

Sūriya Parittam Discourse Given to the Sun Deity

Evam me sutam. Ekam samayam Bhagavā Sāvattiyam viharati Jetavane Anāthapiṇḍikassa ārāme. Tena kho pana samayena Suriyo devaputto Rāhunā asurindena gahito hoti. Atha kho Suriyo devaputto Bhagavantam anussaramāno tāyam velāyam imam gātham abhāsi.

Thus have I heard: ♦ On one occasion ♦ the Blessed One was living in Sāvatti, ♦ at Jetavana, ♦ at Anāthapiṇḍika's monastery. At that time Sūriya, the sun deity, was captured by Rāhu, ♦ one of the kings of the Asuras. Thereupon calling to mind the Blessed One, ♦ Sūriya, the sun deity, recited this stanza:

1. Namō te Buddha vīra'tthu – Vip̐pamutto'si sabbadhi

Sambādhapaṭipanno'smi – Tassa me saraṇam bhavā'ti.

Oh Buddha, the Hero ♦ I pay homage to you. You are completely free from all suffering. I have fallen into trouble. Please be my refuge and help me.

Atha kho Bhagavā Sūriyam devaputtam ārabha Rāhum asurindam gāthāya ajjhabhāsi.

Then the Blessed One addressed Rāhu the Asura, in verse, ♦ on behalf of the deity Sūriya, thus:

2. Tathāgataṃ Arahantaṃ – Suriyo saraṇam gato

Rāhu Sūriyam pamuñcassu – Buddhā lokānukampakā'ti.

Oh Rāhu, Sūriya has gone for refuge ♦ to the Tathāgata, the Arahant. Oh Rāhu, release Sūriya. The Buddhas radiate compassion ♦ on the beings of the world.

3. Yo andhakāre tasmā pabhamkaro – Verocano, maṇḍalī uggatejo

Mā Rāhu gilī caram antalikkhe – Pajam mama Rāhu, pamuñca Sūriyaṇ'ti.

Oh Rāhu, do not swallow the dispeller of darkness, ♦ the shining one, the radiant one with mighty rays. Oh Rāhu, release Sūriya, my son, ♦ the traveler through the sky.

Atha kho Rāhu asurindo Sūriyam devaputtam muñcitvā taramānarūpo yena Vepacitti asurindo ten'upasaṅkami. Upasaṅkamtivā samviggo lomahaṭṭajāto ekamantaṃ aṭṭhāsi.

Ekamantaṃ ṭhitam kho Rāhum asurindam Vepacitti asurindo gāthāya ajjhabhāsi.

Thereupon Rāhu the Asura, released the deity Sūriya, ♦ and immediately went to the presence of Vepacitti, ♦ the leader of Asuras, ♦ and stood beside him ♦ trembling with fear, ♦ with hair standing on end. Then Vepacitti the Asura addressed Rāhu the Asura with this stanza.

4. Kinnu santaramāno'va – Rāhu, Sūriyam pamuñcasi?

Samviggārūpo āgamma – Kinnu bhīto'va tiṭṭhasi'ti?

Rāhu, why did you suddenly release Sūriya? Why have you come here trembling, ♦ and why are you standing here terrified?

5. Sattadhā me phale muddhā – Jivanto na sukham labhe

Buddhagāthābhigīto'mhi – No ce muñceyya Suriyaṇ'ti.

I have been spoken to ♦ by the Buddha, in a stanza, ♦ requesting me to release Sūriya. If I had not released Sūriya ♦ my head would have split into seven pieces. If I lived, ♦ I would not have had any happiness.

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