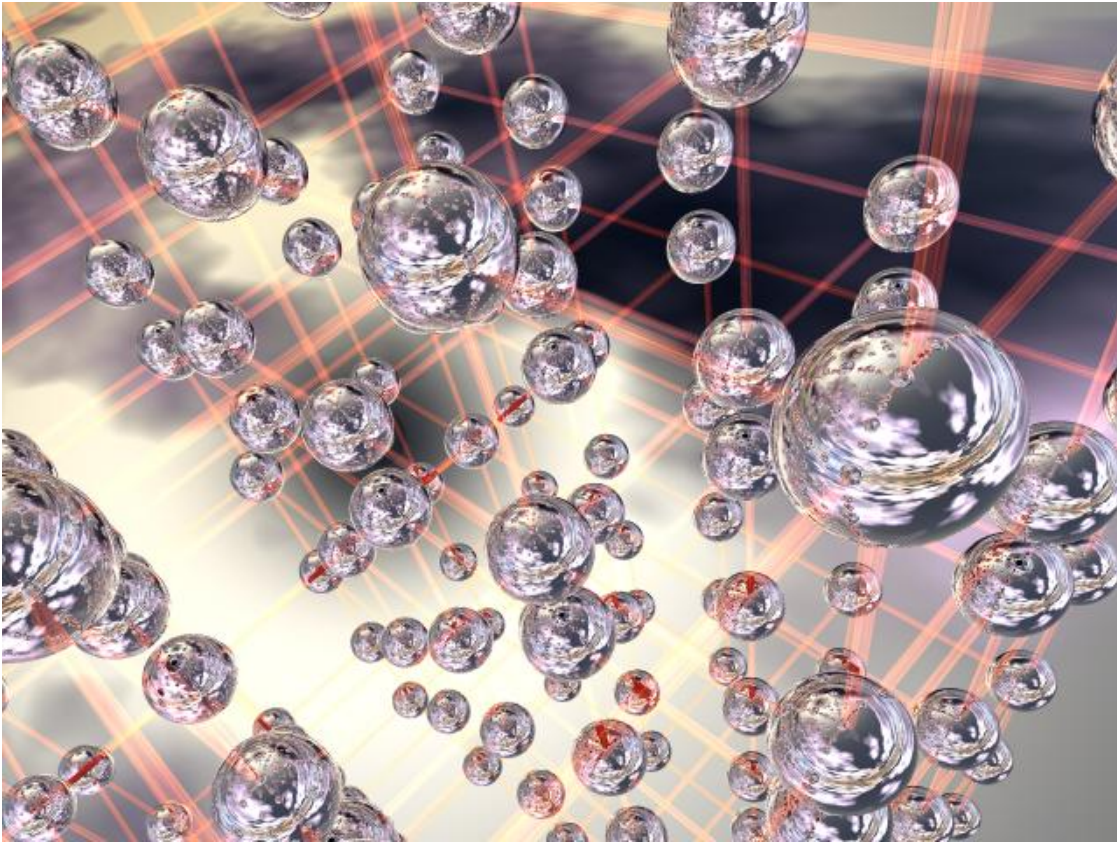


illustration by Gail Atkins

[http://www.angelfire.com/realm/bodhisattva/indras\\_net3.html](http://www.angelfire.com/realm/bodhisattva/indras_net3.html)

*Far away in the heavenly abode of the great god Indra, there is a wonderful net which has been hung by some cunning artificer in such a manner that it stretches out indefinitely in all directions.... A single glittering jewel [is suspended] at the net's every node, and since the net itself is infinite in dimension, the jewels are infinite in number.... If we now arbitrarily select one of these jewels for inspection and look closely at it, we will discover that in its polished surface there are reflected all the other jewels in the net, infinite in number. Not only that, but each of the jewels reflected in this one jewel is also reflecting all the other jewels, so that the process of reflection is infinite.*

-- Avatamsaka-sutra (c. 300s CE), trans. Francis H. Cook

<b>METAPHORICAL TERM</b>	<b>CORRESPONDING REALITY</b>
jewels	beings
reflection	interdependence impermanence illusion

## MAHAYANA CHRONOLOGY

- 150 BCE-100 CE: Development of Mahayana in India
- 65 CE: First mentioned in Chinese text
- 200 CE: Introduced to Vietnam from China
- 300 CE: Introduced to Korea from China
- 500 CE: Introduced to Japan from Korea and China
- 600 CE: Introduced to Tibet from India; beginning of decline in India
- 1200 CE: Introduced to Mongolia from Tibet
- 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> centuries CE: Introduced to West through Asian immigrants and missionaries



← Tibetan mandala incorporating Indra's Net motif

*There is not the slightest difference  
between cyclic existence and nirvana.  
Nothing is mentally produced in the  
highest bliss, and no one produces it,  
There is... neither object nor subject...  
Calm is the Innate and undifferentiated...  
The Enlightened One is neither existence  
nor non-existence...  
So the whole world is the Innate, for the  
Innate is its essence.  
Its essence too is nirvana when the mind is  
in a purified state.*

-- *Hevajra-tantra* (c. 700 CE), trans. David Snellgrove



← Edition of *Vajra Cchedika Prajna Paramita-sutra* [*Diamond Sutra*], c. 868 CE, found in Cave 17, Dunhuang, China (British Library Or.8210/P.2)

This copy of the *Diamond Sutra* is the world's earliest complete survival of a dated, printed book.