

12. Khandha Parittam

Loving Kindness towards Royal Tribes of Snakes

Evaṃ me sutam. Ekaṃ samayaṃ Bhagavā Sāvattiyam viharati Jetavane Anāthapiṇḍikassa ārāme. Tena kho pana samayena Sāvattiyam aññataro bhikkhū ahinā daṭṭho kālakato hoti. Atha kho sambahulā bhikkhū yena Bhagavā ten'upasaṅkamimsu. Upasaṅkamtvā Bhagavantaṃ abhivādetvā ekamantaṃ nisīdimsu. Ekamantaṃ nisinnā kho te bhikkhū Bhagavantaṃ etadavocum. Idha bhante Sāvattiyam aññataro bhikkhu ahinā daṭṭho kālakato'ti.

Thus have I heard: ♦ On one occasion ♦ the Blessed One was living in Sāvatti ♦ at Jetavana, ♦ at Anāthapiṇḍika's monastery. During that time, at Sāvatti, ♦ a monk had passed away ♦ having been bitten by a snake. Thereupon many monks approached the Blessed One, ♦ and having saluted him, ♦ sat beside him. So seated, those monks spoke thus to the Blessed One: ♦ "Oh Bhante, a certain monk at Sāvatti has died, ♦ having been bitten by a snake."

Naha nūna so bhikkhave bhikkhu cattāri ahirājakulāni mettana cittena phari.

Sacehi so bhikkhave bhikkhu cattāri ahirājakulāni mettana cittena phareyya, nahi so bhikkhave bhikkhu ahinā daṭṭho kālam kareyya.

Monks, that monk did not radiate thoughts of loving-kindness ♦ towards the four royal tribes of snakes. Monks, had he done so, ♦ that monk would not have died of a snake bite.

Katamāni cattāri ahirājakulāni? Virūpakkham ahirājakulam, Erāpatham ahirājakulam, Chabyāputtam ahirājakulam, Kaṇhā gotamakaṃ ahirājakulam. Naha nūna so bhikkhave bhikkhu imāni cattāri ahirājakulāni mettana cittena phari. Sace hi so bhikkhave bhikkhu imāni cattāri ahirājakulāni mettana cittena phareyya, na hi so bhikkhave bhikkhu ahinā daṭṭho kālam kareyya. Anujānāmi bhikkhave imāni cattāri ahirājakulāni mettana cittena pharituṃ attaguttiyā attarakkhāya attaparittāyā'ti.

What are the four royal tribes of snakes? They are: the royal tribe of snakes called Virūpakkha, ♦ the royal tribe of snakes called Erāpatha, ♦ the royal tribe of snakes called Chabyāputta, ♦ and the royal tribe of snakes called Kaṇhā Gotamaka. Monks, that monk did not radiate thoughts of loving-kindness ♦ towards these four royal tribes of snakes. Monks, had he done so ♦ he would not have died of a snake bite. Monks, I advise you to radiate thoughts of loving-kindness ♦ towards these four royal tribes of snakes ♦ for your safety, for your protection, ♦ and as a protective blessing for you.

Idam'avoca Bhagavā, Idam vatvā Sugato athāparam etada'voca Sathā.

Thus said the Blessed One. Having thus spoken, the Great Teacher, ♦ the Sublime One, further said:

1. Virūpakkehi me mettaṃ – Mettaṃ Erāpathehi me

Chabyāputtehi me mettaṃ – Mettaṃ Kaṇhāgotamakehi ca

May I have mettā ♦ towards Virūpakkhas, ♦ towards Erāpathas ♦ may I have mettā. May I have mettā ♦ towards Chabyāputtas, ♦ towards Kaṇhā Gotamakas also ♦ may I have mettā.

2. Apādakehi me mettaṃ – Mettaṃ dipādakehi me

Catuppadehi me mettaṃ – Mettaṃ bahuppadehi me

May I have mettā ♦ towards the footless. May I have mettā ♦ towards those with two feet. May I have mettā ♦ towards those with four. May I have mettā ♦ towards the many-footed.

3. Mā maṃ apādako hiṃsi – Mā maṃ hiṃsi dipādako

Mā maṃ catuppado hiṃsi – Mā maṃ hiṃsi bahuppado

Let not the footless do me harm; ♦ nor those that have two feet. Let not the four-footed do me harm; ♦ nor those endowed with many feet.

4. Sabbe sattā sabbe pāṇā – Sabbe bhutā ca kevalā

Sabbe bhadraṇi passantu – Mā kañci pāpamāgamā

All beings, all living creatures, ♦ all beings who have come to birth ♦ may good fortune bless them all. May no harm come to them.

Appamāṇo Buddho appamāṇo Dhammo appamāṇo Saṅgho. Pamāṇavantāni siriṃsapāni ahi vicchikā satapadī uṇṇānābhī sarabhū mūsikā. Katā me rakkhā. Katā me parittā. Paṭikkamantu bhūtāni. So’haṃ namo Bhagavato namo sattannaṃ Sammā Sambuddhānaṃ’ti.

Immeasurable in virtue is the Buddha; ♦ immeasurable is the Dhamma; ♦ immeasurable is the Saṅgha. Measurable are creeping creatures, ♦ snakes, scorpions, centipedes, ♦ spiders, lizards and rats, ♦ due to their defilements. I have guarded myself. I have made my protection. Depart from me, all you beings. I worship the Blessed One, ♦ and the Seven Supreme Buddhas.

Etena saccena suvatthi hotu!

By this truth, may there be well-being!

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