

II,4. MAHĀMAṄĀLASUTTA

The Great Discourse on Blessings

Evam me sutam: Ekam samayaṃ bhagavā Sāvathiyam viharati Jetavane Anathapiṇḍikassa ārāme. Atha kho aññatarā devatā abhikkantāya ratiyā abhikkantavaṇṇā kevalakappaṃ Jetavanam obhāsetvā yena bhagavā ten' upasaṅkami; upasaṅkamitvā bhagavantam abhivādetvā ekam antam aṭṭhāsi. Ekam antam thitā kho sā devatā bhagavantam gāthāya ajjhahāsi:

Thus have I heard. At one time the Exalted One was living in Sāvathi, in Anāthapiṇḍika's monastery in Jeta's Grove. There-upon (one day) when the night was far advanced, a certain deity of surpassing splendour, illuminating the entire precincts of Jeta's Grove went up to the Exalted One, saluted him and stood at a side. Standing at a side that deity addressed the Exalted One in a stanza:

1. Bahū devā manussā ca maṅgalāni acintayum
ākankhamānā sothānam, brūhi maṅgalam uttamam.
(The deity:)
'Many deities and men, wishing for well being, thought of the blessings, pray tell me what the highest blessing is.'
2. Asevanā ca bālānaṃ paṇḍitānaṃ ca sevanaṃ
pūjā ca pūjaneyyānam, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamam.
(The Exalted One:)
'Not associating with the foolish and association with the learned, and honour to whom honour is due, this is the highest blessing.'
3. Patirupadesavāso ca pubbe ca katapuññatā
attasammāpaṇidhi ca, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamam.
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'Dwelling in a suitable region, having had meritorious deeds performed in the past and the correct resolve of self, this is the highest blessing.'

4. Bāhusaccaṃ ca sippan ca vinayo ca susikkhito
subhāsītā ca yā vācā, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamam.
'Of much learning and (skill in) a craft, discipline well trained and the well spoken word, this is the highest blessing.'
5. Mātāpitu-upaṭṭhānam puttadārassa saṅgaho
anākulā ca kammantā, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamam.
'Attending on mother and father, cherishing of wife and child and occupations that are not inequitous, this is the highest blessing.'
6. Dānaṃ ca dhammacariyā ca nātakānaṃ ca saṅgaho
anavajjāni kammāni, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamam.
'Giving away in charity, leading a life of righteousness, fostering of kinsfolk and blameless activities, this is the highest blessing.'
7. Ārati virati pāpā majjapānā ca saññāmo
appamādo ca dhammesu, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamam.
'Shrinking away and abstinence from evil deeds, refraining from intoxicating drink and diligence in righteous actions, this is the highest blessing.'
8. Gāravo ca nivāto ca santuṭṭhi ca kataññutā
kālena dhammasavaṇam, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamam.
'Reverence, humility, contentment, gratitude and listening to the Teaching in due season, this is the highest blessing.'
9. Khanti ca sovacassatā samanānaṃ ca dassanam
kālena dhammasākacchā, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamam.
'Forbearance, affability, (visiting) to see monks and discussion on the Teaching in due season, this is the highest blessing.'

10. Tapo ca brahmacariyā ca ariyasaccāna dassanaṃ
nibbānasacchikiriyā ca, etaṃ maṅgalaṃ uttamaṃ. 267

'Asceticism, life of celibacy, insight into the Noble Truths and the realization of Nibbāna, this is the highest blessing.'

11. Phuṭhassa lokadhammehi cittaṃ yassa na kampaṭi
asokaṃ virajaṃ khemaṃ, etaṃ maṅgalaṃ uttamaṃ. 268

'He whose mind does not tremble when influenced by the vicissitudes of the world and is free from grief and dust (of defilement) and is secure, this is the highest blessing.'

12. Etādisāni katvāna sabbatha-m-aparājita
sabbatha sothiṃ gacchanti, taṃ tesam maṅgalaṃ uttamaṃ ti. 269

'Having done such-like deeds, unvanquished in every sphere, in all places they attain well-being, that is their highest blessing.'

Notes

Stanza 258
sothānaṃ Pj : sothibhāvam

Stanza 260
pubbe in previous births

sammāpañidhi Pj : sammā pañidhānam, niyuñjanam, thapanam
vinaya the disciplining of body, word and mind

Stanza 262
anākulā kammantā righteous occupations

Stanza 263
dhammacariyā Pj : dasakusalakammamapathacariyā

anavajjāni kammāni Pj : observance of uposatha vows and welfare activities in the community

Stanza 264
dhammesu=kusalesu, Pj; (not thoughts !)

Stanza 267
tapo Pj: abhijjhādomanassādīnaṃ tapanato indriyasamvaro,
kosajjassa vā tapanato viriyam

nibbāna=arahattaphala, Pj

Stanza 268
lokadhamma=āṭṭhalokadhamma, lābha, alābha etc., Pj

asokaṃ virajaṃ khemaṃ refer to the mind of the Khīṇāsava, Pj

Stanza 269
sabbatha-m-aparājita not defeated by any one of the four adversaries khandhamāra, kilesamāra, abhisankhāramāra, devaputtamāra, Pj

sabbatha in this world and elsewhere as well as in bodily activities such as thāna-caṅkamana, Pj