The worship of the future Buddha Maitreya is widespread in Asia and has a long tradition. In Tibet, countless statues and paintings were dedicated to him over the centuries. A particular feature was the erection of giant Maitreya statues. It was closely associated with Sakya and Gelug monastic schools. The spread of colossal Maitreya statues in Tibet will be outlined in this presentation. In an outlook it will be shown how they influenced the giant Maitreya statues in Inner and Outer Mongolia and northern China during the Qing dynasty. Moreover, the tradition of colossal statues is not just a past phenomenon but still continues to the present day.