

# Maha Maṅgala Suttam

## Discourse on Blessings

Evam me sutam. Ekam samayam Bhagava Sāvattiyam viharati Jetavane Anāthapiṇḍikassa ārāme. Atha kho aññatarā devatā abhikkantāya rattiya abhikkantavaṇṇā kevalakappam Jetavanam obhāsetvā yena Bhagavā tenupasaṅkami. Upasaṅkamtivā Bhagavantam abhivādetvā ekamantam aṭṭhāsi. Ekamantam tṭhitā kho sā devatā Bhagavantam gāthāya ajjhabhāsi. Thus have I heard: ♦ On one occasion, ♦ the Blessed One was living in Sāvatti ♦ at Jetavana ♦ at Anāthapiṇḍika’s monastery. Now when the night was far advanced, ♦ a certain deity, ♦ whose surpassing radiance ♦ illuminated the whole of Jetavana, ♦ approached the Blessed One, ♦ respectfully saluted him ♦ and stood to one side. Standing thus, he addressed the Blessed One in verse:

1. Bahū devā manussā ca – Maṅgalāni acintayum  
Ākaṅkhamānā sotthānam – Brūhi maṅgalam-uttamam  
Many deities and humans ♦ longing for happiness ♦ have pondered on the questions of blessings. Pray, tell me ♦ what are the highest blessings?
2. Asevanā ca bālānam – Paṇḍitānañ ca sevanā  
Pūjā ca puja-nīyānam – Etam maṅgalam-uttamam  
Not to associate with the foolish ♦ but to associate with the wise ♦ and to honor those worthy of honor ♦ these are the highest blessings.
3. Pati-rūpadesavāso ca – Pubbe ca katapuññatā  
Atta-sammā-paṇīdhi ca – Etam maṅgalam-uttamam  
To reside in a suitable locality ♦ to have performed meritorious actions in the past, ♦ and to set oneself in the right direction ♦ these are the highest blessings.
4. Bāhu-saccañca sippañca – Vinayo ca susikkhito  
Subhāsītā ca yā vācā – Etam maṅgalam-uttamam  
Vast learning, skill in handicraft, ♦ well grounded in discipline ♦ and pleasant speech ♦ these are the highest blessings.
5. Mātā-pitū upaṭṭhānam – Putta-dārassa saṅgaho  
Anākulā ca kammantā – Etam maṅgalam-uttamam  
To support one’s father and mother, ♦ to cherish one’s wife and children, ♦ and to be engaged in peaceful occupations ♦ these are the highest blessings.

6. Dānañca dhamma-cariyā ca – Ñāta-kānañ ca saṅgaho  
Anavajjāni kammāni – Etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ  
Generosity, righteous conduct, ♦ giving assistance to relatives, ♦ and  
doing blameless deeds ♦ these are the highest blessings.
7. Ārati virati pāpā – Majja-pānā ca saññamo  
Appamādo ca dhammesu – Etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ  
To cease and abstain from evil, ♦ to abstain from intoxicating drinks, ♦  
and to be diligent in practising the Dhamma ♦ these are the highest  
blessings.
8. Gāravo ca nivāto ca – Santuṭṭhī ca kataññutā  
Kālena dhamma-savanaṃ – Etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ  
Paying reverence to those who are worthy of reverence, ♦ humility,  
contentment, gratitude, ♦ and the timely hearing of the Dhamma ♦ these  
are the highest blessings.
9. Khantī ca sova-cassatā – Samañānañca dassanaṃ  
Kālena dhamma-sākacchā – Etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ  
Patience, obedience, meeting monks ♦ and timely discussions on the  
Dhamma ♦ these are the highest blessings.
10. Tapo ca brahmacariyañca – Ariya-saccāna-dassanaṃ  
Nibbāṇa-sacchi-kiriya ca – Etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ  
Self-control, chastity, ♦ understanding the Noble Truths, ♦ and the  
realization of Nibbāna ♦ these are the highest blessings.
11. Phuṭṭhassa loka-dhammehi – Cittaṃ yassa na kampati  
Asokaṃ virajaṃ khemaṃ – Etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ  
The mind that is not touched by the ups and downs of life; ♦ the mind  
that is free from sorrow, ♦ stainless and secure ♦ these are the highest  
blessings.
12. Etādisāni katvāna – Sabbatthama-parājitā  
Sabbattha sotthiṃ gacchanti taṃ – Tesāṃ maṅgalam-uttaman'ti.  
Those who have achieved these blessings ♦ are victorious everywhere, ♦  
and they succeed in all their goals. For them, these are the highest  
blessings.

Etena saccena suvatthi hotu!  
By this truth, may there be well-being!