

## โตบาษิรดฺรถ์ต์ <br> - (Chaste Life Seeking)



BASIC BUDФHISM


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## Contents

(ติติกเาโู้ห)

ศตัง (Pages)

 ..... 5
 ..... 9
 ..... 11
4 - ษุตூก̃ษ่ (Introduction) ..... 15
 ..... 18
 ..... 24
 ..... 26
 ..... 29
 ..... 29
 ..... 33
 ..... 34
(How to Follow the Three Buddhist Essentials)
4 - เตีเยงตุตร์ ..... 35
Why Buddhists Have to Offer Alms to Monks?
 ..... 36
9 - โโตธกักฝกา (The Three Characteristics of Existence) ..... 38
 ..... 38
 ..... 38
 ..... 39
10 - ษตูสิธี (สิธี囚โษึ The Five Precepts) ..... 42
 ..... 43
Why it is Good to Observe Sila?44

What Will Happen to the Person Without Sila? ..... 44
 ..... 46
 ..... 46
 ..... 47
 ..... 49

(The Noble Truth of the Path Leading to Extinction of Suffering) ..... 49
 ..... 51
 ..... 51
 ..... 52
 ..... 53
 ..... 54
 ..... 54
 ..... 55
 ..... 56
 ..... 56

(The Three Levels of Eightfold Path) ..... 58
 ..... 58

(Samadhi or Meditation or Mind Training Level) ..... 58
 ..... 58
 ..... 60
1 - ถิษษกัษ ..... 61
 ..... 62
 ..... 65
 ..... 66
 ..... 68
 ..... 70
 ..... 74
(The Most Important Buddhist Celebrations in Cambodia)
1-ษุณกูตาษิููึ่ (Makha Puja) ..... 74
 ..... 76
 ..... 80
 ..... 81
 ..... 82
 ..... 86
7-ษุฒกยกับิธราร (Kathina) ..... 87
 ..... 90
 ..... 92
21 －โิตุษษร ..... 104
 ..... 105
 ..... 105
3－ษิตึโโโ（ต์จิธ）（Thoughts） ..... 106
4－乌ิ์ ..... 107
 ..... 108
 ..... 108
7－ต1 ..... 109
8－ヘీปปภヘูģ ..... 110
 ..... 111
 ..... 113
11－พรงร่กัก（พงรภาต）（Old Age） ..... 114
 ..... 115
 ..... 117
 ..... 117
 ..... 119
 ..... 120
 ..... 122
 ..... 123
19－โตตื ..... 124
 ..... 125
 ..... 127
22－ธิรตรงรั๊（ตรกั）（Hell） ..... 128
 ..... 129
 ..... 131
25－กิกุกรูต（ษตูนิต）（The monk） ..... 132
 ..... 134
 ..... 137
 ..... 137


(Don't Judge Life by One Difficult Season) ..... 150
 ..... 151
 ..... 155
 ..... 163
 ..... 166
 ..... 172
 ..... 76
10 - กึรูโคึาเณา Grandma's Blackie ..... 180
 ..... 183
 ..... 186

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เฉฟ้-โ々ษระ

## Dedications <br> 

## I would like to dedicate this Noble Work to:

My beloved Motherland, Cambodia and her children to be Healthy with Peace, Prosperity and Happiness,

My new beloved Homeland, America to be Prosperous and Peace and always.....
In memory of my beloved parents, Mr. Kheng Yin and Mrs. Roeurn Pok who gave me birth and Wisdom.

My dear wife, sons, daughters and grandchildren: Mrs. Mom Korl; Elizabeth, Chansamon, Lilian, Isabel, Sophia, Srey Nich, Pisey, Pisal, Rina, Chandavy and Ing Ing to be Happy with Peace, Prosperity, Good Health, Good Luck and Wisdom.

Khemarak Kheng

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Khemarak Kheng















































Khemarak Kheng Advisor of Columbus Buddhist Community, Ine.

In my humble opinion, I have great concerns regarding the withering of Khmer's Culture, Traditions and Buddhism due to miserable everyday life of the Khmer people in Cambodia that encounter deficiency, misery and illiteracy.

Deficiency, misery and illiteracy are chronic diseases that eat up the virtue of society in Cambodia. Because the stomach always stays starved, the standard of living stays extremely substandard for a long time, almost becoming permanent; this causes the value of virtue that used to exist in each Khmer children's mind to fade away little by little until it is ruled by the power of deficiency, misery and illiteracy.

Even though we think; we still have Buddhism, culture and tradition; but, the actual value of these three national establishments seems vacant; no true value, nothing but sounds of an empty hollow drum. Consequently, the virtue which is the high merit of human morality has almost completely disappeared from the Khmer's mind; and the unwholesomeness has started to take over in Khmer's mentality from every walk of life due to the power of poverty and lack of literacy which is the noble treasure of wisdom. As ordinary mankind, one cannot have the will to do wholesome acts purely, unless one's stomach is happy and a stable, career oriented life in which to treasure is obtained. On the other hand, if one is always hungry with a mind full of ignorance; virtue, common sense and kindness stay trapped in the darkness of unwholesomeness; thus, in a life time of Khmer's children, they will never have a chance see the light of true happiness, peace and prosperity. Therefore, Khmer's culture, tradition and Buddhism in Cambodia will vanish. As result, we Khmer will lose our national identity.

In order to improve the vitality of our Khmer culture, tradition and religion at present to flourish again; first, we all as Khmer communities in and outside of Cambodia must not only build Vihara and temples for Buddhism; but we should also turn to other directions by starting to build structural support to improve people's quality of life at equal or higher speeds alongside the religious temple constructions. By doing all kinds of fundraising to collect the means to construct roads, modern methods of communication and agricultural systems throughout Cambodia to accommodate travel back and forth in the country and using agricultural irrigation, assist farmers in producing more bountiful crops. At the same time, from cities to remote areas, we should also promote construction of school buildings and vocational centers offering elementary (In countryside at least there should be some middle school level) to college level courses and different levels of skill training to improve the educational aptitude and knowledge to all able Khmer citizens.

When Cambodia have more roads, communications, agricultural hydraulics systems, schools and vocational centers built in the country to help improve the living standards of Khmers people; life will improve exponentially; therefore, prosperity, happiness and harmony will return and resettle in our beloved Motherland again. As a result, culture, traditions and religion in Cambodia will indeed revive and flourish as we have wished for. At the same time, Khmer Buddhist and all Buddhist temples in Cambodia should learn to organize Buddhist Relief

Organizations to help miserable Cambodians, orphans, widows and disabled persons like Christians who have countless relief organizations throughout the world; Cambodian Buddhists should be able to help our compatriot as well.

Prosperous standards of living combined with virtue will make the Cambodia and Buddhist Religion flourish.



































 ตรูงษต่เตตบ

สุด


## Introduction



Buddhism is the fourth largest religion in the world, being exceeded in numbers only by Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. It was founded in Northern India by the first known Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama. He attained enlightenment and assumed the title Lord Buddha (one who has awakened). Buddha was the greatest teacher, giving the world a noble religion unequal in human history. He embodied all virtues, which distinguished him from all others teachers and make him an object of supreme veneration for all living beings.

There are two forms of Buddhism, Mahayana ${ }^{1}$ and Theravada. Mahayana means "Greater vehicle, literally means "The Greater Ox-Cart". Mahayana consist Zen Buddhism and Tibetan Buddhism which is more liberal, and can be found in China, Japan, Korean, Tibet, Mongolia, Vietnam, etc.). Theravada or Hinayana means "The Lesser Vehicle" which is more conservative and mostly is found in Southeast Asian with the establishment of the monarchies in Cambodian, Sri Langka, Laos, Birma, Thailand, etc.

Theravada Buddhism focused primarily on meditation and concentration, the eighth of the Eightfold Noble Paths; it centered on a monastic life and an extreme expenditure of time in meditation. Mahayanists, however, did not see themselves as creating a new start for Buddhism, rather they claimed to be recovering the original teachings of Buddha, in much the same way that the Protestant reformers of sixteenth century Europe claimed that they were not creating a new Christianity but recovering the original form

Because Buddhism does not include the idea of worshipping a creator god, some people do not see it as a religion in the normal, Western sense. The basic tenets of Buddhist teaching are straightforward and practical: nothing is fixed or permanent; actions have consequences; change is possible. Thus Buddhism addresses itself to all people irrespective of race, nationality, or gender. It teaches practical methods (such as meditation) which enable people to realize and utilize its teachings in order to transform their experience, to be fully responsible for their lives and to develop the qualities of Wisdom and Compassion.
"Buddha Year of Noble Birth: 563 B.C. and Year of Noble Death: 483 B.C."






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 ษึตุ















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Buddha was born Under sala trees in Lumbini Park











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 โด ริหิท్రంธిตูన (The Enlightenment State of Nirvana )

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 ตึ:
















# Brief of the Loord Buddha's Life <br> sossmon 资croscs 

- Birth: 563 B.C.
- Birthplace: Kapilvastu, Nepal
- Death: 483 B.C. (possibly food poisoning)

Long ago in the country of Nepal, in the capital Kapilavatthu of a kingdom called Sakya, in Lumbinī Park in the Terai lowlands near the foothills of the Himalayas. At the time, this was part of northern India. It is now part of Nepal, a small country located between India and Tibet, an extraordinary child was born into the Gotama clan in 563 B.C.

One night, Nepalese rajah, King Suddhodana's beautiful wife, Queen Siri Maha Maya dreamed that a white elephant descended from heaven and entered her womb. The white elephant entering her womb indicated that on that very night she had conceived a child who was a pure and powerful being. The elephant's descending from heaven indicated that her child came from Tushita heaven, the Pure Land of Buddha Maitreya. Later, when she gave birth to the child under Sala trees in Lumbini Park on the full moon day of the lunar month which we call Vasakha (Vasakha month come around last week of May or early June), instead of experiencing pain the queen experienced a special, pure vision in which she stood holding the branch of a tree with her right hand while the gods Brahma and Indra took the child painlessly from her side. They then proceeded to honor the infant by offering him ritual ablutions.

On the fifth day after the prince's birth he was named Siddhattha which means "wish fulfilled". His family name was Gautama. His Father invited a brahmin to make predictions about the prince's future. The brahim prophecied that Siddhartha will get disillusioned with the material world and would venture out as a sage in search of wisdom to overcome suffering and misery from the world. Fearing that the prophecy might come true, King Suddhodana brought up his son in immence luxury and a world devoid of sorrow, thinking that this divert Siddhattha's mind from misery and sorrow.

Queen Maha Maya passed away seven days after Siddhattha's birth and the griefstricken king married the queen's sister, Pajapati Gautami who become the Bhikkuni in Buddhism.

According to legend, Siddhartha's wife Yashodhara, his disciple Ananda, his charioteer Channa, his body guard (Kolutiyak), his horse Kantaka, Bodhi Tree and the four richest wealths were also born on Buddha Punnami day (holy full moon day).

The Buddha or the Enlightened One was also known as Shakyamuni because he belonged to the Shakya clan, while his family name was Gautama.

Siddhattha was raised by his aunt/stepmother, Mahapajapati. During his early years he lived happily with his family surrounded with luxury and comforts. At age sixteen, he married the beautiful Princess Yasodhara affectionately called Bimba, his own cousin. They lived a happy married life for the next thirteen years and during that time princess Yosadhara gave birth to a son who was named Rahula.

Eventhough, King Suddhodana immensed luxury and worldly pleasures to Prince Siddhattha to devoid of sorrow and kept him away from seeing and knowing real life outside of the palace walls; but destiny had something else in store for him. One day, Prince Siddhattha convinced his charioteer to take him outside the walls of his palace and he was shocked to see
the sight of an old man, a cripple, a corpse and an ascetic Brahmin monk. Only the Brahmin monk gave him comfort. He had no personal grief but he felt deep pity for suffering humanity. Amidst comfort and prosperity, he realized the universality of sorrow. The realization that there was more to life than the lavish and luxurious life he was leading, made him want to abandon all the worldly pleasures and search for enlightenment and the true meaning of life. He could never be happy while other people suffered. He then wanted to find real happiness, happiness that could be shared. Gradual disenchantment with worldly pleasures compelled him to leave his beautiful wife Yashodhara, son, palace, wealth and his worldly pleasure in the middle of a quiet night to lead the life of a mendicant, a homeless monk when he was twenty-nine years old.

He spent six years in a forest, studying with many Brahmin teachers and practicing extreme self-denial. He left those teachers when he discovered they did not know the truth and the extreme self-denial did not bring happiness. He knew his former life as a prince with worldly wealth did not bring happiness or reveal a path between the two, which we call the middle way.

Six years after becoming a homeless monk, while sitting under the Bodhi Tree on the full moon nigh of May (Vasakha the sixth lunar month), while meditating deeply he reached the real happiness he sought. In this way Buddha attained the truth by his own efforts and this genuine happiness is called the Enlightenment. From that time on he was known as Buddha which means the Enlightened One or the Awakened One. He spent his life teaching disciples about his beliefs (embodied in the Four Noble Truths) and the goal of achieving the enlightened state of Nirvana. Buddha taught people three principles of Buddhism to guide their thoughts and actions. These principles are as follows:

1 - Do not do evil.
2 - Do good deeds.
3 - Purify the mind.
Two months after his Enlightenment, Buddha began teaching the truth and the Dhamma to his followers. Many of his followers received real happiness after following his teaching. The Buddha preached the doctrines of real happiness to the people for forty-five years. At the age eighty, the Buddha felt that his end was coming closer. He went to Kusinara and there on the full moon day of Visakha month under two Sala Trees, he passed away. He left us with his most valuable and enduring teaching and the way to find real happiness and his teaching spread worldwide.


ติตีษุณை
Kan Benda in Watt samakyseriratanarama in Columbus, Ohio, USণA, Sept. 24, 2005

##  <br> 









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# What Does Buddhism Teach? <br>  

Soon after his Enlightenment the Buddha had a vision in which he saw the human race as a bed of lotus flowers. Some of the lotuses were still stuck in the mud, others were just emerging from it, and others again were on the point of blooming. In other words, all people had the ability to unfold their potential and some needed just a little help to do so. So the Buddha decided to teach, and all of the teachings of Buddhism may be seen as attempts to fulfill this vision - to help people grow towards Enlightenment.

Buddhism sees life as a process of constant change, and its practices aim to take advantage of this fact. It means that one can change for the better. The decisive factor in changing oneself is the mind, and Buddhism has developed many methods for working on the mind. Most importantly, Buddhists practice meditation, which is a way of developing more positive states of mind that are characterized by calm, concentration, awareness, and emotions such as friendliness. Using the awareness developed in meditation it is possible to have a fuller understanding of oneself, other people, and of life itself. Buddhism does not seek to proselytize or coerce other people to adopt its teaching; but it does seek to make its teachings available to whoever is interested, and people are free to take as much or as little as they feel ready for. Buddhism also wishes that its teaching will assist the effort to make the world a better place for all living being's.







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## Triple Gems of Buddhism <br> 5080 80 粦 $\operatorname{cosczos}$

The Triple Gems of Buddhism are:
Buddha, Dhamma and Songha

## 1. Buddha

Buddha was the greatest teacher, giving the world a noble religion unequal in human history. He embodied all virtues, which distinguished him from all others teachers and make him an object of supreme veneration for all living beings.

## 2. Dhamma

Dhamma is the teaching of the Buddha. Though, the Buddha in his physical form is no longer with us, but we still have the Dhamma as our guide and teacher. Thus, the Dhamma has not just taken the place of the Buddha, the Dhamma itself constitutes Buddhahood. And Buddhahood is, in truth, nothing but the Dhamma. Buddhahood is achieved through the realization of the Dhamma. There could never have been a Buddha without Dhamma. As Buddha said:
"He who sees the Dhamma, sees me and he who sees me, sees the Dhamma."
Dhamma is to study and practice not to memorize. To practice Dhamma is to follow the teaching of the Buddha. Remember that the Dhamma will benefit us only when we practice Dhamma sincerely.

## 3. Sangha

The third of the Three Gems is the Sangha (or monk). The Buddha discovered the Dhamma and taught it to the world, but without the Sangha his teachings would not have spread very far or lasted very long, nor could the world today benefit. The noble disciples, having realized the Dhamma, remained to instruct others and make them enlightened too.

The Sangha (the monk), therefore, plays an important role in the preservation and spread of Buddhism. The fact that we still have access to the Buddha's teaching over 2551years after his death is due largely to the effort and sacrifice of the Sangha.
We pay respect to the monk not as god, but as a member of the noble community of the Buddha's disciples. We know the Buddha teaching because of the Sangha. Without the Sangha we could not know the Dhamma because the Sangha has preserved the Buddha's teaching for over 2551 years. That is why we pay respect to the Sangha. We offer food and whatever is needed for monastic life to the monks who taught and spread Dhamma to the world. Buddhism also wishes that its teaching will assist the effort to make the world a better place for all living beings.


Celebration of the Defining of the Sacred Boundary of Watt Samakyseriratanarama (Bon Banhehos Seima) June, 18 to Saturday June 20, 2004





## 





 Lilian and Her Grandfather



[^1]














































 ธะณงกัตา




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Threefold of Buddhism<br>508080 类 CrOscs

Another formulation of the path is the Threefold Way of ethics, meditation, and wisdom. This is a progressive path, as ethics and a clear conscience provides an indispensable basis for meditation; and meditation is the ground on which wisdom can develop.

## Lilian and her Grandfather:

It was Sunday morning; the sky was cloudless and blue. The day begins early for twelve year old Lilian. Lilian had her breakfast early on Sunday morning and got ready to go to the temple with her grandfather. Lilian attends public school Monday through Friday. On Sunday mornings, Lilian always helps at home until it is time to go to the temple where her grandfather usually helps prepare and get ready for ritual celebration on Uposatha Day (Holy day) and Lilian attends Sunday school studying Khmer language earnestly.

On Sunday, after helping serve food to the monks, Lilian asked, "Grandpa, why don't the monks work? "
"The monk lives on mendicant life. " said her grandfather. "What is mendicant life grandpa?" asks Lilian.
"They live on the generosity of the people. Their lives depend on lay people like you and me", her grandfather responded and was quite surprised by her question. "How come?" asked, Lilian.
"According to Buddhism," said her grandfather, "Monks must leave their home and become homeless. They dedicate their lives to studying and practicing the Buddha's Dhamma for mind development. They teach the Dhamma to lay people." "What is the Dhamma?" questioned Lilian.
"It is the teaching of the Buddha who founded Buddhism", stated her grandfather.
"What kinds of Dhamma did he teach?" asked Lilian.
"Oh, many!" said her grandfather.
"What's the most important one grandpa?" asked Lilian.
Grandfather felt he was in awkward moment, but then the lines on his face relaxed and a sudden admiration for his granddaughter dawned in his eyes. "Lilian, you are so smart and

[^2]curious about Dhamma! It is said that all Buddha's teachings are important, but everything he taught can be simplified into three groups, sometimes called the Three Essentials of Buddhism." said her grandfather with admiration for Lilian in his eyes.
"What are they, grandpa?"
"The first is to avoid all evil deeds, the second is to do all good things and the third is to make your mind pure," said her grandfather.

The little girl felt confused. Then she asked "Grandpa, what does it mean to avoid all evil deeds?
"Well, it means not to kill, steal, commit a sexual sin, lie, drink intoxicants or take drugs, use impolite/harsh words or gossip and never to think ill of others" said her grandfather.

Lilian told grandpa what happened when Allista and Nana helped to settle down a quarrel one day at baby Layla's birthday party. Their friends fought over a Barbie toy because they did not want to share. Allista and Nana acted as big sisters and helped them to became friends again and to share toys. Alyssa was also nice at Layla's birthday party and gave her favorite toy to the baby Lalita who was crying for her toy. Alyssa made the baby Lalita happy again.

Lilian paused and then she continued, "Grandpa did people do a bad thing when they fight with each other according to the Buddha's teaching?"
"Oh, yes they did. They should try to get along instead of arguing. Allista, Nana and Alyssa did the right thing by helping their friends to settle down. They have done well according to the Buddha's teaching and their parents should be proud of them." said grandpa.
"Now I understand grandpa," said Lilian. "Now how about the second one?
"To do all good thing means you must love others as you love yourself, help others sincerely if they need help, go to school and get your home work done all the time and listen to your parents, elders and teachers", said grandpa.
"That is all?" asked Lilian.
"No, there are many but just remember the important part of his teaching is doing or speaking anything that will not hurt or cause trouble to you or others. Do you understand sweetie?" asked grandpa
"I think so. What about the last one?" asked Lilian.
"To make your mind pure means getting rid of greed and anger. Whenever you get greedy or angry, just remember that it's not good for you to behave so. Then your greed or anger will disappear", said grandpa.
"Ok, Grandpa, but what are merits of the Buddhist Essentials?" asked Lilian not quite ready to stop learning Dhamma from her grandfather.

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## Merits of the Three Buddhist Essentials ${ }^{4}$ :

1. Nobody will get into trouble because of your actions or speech.
2. You will have no enemies.
3. Your life will be happy and peaceful.
4. Your practice will benefit your family, community as a whole.
5. You are the source of peace

If a person lives without the Three Buddhist Essentials; his or her life is full of trouble. And sometimes he or she may become a criminal. Nobody loves such a person. He or she should be called problem maker or suffering maker.

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[^3]
## How to follow the Three Buddhist Essentials:

As a Buddhist you can follow the Three Essentials of Buddhism by taking the following steps:

1. Always tell the truth and keep your promises.
2. Offer help willingly to member of your family, friends and others without pay or reward.
3. Be honest
4. Be friendly and polite to everyone regardless of age, color, faith, intelligence, sex and wealth or position.
5. Be obedient and cheerful. Obedience begins in your home. If your parent make rules for you to follow, follow them cheerfully and wisely.

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## Why Buddhists Have to Offer Alms to the Monks?

As Regards the giving of food to the monks, some people doubt whether that is of any use. They are inclined to think that the monks want to have an easy life and that they do not have to work at all, but they forgot that the real meaning of being a monk is seeking the truth; and the the monk lives on mendicant life. They live on generosity of the people. Their lives depend on lay people. According to DhammaVinaya monk must leave their home and become homeless. They dedicate their lives to stuying and practicing the Buddha's Dhamma for mind development. They teach the Dhamma to lay people.

A monk's life is a hard life, he does not have a familiy life, he cannot choose his own food and he does not take part in any entertainment such as going to the movies or football matches. He renounces the luxuries of a home, entertainment, choice of clothing and food., in order tt seekthe truth and to help other people to find the truth as well.

When one gives food to the monks his/her act is one which will be fruitful for both parties. The giver will benefit from his/her act because he/she has a wholesome mental state at the time of giving: When there is generosity there is no greed or attachment. The receiver will also benefit from the act of the giver because he is encouraged to study and practice the Buddha's teachings more earnestly and to help other people to know the teachings as well. He knows that thwe food rereceived puts him under an obligation to be worthy of the gift, to work for the spiritual welfare of the whole world. Monks are continually reminded of their responsibility as monks, and twice a month they recite the rules of "Patimokkha"in which their obligations are summed up. Furthermore, when the receiver is aware of the wholesome state of mind of the giver, he will rejoice in the good deeds of the giver and thus he will have a wholesome mental state as well; he will be inspired by the generosirty of the giver.

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## Buddhist's Daily Life ${ }^{\text {s }}$

For a foreigner or a stranger to Buddhism, oneis first confronted with the practice of Buddhism when one sees different customs of the Buddhists, such as giving food to the monks, paying respect to the Buddha image or reciting the "precepts"on the special occasions such as "Uposatha Day". A day of vigil or fasting which laypeople may observe four tinme a month: the days of the new moon, Full moon and the two days of the half moon) by undertaking moral precepts and by visiting the temple. In daily life, laypeople would receive greater benefit from their act of paying respect to the Buddha if this were done in a more meaningfull way. They could, for exemple, pay respect to the Buddha by Abstaining from ill deeds, in serving other people, in learning more about the teachings of the Buddha and in helping other people to understand the teaching. Though, there are many levels of understanding the Buddha teachings.


 Loilian and Ven. Soeung Eap đbbot of Watt Samakyseriratanarama

[^5]



-     - รรธิโั่ (Impermanence)










































## ๓ - โรโ๙ึํ (Soulless, None Soul or Selflessness)



















## The Three Characteristics

of Existence

You may want to know what Buddha taught about natural phenomena of the existence of things. Buddha taught that all living and nonliving have three unique characteristics. They are as follows:

1. Anicca: Impermanence
2. Dukkha: Suffering
3. Anatta: Selflessness

## Anicca:

Anatta: means the mark of impermanence. Everything is ever-changing, subject to destruction, quite unstable and unreliable. Things are constantly decaying. No matter how much we may try to hold it, no single thing stays the same at this present moment as it was one moment ago. For example, when we closely observe and consider the flame of a burning candle; we observe the flame and its five unique characteristics: momentarily arising, constantly developing, continuing in its normal state, dying down, and dying away. By observing and taking note of these five unique features one can understand that the flame is an impermanent thing. Similarly it could be understood that all things are changing and impermanent.

This is the nature of things and life itself, whether human, animal or tree. Each experience growth, continuance, decay and death like a baby is born, grows up, was young, becomes old, was healthy, becomes ill, was alive then dies. Seeds become plants which yield flowers which wither and die to bring seeds and its stalks decay to provide rich soil for new seeds to sprout from.

## Dukkha:

Dukkha means dissatisfaction experienced by humans and animals, marked by suffering, stress, frustration, pain, illness, unhappiness, instability and so forth. Impermanence is also marked by suffering or dissatisfaction, feared by ignorance people and recognized by wise people as Samsara, the cycle of birth and death.

Briefly speaking, there are at least thirteen marks of everyday suffering, namely:

1. Suffering of birth
2. Suffering of decay
3. Suffering of bodily illness
4. Suffering of mental illness
5. Suffering of death
6. Suffering of sorrow

[^6]7. Suffering of lamentation
8. Suffering of despair
9. Suffering due to separation from loved ones
10. Suffering due to getting undesirable things
11. Suffering due to non-fulfillment of wishes
12. Suffering due to association with unpleasant people
13. Suffering due to living in bad circumstances.

Worldly happiness comes and goes, eventually becoming suffering.

## Anatta:

Anatta or selflessness is the last common mark of every thing exists. We cannot find a part in anything which can be called the self. Therefore, there is nothing to possess or control. Each so-called "being" is composed of five components of existence: body, feeling, perception (memory), mental function and consciousness. No single one of these components can be called self. Outside of these five factors there is no permanent self. If one removed one factor of these components nothing remains.

All living and nonliving things consist of the four elements of Earth, Water, Fire and Wind. The human body can be further divided into thirty two different component parts such as water, blood, tears, oil phlegm, saliva, bones, teeth, nails, hairs, flesh, liver, lungs and so on. If any one of these parts is not functioning on the proper way; neither body nor life can exist. The Buddha realized and taught that only when the three fundamental evils of desire (Raga), hatred (Dhosa) and delusion (Moha) cease, one is freed from the bondage* of self or ego**. Then ignorance is destroyed and mind becomes enlightened.

Note: * Bondage means servant, slavery, the condition of being bound.
** Self means I, me, my, such as "I am a rich man, do not tell me that," "This is mine," etc.





#### Abstract

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The Five Drecepts<br>

What are the Five Precepts?
The Five Precepts commonly known as "Pancasila". Pancasila are five rules or qualities used by Buddhist to control verbal actions and to refrain from doing and speaking what is unwholesome and not beneficial. There are various interpretations of the five precepts. The Five Precepts are as follows:

1. Abstention from killing or harming living beings
2. Abstention from stealing
3. Abstention from improper sexual conduct and adultery
4. Abstention from telling lies, Abstention from impolite speech, Abstention from setting people against each other, Abstention from idle gossiping \& Abstention from backbiting
5. Abstention from taking intoxicant drinks and harmful drugs.
[^7]Of the Five Precepts, the fifth is by far the most important. If a person disregards the fifth Precepts; he or she can commit many harmful deeds and break the other four Precepts easily. A Person in control of her/his bodily and verbal actions is a person with Sila, virtue or humane living being. .

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## Steps to taking Sila:

There are two ways to taking Pancasila or the Five Precepts. First you take the precepts that are prescribed for each Sila. This method can be used wherever and whenever there is no monk. Second, you sit respectfully before the monk. Then you must pay respect to the monk with folded palms and request him to give you Sila. For the beginner, there are steps that can be taken. If you cannot observe all the Sila, then just choose and abserve any one of the five that you can. And you can increase the number of Silas up to five. If you can not observe Sila daily, you can also observe Sila once a week. The following is how to observe Sila by yourself with no monk:

1. I undertake the precept to abstain from killing and harming living beings.
2. I undertake the precept to abstain from stealing.
3. I undertake the precept to abstain from adultery and sexual misconduct.
4. I undertake the precept to abstain from lying and false speech
5. I undertake the precept to abstain from intoxicating drinks and harmful drugs.
Please keep in mind that the more you can observe Sila; the more happiness and peace you will have.

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## Why it is good to observe Sila?

Because to observe the Precepts is good for all people; it brings peace and happiness to family and community as benefit below:

1. One with Sila leads a happy life.
2. Nobody hates one who practices Sila.
3. One with Sila is regarded as a complete human being.
4. One with Sila is a good friend to everyone.

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## What will happen to the person without Sila?

One without Sila cause many problems in society:

1. One becomes cruel
2. One may become a criminal.
3. Nobody loves or trusts such a person
4. One always causes trouble for oneself and others.

Good people do not want to associate with such a person. .
NOTE: Usually all Buddhist are expected to observe the five Precepts completely. If all people observed Five Precepts sincerely, families would be peaceful and happy. If the individual family has peace and happiness, society will be peaceful and the world will be a good place to live in.



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## The Four Noble Truths 

One may ask, what is the foundation of Buddhism? The foundation of Buddhism is the Fourth Noble Truths:

- The Noble Truth of Suffering
- The Noble Truth of the Origin of Suffering
- The Noble Truth of the Extinction of Suffering
- The noble Truth of the Path Leading to Extinction of Suffering


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## 1. The Noble Truth of Suffering

Suffering or dissatisfaction on the basic level deals with the problem of daily life such as birth, old age, disease, death, sorrow, lamentation and frustrations of every kind. Getting an undesirable is painful, as well as not getting what is desired. One tries his/her best to avoid suffering and to be free from troubles.

This Truth treats the problems and problematic situations that are to be observed and comprehended; without self-investigation we can not know if these statements are really true. With careful observation in life, we can see that all conditions of life are unstable. Many people, who are new to Buddhism, said that Buddhist's view is pessimistic religion. No! Buddhist's view is neither pessimistic nor optimistic. Buddhist view is realistic view. Buddhism offers opportunity to people to look, analyze, examine and realize the truth of life, the law of natural phenomena. Buddhism gives time to people to see the thing as it really is, as they really are without believing in someone or some things blindly.

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## 2. The Noble Truth of the Origin of Suffering

In this Truth, the Buddha explained how suffering arises through various causes and conditions. Every kind of suffering has its origins in craving or selfish desire, which is the result of ignorance or delusion. Sometimes problems happen in your classroom at school. When you try to study, if the room is too noisy or your friends disturb you; you may feel unhappy, you may suffer. Sometimes unjust or unfair events happens that make you feel unhappy or suffer. If you pay attention to your feelings, you will find that calmness, quietness, fair play and peace usually bring happiness.

It can be said that causes of suffering are hatred, selfish desire or greedy mind, and ignorance. Suffering or problems in daily life were caused by these three origins or any one of these.
There are three kinds of craving, namely:

- Craving for pleasure
- Craving for existence
- Craving for non-existence or self-annihilation.

Our excessive wants and desires are the causes of our problem in daily life. For example, Phaula wants to get a car. She works hard and saves her money to buy a car. Then she wants a boat, a house and more cars. She must work long hours sometimes 15 or 16 hours each day. She has no time to rest and enjoy her life. She becomes weak and ill. She is suffering. This illustration shows that excessive wants and desires are cause of problem. Therefore, one should be happy with what he/she has. This does not mean one should live in poverty, but moderation is suggested in all things

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## 3. The Noble Truth of the Extinction of Suffering

(Problem solving)
The highest goal of Buddhism is to end suffering, greed, hatred and delusion. When craving or thirst to possess is completely destroyed, Nirvana or Nibbana (Nirvana is in Sanskrit), the state of perfect and peaceful mind will be realized. Nibbana means extinction or annihilation. What is extinguished or annihilated? The cycle of suffering in the realm of defilement (kilesa), of action (kamma) and of result of action (vipaka) is extinguished or annihilated. To end the problems of greed, hatred and delusion, one needs to understand, practice and follow the Eightfold Path and the Fourth Noble Truth.

The Four Noble Truth consists of three levels of training called: Moral training, meditation or mind training and wisdom training.

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## 4. The noble Truth of the Path Leading to Extinction of Suffering

This Truth defines the Buddhist way of life. It contains all the ethical teaching and practices of Buddhism. It provided the way and means to realize the goal set forth in the Third Truth. This way is called the Noble Eightfold Path since it consists of eight factors. It is also known as the Middle Path.

1. Right Understanding,
2. Right Thought,
3. Right Speech,
4. Right Action,
5. Right Livelihood
6. Right Effort,
7. Right Mindfulness
8. Right Concentration.

In short, to solve any problem, we have to observe Sila (Self control, morality), Samadhi (Mind control), and Panna (Wisdom) by following the Eightfold Path.









The Middle Jath"

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This path eliminates our unwholesome thoughts and improper harmful conducts. One can end suffering by understand, adopting and following the path of the Middle Path, which is a practical way of life. The Middle Path is a path of self-conquest which leads to the ultimate goal, real happiness, and perfect peace.

















[^9]
## 1. Right or Correct Understanding

To begin doing something correctly or solving a problem, we must clear our mind first. Then we must isolate and recognize the problem, comprehend the problem and know the causes of the problem. Right understanding, must, therefore, come first before action. If we do something without clear and right understand we may not success in our work. For example, if we misunderstand the formula of mathematics we will go wrong then get wrong result. Therefore, right understanding and clear mind is needed. That is why the Buddha said that mind training come first.




To start working upon the Path, we must see our life and the three characteristics of life in general: impermanence, suffering and selflessness. We must posse a clear understanding of the nature of existence, (or moral laws of human living) and of the factors and component elements which comprise the continuing cycle of birth and death. This is the first step of the Middle Path.

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## 2. Right or Correct Thought

The mind should be clear of unwholesome thoughts before we act. By doing this, the mind can be pure and ready for any action or problem solving. Someone has a bad thought his mind was influenced by that thought then he does unjust thing and harmful result to public. Acting this way people get suffering. Therefore, think, analyze and judge first before doing any thing.

Another word, it means our mind is free from sensory desire, ill-will, cruelty, hatred, doubts, worries, tension, anxiety and laziness. At the same time, we should be willing to relinquish anything that obstructs our mental and psychological progress in meditation practice. This is the second step to the Middle Path.








 กณึกด (Middle path) 4

## 3. Right or Correct Speech

Before we practice tranquility meditation, we must clear ourselves by refraining from lying, back-biting, harsh talk and also from idle gossip. We create a connecting link between thought and action or thinking and doing characterized by wisdom and loving-kindness. Correct speech is full of good words, not loud or excited. Correct speech is not prejudiced or bearing illwill or selfish interest. Correct speech should not arouse passion or emotions. Correct speech should be lovely, truthful, timely and appropriate to the situation and the listeners. This is the third step of the Middle Path.

















## 4. Right or Correct Action

Right Action generally consists of observing the Five Precepts that are the basic principals of the Buddhist way of life. Their positive and negative injunctions are:

1. Not to kill, but to practice loving-kindness to all living beings.
2. Not to take what is not given, but to practice charity and generosity.
3. Not to misuse the senses, but to practice purity and self-control.
4. Not to indulge in lying or harsh speech, but to practice sincerity, honesty and thoughtful speech.
5. Not to take any intoxicating drinks or harmful drugs which will lead to uncontrolled behavior, but to practice restraint and mindfulness.
It is essential that those who seek the highest to live-life by and to practice these principles. If one follows these principles, one's life and work will not harm oneself or others. This is the Fourth step of the Middle Path.

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## 5. Right or Correct Livelihood

Right livelihood deals with occupations which are not harmful to anyone.
The lay Buddhist should avoid from five kinds of trades. They are:

1. Trading in weapons,
2. Demeaning people in various ways,
3. Trading in liquor,
4. Selling poison,
5. Lending money at excessive high interest.

We must consider our responsibilities to ourselves and others when choosing the best way to earn a living. Buddhist should observe and follow right occupations which exclude the five kinds of work mentioned above. Right occupation helps one to follow the five Precepts.









## 6. Right or Correct Effort

Trying to be a good person, to do good and avoid unwholesome behavior are right efforts in Buddhism. The right effort consist fourfold endeavor:

1. The effort to eliminate unwholesome that has already arisen in mind.
2. The effort to prevent new unwholesome in the mind.
3. The effort to cultivate beneficial qualities in the mind.
4. The effort to promote the beneficial quality which has already been cultivated.









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## 7. Right or Correct Mindfulness

Right Mindfulness is the development of awareness in the service of spiritual progress which simply means mental training, ability to examine thing and to recognize what is important and not to be led astray into unwholesomeness. Whatever we do we should do mindfully, paying full attention. When you work with full attention; you will get good results. If you work mindfully; you will do good and make few mistakes. Mindfulness is an important instrument of work. At a higher level, when you meditate you are aware of all things appearing in the mind. There is also wrong or incorrect mindfulness. Cheating or stealing can be done mindfully, but this is wrong application of mindfulness.






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## 8. Right or Correct Concentration

Right Concentration is the final step of the Eightfold Path, the Middle Path of Buddhism. It means focusing the mind. The practice of meditation leads to full understanding of the impermanence of all living being and things. When you want to do something you must concentrate first. Concentrate your mind before and while you study or work, etc. You will then get good results. Concentration needs to be practiced again and again.


Lay People and Children Pray and Worship the Buddha statues at Vihearsour Monastery in Cambodia


#  <br>  <br> The three levels of Eightfold Dath ${ }^{*}$ <br>  

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The three levels of the Eightfold Path (or Middle Path) are:

1. Sila (Moral) level 2. Samadhi (Mind Training) level 3. Panna (Wisdom) level:




## 1. Sila (Moral) level:

Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood. This is the basic training for lay people.





## 2. Samadhi (Mind Training) level:

Right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration. This is the middle level of training for those who wish to attain a higher level of mind training.






[^10]



## 3. Panna (Wisdom) level:

Right understanding and right thought. This is the third level of training for monastic life and those who wish to attain enlightenment in this very life. It is derives from the second level. One must clear the mind before starting any action.

The Eightfold path can be applied to any kind of work. It is Scientific method of Buddhist mind development.


 Buddhist Celebration of Parents' Birthday

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## Buddhist Meditation.


There are many things in life that are beyond our control. However, it is possible to take responsibility for and to change one's state of mind. According to Buddhism this is the most important thing we can do, and Buddhism teaches that it is the only real antidote to the anxiety, hatred, discontenment, sleepiness, and confusion that beset the human condition.

Meditation is a means of transforming the mind. Buddhist meditation practices are techniques that encourage and develop concentration, clarity, and emotional positivity. It is the way to control one's own mind and to concentrate. It is single pointedness of mind. Meditation is the way to purify the mind from unwholesome thoughts such as: hatred, selfish desire, greed, ignorance, mental defilement or impurities. It is good for people at all age.

By engaging with a particular meditation practice one learns the patterns and habits of the mind, and the practice offers a mean to cultivate new, more positive ways of being. With discipline and patience these calm and focused states of mind can deepen into profoundly tranquil and energized states of mind. Such experiences can have a transformative effect and can lead to a new understanding of life. In Buddhism, the mind is the most important element in the human being. All deeds, wholesome or unwholesome, are the result of process of the mind. That is why the Buddha has repeatedly proclaimed that the mind is the forerunner of all actions, the chief of all things. Therefore, the mind should be trained and refined. Meditation helps in training and refining the mind. There are two kinds of meditation: Tranquil Meditation (Samatha Bhavana) and Insight Meditation (Vipassana Bhavana).

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## 1. Tranquil Meditation

(Concentration Meditation)
Tranquil Meditation aims at training single-pointedness of mind. It is done by fixing the mind on a chosen object such as image of the Buddha or a circular disc painted in particular color. You focus the mind on an object until you remember that object clearly. Then close your eyes slowly and do not think of anything else. Keep your mind on that object until you want to stop meditating. This is the way that temporarily allows the mind to become calm. Now anger, worry, restlessness lust and doubt are temporarily suppressed.

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## 2. Insight Meditation:

Insight Meditation is the endeavor to achieve complete insight into the real nature of all phenomena. It is realization of understanding things as they really are. The meditation practitioner sits for meditation practice, closing his/her eyes observing his/her breathing-in and breathing-out carefully and slowly. When the mind becomes calm and clear, the meditation practitioner may apply a calm and clear mind in observing and contemplating his/her thought and feelings. In observing the rising and falling of the breath, one sees the change and impermanence of breath and of life. When the mind sees and understands this, it does not desire to cling or to attach anything. The mind then becomes free from clinging and attachment. This is one way of insight meditation.

Many people practice basic concentration on breathing. One can then observe the moment and see everything as it really is, rising and falling like breath.

Tranquil meditation helps on achieve wisdom. To get goods results in any kind of ordinary or worldly work, one needs concentration and mindfulness. The meditation practitioner needs the guidance and supervision from an experienced and profound teacher to lead him/her in practice.

What would happen if one worked without concentration and mindfulness? Meditation without concentration and mindfulness, work cannot be perfected. If student studies without mindfulness and full attention; he or she can remember the subject; and him or her never learn. In the same way, understanding and insight are worldly tools to be used at the start of any work. This is also the role of insight in everyday life.

What are the benefits of meditation?
Meditation helps:

1. To calm our mind. With calm and strong mind we may be able to face all kinds of problem and difficulties in daily life confidently,
2. To concentrate better by sharpening our mental faculties.
3. To free us from all kinds of stress, worries and anxieties.
4. To improve our mental and physical health.
5. To develop a sound mind and body by cleansing impurities.
6. To cultivate loving-kindness, compassion, inner peace and humility.
7. To prevent hatred, greed, passion, selfishness and jealousy.

These are the benefits for Buddhist meditation, both in our spiritual life and in worldly endeavors. However, the proper atmosphere, self-confidence, frequency and regularity of practice are all needed to realize the benefits of meditation.

## Note on Meditation:

Over all, the techniques of meditation are very simple. However, reading about them is no substitute for learning from an experienced and reliable teacher. A teacher will be able to offer you guidance in how to apply the technique and how to deal with difficulties. Perhaps most importantly, a teacher can offer the encouragement and inspiration of their own example.



Parade of Three Baskets (Ti Pidaka) Celebration in August, 2006

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## Buddhism and <br> Womanhood

The essential spirit of Buddhism absolutely includes all beings, male and female. The Buddha spread the idea of brotherhood/Sisterhood, equality, spiritual liberation, freedom and the ways to experience enlightenment for all. Before the advent of Buddhism, women were often in unfavorable circumstance. This new order was a great blessing. Women, mothers, daughters of noble and ordinary families, widows, bereaved mothers, helpless women, and (former) prostitutes all enjoyed perfect happiness and peace in Buddhism. Many gained liberation by seeking refuge in Buddhism. The Buddha was the first major religious leader in history to honor women and helped open their eyes to the world of Truth.

What the Buddha discovered was a universal law which existed independently of all the Buddha, and which others, male or female, can discover by following the directions of the Buddha. The cult of the Buddha's person, the worship of relics and the conduct of the "Buddha pûjâs" were all later developments, both in the Theravada and the Mahayana, and have scant justification in the discourses of the Buddha. The spirit of essential Buddhist doctrines assumes equality between male and female, although in the mundane world the position of Buddhist women is lower than that of Buddhist men.

In Buddhism, women, in most cases, were considered equal within the law of the Dharma. So goes a saying of the Buddha to a monarch who lived during the Buddha's final lifetime. The Sage had come to the realization that it was the members of the female gender who bore all the members of the human race and were thus deserving of praise and a dignity on a level equal to that of their male counterparts. By this very sentiment he effectively extended his personal welcome to women to become part of the monastic community as he had done for the men; in this capacity, they would be known as "nuns." Many a nun has since attained to that most sublime of destinies: an Arahant.

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(Sympathetic joy "Opposite of jealousy")

(Neutrality, indifference)












## What is a good Mother?

When we talk about being a Mother, Cambodians think about the basic attribute of a pure noble nature or Brahmavihara Dharma (Divine State of mind), the strong foundation of disciplining herself and her children.

Brahmavihara Dharma from a mother for her children are as follows:

- Meta (Mercy, Compassion) is the love for her children. It is unconditional.
- Kak Ruk Na (Pity, Mercy Compassion) is to take care and protect.
- Obekha (Neutrality, indifference) to be neutral and use intelligent to make any judgment, and always look on the positive side for their betterment in life.
- Muteta (Sympathetic joy "Opposite of jealousy") Always enjoy seeing other has hapiness
All mothers should have all four dharma in order to raise their children. If she lacks one of them, the future of her children will not be of a successful one.

In a developed Country like the USA, some mothers are under 18 years old; this is a sign showing that her parents lacked of Brahmavihara Dharma.

At the end of the 20 century and beginning of the 21 st century, Brahmavihara Dharma is even more powerful eventhough sciences have expanded everywhere.

By Ms. Lakhana Sar



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## Buddha's Noble Death



The Buddha died after eating poisoned pork meat food served by the son of a blacksmith named Cunda in the town of Pava. The stories has been specified clearly in Theravada or Hinayana Buddhism book "The Long Discourses" $16^{\text {th }}$ Grand Chapter, pages 268 and 286 which indicated about Buddha last meal. The Buddha instructed Cunda to bury the leftovers without letting anyone else eat from the bowl. The Buddha saw he would die the veryday which was Tuesday, the full moon of the month of Visakha at dawn time. He instructed Ananda as how to made his funeral arrangements. He gave several final teachings to his followers. He comforted his beloved disciple Ananda and praised him for his archievement with many kind comments. Ananda suggested the Buddha to choose where he would die, for the city the Buddha chose was a small city deep in the jungle called Kusinara. Ananda urged him to return to Varanasi or some other big city where his death could be witnessed by thousands. Instead he chose a city nearly off the map, symbolizing how unimportant is the death of one man, and how important is the mission he left to his followers to spread Buddhism to all parts of the world.

The Buddha then sat in a grove of Sala trees with Ananda and a followers of monks plus a crowd of gods. He spoke his final words; "All individual things pass away. Seek your liberation with diligence." And he died.























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## Buddhist Flag


The six colors; Blue (nila), Yellow (pita), Red (lohita), White (odata), Scarlet (manjestha), and the mixture of these six colors (prabaswara) of the flag represent the colors of the aura that emanated from the body of the Buddha when He attained Enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree.

The Horizontal Stripes represent the races of the world living in harmony and the Vertical Stripes represent eternal world peace. The colors symbolize the perfection of Buddhahood and the Dharma.

The Blue light that radiated from the Buddha's hair symbolizes the spirit of Universal Compassion for all beings. The Yellow light that radiated from the Buddha's epidermis symbolizes the Middle Way which avoids all extremes and brings balance and liberation.

The Red light that radiated from the Buddha's flesh symbolizes the blessings that the practice of the Buddha's Teaching brings.

The White light that radiated from the Buddha's bones and teeth symbolizes the purity of the Buddha's Teaching and the liberation it brings.

The Orange light that radiated from the Buddha's palms, heels and lips symbolizes the unshakable Wisdom of the Buddha's Teaching. The Combination Color symbolizes the universality of the Truth of the Buddha's Teaching. (Burmese Buddhist replaced with Pink.)

Therefore, the overall flag represents that: Regardless of race, nationality, division or color, all sentient beings possess the potential of Buddhahood.



 テึT|fig (Emptiness) 4





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The six colors are better interpreted as :


1. Blue: signifying the concept of loving kindness and peace in Buddhism
2. Yellow: signifying the Middle Path, that is the complete absence of form and emptiness
3. Red: signifying achievement, wisdom, virtue, fortune and dignity.
4. White: signifying purity, emancipation that the Dharma will always exist regardless of time or space.
5. Orange: The essence of Buddhism which is full of wisdom, strength and dignity.
6. The combination of these five colors symbolizes that it is the one and only Truth

The horizontal bars signify peace and harmony between all races through out the world while the vertical bars represent eternal peace within the world. In simple terms, the Buddhist Flag implies that there is no discrimination of races, nationality, areas or skin color; that every living being possess the Buddha Nature and all have the potential to become a Buddha.



Visakha Puja at Watt Samakyseriratanarama in Columbus, Ohio, USণA, May 5, 2007







## The Most important <br> Buddhist Celebrations in Cambodia 

As Buddhists, we observe our religious holidays according to the lunar calendar year. There are seven most important Buddhist celebrations throughout the lunar calendar year in Cambodia: 1 -Makha Puja, 2 -New Year, 3 -Visakha Puja, 4 -Vassa, 5 -Prachum Benda, 6 -Vassa Termination, 7 -Kathina, and 8 - Water Festival.

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ษุณภృตาษษูู่ Makha Puja
โนดญยาระ










## 1. Makha Puja

Makha Puja is another important Buddhist holy day, which Buddhists can perform merit-makings during the day. Makha Puja Day takes place on the full moon day of the third lunar month, February. Celebrating Makha Puja is to commemorate two glorious events in life of the Lord Budhha.

1 - Buddha congregated the Fourfold Assembly and assigned two executive Disciples to help preaching the Buddha Dhamma with lecture and
2 - When Buddha anticipating of his death in three months.
After the first Rains Retreat at Deer Park, Lord Buddha went to Rahagaha City. There were 1,250 Arahantas (enlightened followers) returned from their mission without prior appointment to pay respect to the Lord Buddha. This assembly is called the Fourfold Assembly as a result from 4 special factors:

1. All 1250 monks were Arahants.
2. All 1250 had been ordained by the Lord Budhha.
3. They assembled by themselves without prior call.
4. It was the full moon day of Makha month.

During the celebration, we perform candle processions to maintain religious commandment, to practice Dhamma and to worship the Lord Buddha.





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## 2. Cambodian New Year ${ }^{16}$

Buddhist New Year is like any other New Year. Because this religion covers so many countries and exists amid so many host cultural traditions, there is an amazing diversity in the timing of the New Year and in the observances. The Buddhist Calendar is calculated differently in various parts of the world.

The most common type of Buddhist calendar is lunar and begins roughly in December or January of the Gregorian calendar. Each month is approximately 29 or 30 days, depending upon the length of the each moon. Every few years an extra intercalary or leap day is added after the 7th Month. Occasionally, an extra month is added there as well. Because of this system, it is often quite difficult to predict when Buddhist holidays will be celebrated from year to year ${ }^{17}$.

In Observance of the New Year, We reflect upon and correct our past mistakes and look forward to a better life in the New Year. Reflection, hope and resolution are some of the basic elements of a Buddhist's life.

In Cambodia, Khmer New Year is the greatest traditional festival, and also it is the greatest national holiday because it is three days of festival and sometimes can be four or event longer. Khmer New Year begins on April 13th or can be on April 14th, depending on the "MohaSangkran," which is the ancient horoscope. In fact, Khmer New Year originally began on the first day of the first month in lunar calendar, which can be in November or the beginning of December. In the Angkor Era, the 13th Century, the Khmer King, either Suriyavaraman II or Jayavaraman VII, was the one who changed the New Year to the fourth month of the lunar calendar, in April by the solar calendar. $95 \%$ of Khmer populations are farmers, and the period from November through March is the busiest season for Khmer farmers to reap or harvest the crops from the rice fields. Khmer people can find free time in April because there is no rain, and it is very hot, so Khmer farmers have the time to take vacation after they have worked very hard to gather the rice crops from their rice fields to get their income. Therefore, April is the right time for Khmer in Cambodia to celebrate New Year. The Khmer New Year festival originated from Bramhmanism, a part of Hinduism, which was a religion that Khmer believed in before Buddhism. Later on Buddhism became associated with the festival and then took all the important roles in the festivity.

[^13]Usually, Khmer New Year is celebrated for three days:
The first day of New Year is called as Moha Sangkran, and it can be described simply as the inauguration of the New Angels who come to care the world for a one-year period. People need to clean and decorate the house and also prepare fruits and drinks for the New Year inauguration and to welcome the New Angels at every single home. Elderly people like to meditate or pray the Dharma at that time because they believe that any angel who comes to their houses at that time will stay with them and take care of their family for the whole year. Actually, in the morning at the first day of New Year, most Khmer people prepare food to offer the monks at Khmer temple to get blessed. It is a great time for boys and girls to play traditional games together at the temple or any field or playground in their village because it is only at the New Year time that boys and girls are allowed to play or to get together. Also it is a wonderful time for single people to search for the special partner to get married in the future.

The second day of New Year is called as Varavanabot Day, which means day of offering gifts to the parents, grandparents and elders. Usually, Khmer People like to share gifts or presents to employees and also donate money or clothes to poor people. In the evening, people go to temple to build a mountain of sand and ask the monks to give them a blessing of happiness and peace.

The third day is called as day of "Leung Sakk" that means the year starts to be counted up from this day. Traditionally, in the morning, we used to go to the temple to perform the ceremony of the mountain of sand to get blessed. In the evening, to complete the New Year festival, our Khmer people need to perform the last ceremony, called as "Pithi Srang Preah", which means giving a special bath or a special shower to Buddha statues, the monks, elders, parents, grand parents to apologize for any mistake we have done to them and to gratify them. Every one must have a wonderful time during this ceremony because it is a great opportunity for every one, young and old, man and woman to have much fun by spreading out water to each other. Khmer New Year is not just the great traditional festival for Cambodian, and it can make Cambodian to build up many unforgettable souvenirs.

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## 3. Visakha Puja (Full moon day)

Visakha Puja (Visakha Puja day is around the full moon of late May/early June) is an extremely important day in the Buddhist tradition, which commemorates three miraculous events that took place during full moon of the month of Visakha. In the year of dog, Buddha was born on the full moon of Thursday night during the full moon of the month of Visakha. Next, Buddha achieved the Enlightenment which is a final blessed state marked by the absence of desire or suffering. This also occurred on the full moon of Wednesday night of the month of Visakha in the year of cock. Finally, the third occurrence was the Noble death of the Buddha, which happened once again during the full moon of Tuesday night of month of the Visakha in the year of snake.

Every year when this important day comes around again, we Buddhists take the opportunity to pay homage to the Buddha as a way of expressing our gratitude for his goodness. We sacrifice our daily affairs to make merit in a skillful way by doing such things as practicing generosity, observing the precepts, and listening to the Dhamma. This is called paying homage to the virtues of the Triple Gem: the Buddha, Dhamma, and Sangha.

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## 4. Vassa (Rainy Season Retreat)

The Vassa is the three-month rainy season retreat. It has been strictly observed by Buddhist monks since the lifetime of Lord Buddha. During observation of the Vassa retreat, the Buddhist monks are to have intensive training in both meditation and study of the DhammaVinaya which are the Budhha's teaching and discipline. They are to stay in a temple or a place; and no travel is allowed for three months period with an exception of an invitation or an emergency. The festivity will also consist March of the Vassa with candles to light up the temple. The Vassa begins between July and October of each year. On the occasion of the Vassa celebration Buddhist make offerings mainly four requisites to the monks: Rainy Season Cloths, Food, Residence and Beverage/Medicine.

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## 5. Prachum Benda ${ }^{19}$ (Ancestors' Day)

Cambodians believe that although most living creatures are reincarnated at death, due to bad karma, some souls are not reincarnated but rather remain trapped in the spirit world. Each year, for fifteen days, these souls are released from the spirit world to search for their living relatives, meditate and repent. The fifteen-day observance of Prachum Benda, or Ancestors' Day, is a time for living relatives to remember their ancestors and offer food to those unfortunate enough to have become trapped in the spirit world. Furthermore, it is an important opportunity for living relatives to meditate and pray to help reduce the bad karma of their ancestors, thus enabling the ancestors to become reincarnated and leave the torment and misery of the spirit

[^15]world. Prachum Benda, better known colloquially as Pchum Ben in Khmer, may be translated as "gathering together to make offerings" (prachum meaning "gathering together" and benda meaning "offering"). The observance usually begins in mid-September and lasts an entire lunar cycle, constituting the fifteen days that ancestral spirits are given to visit their living relatives.

Pchum Ben is the fifteenth and final day of the observance and consists of a large gathering of laity for festivities at the local Buddhist temple. Each day leading up to the fifteenth, however, is also important and special. Different families host services at the temple on each of the fourteen days prior to the final celebration. The days leading up to Pchum Ben are known as Kann Ben (kann meaning "hosting or holding") and are numbered one through fourteen accordingly.


Prior to the day a family or families are scheduled to host a Kann Ben, relatives and close family friends will go to the temple to make preparations. During the preparations, urns of ancestors, traditionally kept on temple grounds, are polished and brought to the viheara (the main chanting room). Also, the names of ancestors are recorded onto an invitation list. This is important because spirits cannot receive offerings unless they are first invited to do so by living relatives. In the evening, the host family and other participants will join the monks in the viheara for meditation and chanting. The monks will then pass on the Buddha's teachings, as well as offer blessings and guidance to those present.

Before sunrise on the morning of the Kann Ben, special food is prepared for the ancestral spirits to enjoy. Favorite dishes of various flavors and colors are offered. They range from the simple and traditional nom ansom (sticky rice wrapped in banana leaves with assorted fillings) to the more elaborate and rich amok (steamed fish fillet marinated in a complex mix of spices and herbs). As a gesture of kindness, the hosts also prepare bai ben (steamed sticky rice mixed with sesame seeds and then formed into balls) to be thrown into shaded areas about the temple grounds. This mixture is an offering to the hungry souls who have been forgotten or no longer have living relatives to make them offerings.

Before noon on Kann Ben, candles and incense are lit and the various dishes are offered to the monks. The prepared list of names is then recited and burned. The reading and burning of the list is a ritual performed to alert and direct the wandering souls to the location of their families. It is an invitation for the ancestral spirits to join their living relatives as they commemorate life. After consuming the proffered meal, the monks continue to chant blessings, sprinkling (or showering) holy water onto the families and their visiting ancestral spirits. The Kann Ben is a time of remembrance and an opportunity to accumulate good karma on behalf of one's ancestors.

The rituals of Kann Ben continue for fourteen days. On the fifteenth day, the traditionally observed Pchum Ben, families in the local area gather to perform the same ritual of ancestral remembrance and offer an immense communal feast. This day is especially important because if any ancestors are unfortunate enough to have become Priad spirits, it is the only day that they may receive offerings of food and benefit from the good karma earned by their relatives. Priads are the most miserable of all souls due to their exceptional bad karma. Unlike other spirits, Priads fear light and can only receive prayers, food and be reunited with their living relatives during the darkest day of this lunar cycle, the day of Pchum Ben. Participating in the Pchum Ben, whether as a host or participant, is a very important aspect of Cambodian culture. It is a time of reunion and commemoration. It is a time to express love and appreciation for one's ancestors. By offering food and good karma to those possibly trapped in the spirit world, living relatives help assuage their misery and guide them back into the cycle of reincarnation. After the ancestors are reincarnated, they have the opportunity to accumulate good karma on their own and look forward to attaining a peaceful inner spirit, which is the best blessing a living relative can wish for their ancestors.

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## 6. Vassa Termination

Vassa traditionally ends on the full moon day of the month of Assayuja (generally in October). It is the day when Buddhist monks celebrate the termination of Vassa retreat after confining themselves for three months in the temple. According to Buddhist believe, the Buddha descended on that day from the Tavattingsa, Heaven after he had preached on the Abhidhamma to his mother for three months.

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## 7. Kathina ${ }^{21}$

Kathina is a festival month between the days after full moon in October lasting through the full moon of November. Kathina may be observed at the end of the Vassa ${ }^{22}$, the three-month rains retreat. At Buddhist Theravada temples, monks have observed the Vassa as a period of intensive training in both meditation and study of the Dhamma-discipline or Dhamma-Vinaya, the Buddha's teaching and discipline. Kathina is when lay-people can make special offerings of robe and other requisites, to see that the basic needs of the monks are met. Besides new robes, Buddhist literature, kitchen equipment, financial contributions and building materials are also presented to monks on this occasion.


This is how the Kathina originated: When a group of thirty bhikkhus were traveling together, intending to spent the Vassa (rainy season) with the Buddha, they were delayed and had to end their travels and retreat elsewhere. At the ending of Vassa they continued on their journey to Jetavana, Savatthi, where the lord was staying. It was raining and the waters were gathering, while swamp were forming. By the time the monks arrived at their destination, their robes were drenched and they were exhausted. Lord Buddha heard of their disappointment; thirty bhikkhus returned after Lord Buddha gave a sermon. Later Lord Buddha gave religious regulations to all monk in Jetavana monastery by addressing: "Monks, I allow monks who have completed

[^17]the vassa to spread kathina. Five privileges, monks will be allowable to you who have spread the kathina:

1 - Going (around) without having informed another monk for 5 months period without being violated the Dhamma Vinaya.

2 - Going (around) without taking Aml bowl and Double robes for 5 months period 3 - A group meal for 5 months period without being violated the Dhamma Vinaya.
4 - As many robes as you require (without having to determine or assign them according to Vinaya regulations)
5 - Exclusive right to Sanghika robes (the full set of three robes โิโโิิิร) given at one's vassa monastery.
Since then it has become a tradition for Buddhist devotees to help in the fulfillment of this special provision. Monks who have not completed the rainy season retreat are, however, excluded from this privilege. The monks cannot request Kathina; so this is a ceremony that is entirely up to the initiative of lay-followers.

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Water Festival

[^18]















62 Khemarak Kheng Was Ordained His Monkhood in Mov. 27, 2007

A dog is not considered a good dog because he is a good barker. A man is not considered a good man because he is a good talker. Buddha



All things appear and disappear because of the concurrence of causes and conditions. Nothing ever exists entirely alone; everything is in relation to everything else. Buddha




All wrong-doing arises because of mind. If mind is transformed can wrong-doing remain?

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Buddha }
\end{aligned}
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Ambition is like love, impatient both of delays and rivals. Buddha



An idea that is developed and put into action is more important than an idea that exists only as an idea. Buddha

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An insincere and evil friend is more to be feared than a wild beast; a wild beast may wound your body, but an evil friend will wound your mind. Buddha




Believe nothing，no matter where you read it，or who said it，no matter if I have said it， unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense．Buddha




Chaos is inherent in all compounded things．Strive on with diligence．Buddha



Do not dwell in the past，do not dream of the future，concentrate the mind on the present moment．Buddha
 โ゙゚ตุ

Do not overrate what you have received，nor envy others．He who envies others does not obtain peace of mind．Buddha



Ennui has made more gamblers than avarice，more drunkards than thirst，and perhaps as many suicides as despair．

Buddha

 โ゙ロตุฯ

Every human being is the author of his own health or disease．Buddha

He is able who thinks he is able．Buddha

He who experiences the unity of life sees his own self in all beings，and all beings in his own Self，and looks on everything with an impartial eye．Buddha



He who loves 50 people has 50 woes; he who loves no one has no woes. Buddha



Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned. Buddha



However many holy words you read, however many you speak; what good will they do yourself; you do not act on upon them? Buddha



I never see what has been done; I only see what remains to be done. Buddha



In a controversy the instant we feel anger we have already ceased striving for the truth, and have begun striving for ourselves. Buddha



It is a man's own mind, not his enemy or foe, that lures him to evil ways. Buddha



It is better to conquer yourself than to win a thousand battles. Then the victory is yours. It cannot be taken from you, not by angels or by demons, heaven or hell. Buddha



It is better to travel well than to arrive. Buddha



Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without a spiritual life. Buddha



Just as treasures are uncovered from the earth, so virtue appears from good deeds, and wisdom appears from a pure and peaceful mind. To walk safely through the maze of human life, one needs the light of wisdom and the guidance of virtue. Buddha


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Let us rise up and be thankful, for if we didn't learn a lot today, at least we learned a little, and if we didn't learn a little, at least we didn't get sick, and if we got sick, at least we didn't die; so, let us all be thankful. Buddha





On life's journey faith is nourishment, virtuous deeds are a shelter, wisdom is the light by day and right mindfulness is the protection by night. If a man lives a pure life, nothing can destroy him. Buddha




Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without. Buddha

## 

Teach this triple truth to all: A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity. Buddha




The foot feels the foot when it feels the ground. Buddha

The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, nor to worry about the future, but to live the present moment wisely and earnestly. Buddha



The tongue like a sharp knife... Kills without drawing blood. Buddha

The virtues, like the Muses, are always seen in groups. A good principle was never found solitary in any breast. Buddha



The wise ones fashioned speech with their thought, sifting it as grain is sifted through a sieve. Buddha



The world, indeed, is like a dream and the treasures of the world are an alluring mirage! Like the apparent distances in a picture, things have no reality in themselves, but they are like heat haze. Buddha





There are five things which no one is able to accomplish in this world: first, to cease growing old when he is growing old; second, to cease being sick; third, to cease dying; fourth, to deny dissolution when there is dissolution; fifth, to deny non-being. Buddha

 โร์กักัษิตธృ

There are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth; not going all the way, and not starting. Buddha



There is nothing more dreadful than the habit of doubt. Doubt separates people. It is a poison that disintegrates friendships and breaks up pleasant relations. It is a thorn that irritates and hurts; it is a sword that kills. Buddha




Those who are free of resentful thoughts surely find peace. Buddha
 เชีตูบ โฺัตร

Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared. Buddha

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Buddhikaram Temple in Washington ©.C., U®A
Three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth. Buddha


To be idle is a short road to death and to be diligent is a way of life; foolish people are idle, wise people are diligent. Buddha

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To enjoy good health, to bring true happiness to one's family, to bring peace to all, one must first discipline and control one's own mind. If a man can control his mind he can find the way to Enlightenment, and all wisdom and virtue will naturally come to him. Buddha





To live a pure unselfish life, one must count nothing as one's own in the midst of abundance. Buddha



Unity can only be manifested by the binary. Unity itself and the idea of Unity are already two. Buddha



Virtue is persecuted more by the wicked than it is loved by the good. Buddha

We are formed and molded by our thoughts. Those whose minds are shaped by selfless thoughts give joy when they speak or act. Joy follows them like a shadow that never leaves them.

Buddha




We are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make the world. Buddha



What is the appropriate behavior for a man or a woman in the midst of this world, where each person is clinging to his piece of debris? What's the proper salutation between people as they pass each other in this flood? Buddha





What we think, we become. Buddha

Whatever words we utter should be chosen with care for people will hear them and be influenced by them for good or ill. Buddha




When one has the feeling of dislike for evil, when one feels tranquil, one finds pleasure in listening to good teachings; when one has these feelings and appreciates them, one is free of fear. Buddha



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Without health life is not life; it is only a state of languor and suffering - an image of death. Buddha



Work out your own salvation. Do not depend on others. Buddha



Loay Deople Darade Ordainees Around Three Times Before Enterting Into Vihara to Proceed Ordination Ritual Ceremony


Your work is to discover your world and then with all your heart give yourself to it.
Buddha


โ゙ァตุ9

Knowing yourself is True Wisdom;
Knowing others is Intelligent;
Mastering yourself is True Strength;
Mastering others is Power.
Speak only well of people and you need never whisper. -Fortune Cookie





Write down the advice of him who loves you, though you like it not at the present.
---English Proverb



Those who wish to sing always find a song. ---Swedish proverb


If we are facing in the right direction, all we have to do is keep on walking.
---Ancient Buddhist Proverb


May those that love us, love us
And those that don't love us, May God turn there hearts,
And if he doesn't turn there hearts, May he turn there ankles,
So we'll know them by their limping.
---Old Irish Saying






Life's journey is the reward.
---Chinese Proverb

Patience is a bitter plant, but it has a sweet fruit.
---German Proverb


Do not look where you fell, but where you slipped.
---African Proverb


An ounce of patience is worth a pound of brains.
---Dutch Proverb


It's good to be clever, but not to show it.
----French Proverb

In love, there is always one who kisses and one who offers the cheek.
----French Proverb

Life is half spent before one knows what it is.
---French Proverb

Who dig a pit for others will fall in themselves.
---German Proverb

No answer is also an answer.
----German Proverb

Who has never tasted what is bitter does not know what is sweet.
---German Proverb

To him who is determined it remains only to act. ---Italian Proverb


He who enjoys good health is rich, though he knows it not. ---Italian Proverb


The lazier a man is, the more he plans to do tomorrow. ---Norwegian Proverb

## 

For those who believe, no proof is necessary. For those who don't believe, no proof is possible.
---Traditional Saying


The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones. -Chinese Proverb


Watch your Thoughts; they become Words.
Watch your Words, they become Actions.
Watch your Action; they become Habits.
Watch your Habits; they become Character.
Watch your Character; it becomes your Destiny.
-- Author Unknown







Lay People Paying respect to the Triple Gem and Taking the five Precepts


## 

Others may not understand that we must practice self-control, but quarrelling dies away in those who understand this fact.



The Tempter masters the lazy and irresolute man who dwells on the attractive side of things, ungoverned in his senses, and unrestrained in his food, like the wind overcomes a rotten tree.




But the Tempter cannot master a man who dwells on the distasteful side of things, self-controlled in his senses, moderate in eating, resolute and full of faith, like the wind cannot move a mountain crag.




The man who wears the yellow-dyed robe but is not free from stains himself, without selfrestraint and integrity, is unworthy of the robe.



But the man who has freed himself of stains and has found peace of mind in an upright life, possessing self-restraint and integrity, he is indeed worthy of the dyed robe.



To see the essence in the unessential and to see the essence as unessential means one can never get to the essence, wandering as one is in the road of wrong intentions.

[^19]



But to see the essence in the essential and the unessential as the unessential it is means one does get to the essence, being on the road of right intentions.



Here and beyond he is punished. The wrong-doer is punished both ways. He is punished by the thought, "I have done evil", and is even more punished when he comes to a bad state.




Here and beyond he rejoices. The doer of good rejoices both way. He rejoices at the thought, "I have done good", and rejoices even more when he comes to a happy state.




Attention leads to immortality. Carelessness leads to death. Those who pay attention will not die, while the careless are as good as dead already.



So having clearly understood the value of attention, wise men take pleasure in it, rejoicing in what the saints have practiced.



When a man is resolute and recollected, pure of deed and persevering, when he is attentive and self-controlled and lives according to the Teaching, his reputation is bound to grow.




By resolution and attention, by discipline and self-control, a clever man may build himself an island that no flood can overthrow.

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When a wise man has carefully rid himself of carelessness and climbed the High Castle of Wisdom, sorrowless he observes sorrowing people, like a clear-sighted man on a mountain top looking down on the people with limited vision on the ground below.





A monk taking pleasure in being attentive, and recognizing the danger of carelessness, makes progress like a forest fire, consuming all obstacles large or small in his way.




## 

A wise man should guard his mind for it is very hard to keep track of, extremely subtle, and follows its own desires. A guarded mind brings happiness.



The mind goes wandering off far and wide alone. Incorporeal, it dwells in the cavern of the heart. Those who keep it under control escape from Mara's bonds.



If he is unsettled in mind, does not know the true Teaching, and has lost his peace of mind, a man's wisdom does not come to fulfillment.



Seeing your body as no better than an earthen pot, make war on Mara with the sword of wisdom, and setting up your mind as a fortress, defend what you have won, remaining free from attachment.




Seeing the foam-like nature of the body, and awakening to its mirage-like quality, one can escape the sight of the King of Death, snapping Mara's flowery bonds.




A holy man should behave in the village like a bee which takes its food from a flower without hurting its appearance or its scent.



It is no the shortcomings of others, nor what others have done or not done that one should think about, but what one has done or not done oneself.
 ஸ゙ธ็

Just as one can make a lot of garlands from a heap of flowers, so man, subject to birth and death as he is, should make himself a lot of good karma.
โโ์


Perfect of virtue, always acting with recollection, and liberated by final realization -- Mara does not know the path such people travel.




## 

"I've got wealth." This is the way a fool brings suffering on himself. He does not even own himself, so how can he have wealth?



A fool thinks it like honey so long as the bad deed does not bear fruit, but when it does bear fruit he experiences suffering.



One way leads to acquisition , the other leads to nirvana. Realizing this a monk, as a disciple of the Buddha, should take no pleasure in the respect of others, but should devote himself to solitude.




## 

If a man disciplines, instructs and restrains them from what is not right, he will be dear to the good, and disliked by the bad.




Don't cultivate the company of bad companions. Don't cultivate depraved men. Cultivate companions of good character. Cultivate superior men.



He who drinks in the Truth will live happily with a peaceful mind. A wise man always delights in the Truth taught by the saints.




Navies channel water, fletchers fashion arrows, and carpenters work on wood, but the wise disciple themselves.



The wise find peace on hearing the truth, like a deep, clear, undisturbed lake.



The good renounce everything. The pure don't babble about sensual desires. Whether touched by pleasure or pain, the wise show no change of temper.




A wise man, abandoning the principle of darkness, should cultivate what is pure. Leaving home for the homeless life, let him seek his joy in the solitude which people find so hard to enjoy, and, abandoning sensual pleasures, let him cleanse himself of inner defilements, looking on nothing as his own.





## 

Those for whom there is no more acquisition, who are fully aware of the nature of food, whose dwelling place is an empty and imageless release -- the way of such people is hard to follow, like the path of birds through the sky.
 ต่ถกี ฟรีกัส็ล



He whose inflowing thoughts are dried up, who is unattached to food, whose dwelling place is an empty and imageless release -- the way of such a person is hard to follow, like the path of birds through the sky.




Like the earth he is not disturbed, like a great pillar he is firmly set and reliable, like a lake he is free from defilement. There are no more rebirths for such a well set man.




Freed by full realization and at peace, the mind of such a man is at peace, and his speech and action peaceful.




## 

Victory over oneself is better than that over others. When a man has conquered himself and always acts with self-control, neither devas, spirits, Mara nor Brahma can reverse the victory of a man like that.




Though one were to perform sacrifices by the thousand month after month for a hundred years, if another were to pay homage to a single inwardly perfected man for just a moment, that homage is better than the hundred years of sacrifices.




Four principal things increase in the man who is respectful and always honors his elders -- length of life, good looks, happiness and health.
 รษส่่ํํ

Though one were to live a hundred years immoral and with a mind unstilled by meditation, the life of a single day is better if one is moral and practices meditation.

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Though one were to live a hundred years without wisdom and with a mind unstilled by meditation, the life of a single day is better if one is wise and practices meditation.




Though one were to live a hundred years without seeing the rise and passing of things, the life of a single day is better if one sees the rise and passing of things.




Though one were to live a hundred years without seeing the deathless state, the life of a single day is better if one sees the deathless state.



Though one were to live a hundred years without seeing the supreme truth, the life of a single day is better if one sees the supreme truth.



## 

If a man has done evil, let him not keep on doing it. Let him not create an inclination to it. The accumulation of evil means suffering.



If a man has done good, let him keep on doing it. Let him create an inclination to it. The accumulation of good means happiness.




Do not think lightly of evil that not the least consequence will come of it. A whole water pot will fill up from dripping drops of water. A fool fills himself with evil, just a little at a time.




Do not think lightly of good that not the least consequence will come of it. A whole water pot will fill up from dripping drops of water. A wise man fills himself with good, just a little at a time.




One should avoid evil like a merchant with much goods and only a small escort avoids a dangerous road, and like a man who loves life avoids poison.



If there is no wound on one's hand, one can handle poison. Poison has no effect where there is no wound. There is no evil for the non-doer.



Whoever does harm to an innocent man, a pure man and a faultless one, the evil comes back on that fool, like fine dust thrown into the wind.



Not in the sky, nor in the depths of the sea, nor hiding in the cleft of the rocks, there is no place on earth where one can take one's stand to not be overcome by death.



## 

All fear violence, all are afraid of death. Seeing the similarity to oneself, one should not use violence or have it used.



All fear violence, life is dear to all. Seeing the similarity to oneself, one should not use violence or have it used.




Don't speak harshly to anyone. If you do people will speak to you in the same way. Harsh words are painful and their retaliation will hurt you.




If you don't disturb yourself, like a broken gong does not vibrate, then you have achieved nirvana. Irritability no longer exists for you.



Even when he is doing evil, the fool does not realize it. The idiot is punished by his own deeds, like one is scorched by fire.




Even if richly dressed, when a man behaves even-mindedly and is at peace, restrained and established in the right way, chaste and renouncing violence to all forms of life, then he is a Brahmin, he is a holy man, he is a true Buddhist monk.





Like a thoroughbred horse touched by the whip, be strenuous and determined. Then you will be able to rid yourself of this great suffering by means of faith, morality, energetic behavior, stillness of mind and reflection on the teaching, after you have become full of wisdom, good habits and recollection.





## 

What is this laughter, what is this delight, forever burning (with desires) as you are? Enveloped in darkness as you are, will you not look for a lamp?



Look at the decorated puppet, a mass of wounds and of composite parts, full of disease and always in need of attention. It has no enduring stability.

 ธิติบ

This body is worn out with age, a nest of diseases and falling apart. The mass of corruption disintegrates, and death is the end of life.

 นีริตั

When these grey bones are cast aside like gourds in autumn, what pleasure will there be in looking at them?



It is a city built of bones, and daubed with flesh and blood, in which old age and death, pride and hypocrisy are the inhabitants.



Even kings' splendid carriages wear out, and the body is certain bound to grow old, but the Truth found by the saints is not subject to aging. That is what the saints themselves proclaim.




An ignorant man ages like an ox. His flesh may increase, but not his understanding.



## 

Knowing that one is dear to oneself, one should guard oneself well.


First he should establish himself in what is right. Then if he teaches others, the wise man will not be corrupted.



If one would only apply to oneself what one teaches others, when one was well disciplined oneself one could train others. It is oneself who is hard to train.



One is one's own guardian. What other guardian could one have? With oneself well disciplined one obtains a rare guardian indeed.

 งกัธุฉณาย่บ

The evil he has done himself and which had its origin and being in himself breaks a fool, like a diamond breaks a precious stone.



A man of great immorality is like a creeper, suffocating the tree it is on. He does to himself just what an enemy would wish him.



Things which are wrong and to one's own disadvantage are easily enough done, while what is both good and advantageous is extremely hard to do.



The fool, who out of attachment to a wrong view speaks ill of the religion of the enlightened and noble ones who live according to truth, brings forth fruit to his own downfall, like the offspring of the bamboo.




By oneself one does evil. By oneself one is defiled. By oneself one abstains from evil. By oneself one is purified. Purity and impurity are personal matters. No one can purify someone else.

เนึษระ




One should not neglect one's own welfare for that of someone else, however great. When one has understood what one's own welfare really consists of, one should apply oneself to that welfare.





## 

Don't practice an ignoble way of life; don't indulge in a careless attitude. Don't follow a wrong view, and don't be attached to the world.



Wake up and don't be careless, but lead a life of well-doing. He who follows righteousness lives happily in this world and the next.



Wild swans take the path of the sun. Men with powers travel through space, but the wise step right out of the world, by conquering Mara and his host.



When a man has already violated one rule; when he is a liar and rejects the idea of a future world, there is no evil he is not capable of.



## 

He who has no entrapping, clinging desire to lead him in any direction, that Buddha, whose home is in the infinite, pathless as he is, by what path will you lead him?




A human birth is hard to achieve. Difficult is the life of mortals. To hear the true teaching is difficult, and the achievement of Buddhahood is difficult.



To abstain from all evil, the practice of good, and the thorough purification of one's mind -- this is the teaching of the Buddha.
 พิตรู่ง

Long-suffering patience is the supreme ascetic practice. Nirvana is supreme, say the Buddha. He is certainly not an ascetic who hurts others, and nor is he a man of religion who causes suffering to others.




Not to speak harshly and not to harm others, self restraint in accordance with the rules of the Order, moderation in food, a secluded dwelling, and the cultivation of the higher levels of consciousness -- this is the teaching of the Buddha.




There is no satisfying the senses, not even with a shower of money. "The senses are of slight pleasure and really suffering." When a wise man has realized this, he takes no pleasure, as a disciple of the Buddha, even in the pleasures of heaven. Instead he takes pleasure in the elimination of craving.






Driven by fear, men take to many a refuge, in mountains, forests, parks, sacred groves and shrines, but these are not a secure kind of refuge. By taking to this sort of refuge one is not released from suffering. He who has gone to Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha for refuge, though, and who with true wisdom understands the Four Noble Truths of Suffering, the Origin of Suffering, the End of Suffering and the Noble Eightfold Path, leading to the Elimination of Suffering, this is a secure refuge, this is the ultimate refuge; by taking to this refuge one is indeed released from all suffering.










Happy is the attainment of Buddhahood；happy is the teaching of the true Teaching；happy is the concord of the Sangha；happy is the training of those in concord．

 เโต่ ใับ

When a man venerates those worthy of veneration，be their Buddhas or their disciples，who have transcended all obstacles and passed beyond sorrow and tears－－venerating such as these，whose passions are extinguished and for whom there is no further source for fear，no one can calculate how great his merit is．






## のペ－－ฺุช

Happy indeed we live who are free from hatred among those who still hate．In the midst of hate－ filled men，we live free from hatred．



A victor only breeds hatred，while a defeated man lives in misery，but a man at peace within lives happily，abandoning up ideas of victory and defeat．

 ตู่ ต่

There is no fire like desire. There is no weakness like anger. There is no suffering like the khandhas. There is no happiness greater than peace.




After enjoying the taste of solitude and the taste of peace, one is freed from distress and evil, as one enjoys the taste of spiritual joy.




It is good to meet with the saints. Living with them is always sweet. By not meeting fools one can be happy all the time.



Therefore, if he is a man of understanding and penetration, learned and habitually moral, devout and noble, one should cultivate the company of that just and wise man, in the same way as the moon keeps to a path among the stars.




## 

Never have anything to do with likes and dislikes. The absence of what one likes is painful, as is the presence of what one dislikes.



Therefore don't take a liking to anything. To lose what one likes is hard, but there are no bonds for those who have no likes and dislikes.



From preference arises sorrow, from preference arises fear, but he who is freed from preference has no sorrow and certainly no fear.



From affection arises sorrow, from affection arises fear, but he who is freed from affection has no sorrow and certainly no fear.



From pleasure arises sorrow, from pleasure arises fear, but he who is freed from pleasure has no sorrow and certainly no fear.



From sensuality arises sorrow, from sensuality arises fear, but he who is freed from sensuality has no sorrow and certainly no fear.



From craving arises sorrow, from craving arises fear, but he who is freed from craving has no sorrow and certainly no fear.



When a man who has been away a long time at last comes home safely from far away, his family, friends and acquaintances rejoice to see him back. In the same way, when a man who has done good goes from this world to the next, his good deeds receive him like relations welcoming a loved one back again.






## 

Overcome anger with freedom from anger. Overcome evil with good. Overcome meanness with generosity, and overcome a liar with truthfulness.



Speak the truth, don't get angry, and always give, even if only a little, when you are asked. By these three principles you can come into the company of the divas.



It is not just so today; They criticize one who sits in silence, they criticize one who talks a lot. They even criticize one who speaks in moderation. There is no one in the world who is not criticized.




Guard against physical unruliness. Be restrained in body. Abandoning physical wrong doing, lead a life of physical well doing.



Guard against mental unruliness. Be restrained in mind. Abandoning mental wrong doing, lead a life of mental well doing.



Guard against verbal unruliness. Be restrained in speech. Abandoning verbal wrong doing, lead a life of verbal well doing.



The wise who are restrained in body, speech and mind -- such are the well and truly restrained.
 ถึษู: 4

## 

You are now like a withered leaf. Death's messengers themselves are in your presence. You are standing in the jaws of your departure, and provisions for the road you have none.




Little by little, moment by moment, a wise man should cleanse himself of blemishes, like a smith purifying silver.



Just as the rust which develops on iron, derives from it but then proceeds to eat it away, so a person of unrestrained behavior is drawn to hell by his own actions.



The blight of a woman is misconduct. The blight of a giver is meanness. Bad mental states are indeed blights in this world and the next.



But the supreme bight, ignorance, is the blight of blights. Destroying this blight, be free of blights, monks.



When a man takes life, tells lies, takes what he is not entitled to in the world, resorts to other men's wives and indulges in drinking wine and spirits -- such a man is digging up his own roots.
 ヘิโ్ติรษส่


There is no fire like desire. There is no hold like anger. There is no net like ignorance. There is no river like craving.



## 

One is not righteous if one decides a case without due consideration, but the wise man who takes into account both for and against, and comes to his decision about others with due consideration -- such a man of discrimination who keeps to the truth, he is to be called righteous.





One is not a learned man by virtue of much speaking. He who is patient, without anger and fearless, he is to be called learned.



One is not an elder by virtue of having white hair. One is just advanced in years, and called "grown old in vain ". He in whom there is truthfulness, non violence, restraint and self control, however -- that wise and faultless sage is to be called an elder.




It is not just by fine speech or by flower-like beauty that one is admirable, if one is envious, mean and deceitful, but when that sort of behavior has been eliminated, rooted out and destroyed, that faultless sage is said to be admirable.





A shaven head does not make one a man of religion, if one is irreligious and untruthful. How could a man full of desires and greed be a man of religion? But when a man has put aside all evil deeds, both great and small, by that putting away of evil deeds he is indeed called a man of religion.






One is not a bhikkhu by virtue of taking alms from others. By taking up any old teaching, one is not a bhikkhu on that account. But he who has here and now ejected both good and evil, and in leading the holy life lives in accordance with reason -- he is indeed called a bhikkhu.






One is not noble if one harms other living creatures. It is by non violence to all forms of life that one is called noble.



## 

Of paths the Eightfold one is best, and of truths the Fourfold. Dispassion is the best of mental states, and of human beings the best is the seer.





This indeed is the Way -- there is no other -- for the purification of one's vision. Follow this way. It leads to Mara's confusion.



Following this Path you will put an end to suffering. I have taught you the Way after realizing the removal of the arrow myself.



Making the effort is your affair. The Buddha has pointed out the Way. Those who are on the way and practicing meditation will be freed from Mara's bonds.

 ตู่ ตู่

All processes are impermanent. When one sees this with understanding, then one is disillusioned with the things of suffering. This is the Path of Purification.

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All processes are painful. When one sees this with understanding, then one is disillusioned with the things of suffering. This is the Path of Purification.

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All processes are out of my control. When one sees this with understanding, then one is disillusioned with the things of suffering. This is the Path of Purification.




Since he will not exert himself at the time for exertion, and although young and strong is full of indolence and irresolution and idleness, the lazy man is incapable of recognizing the way of wisdom.




Be guarded in speech, restrained of mind and not doing anything wrong physically. Perfect these three forms of action, and fulfill the way taught by the sages.



From meditation springs wisdom. From lack of meditation, loss of wisdom. Recognizing these alternative roads of progress and decline, one should so direct oneself so that one's wisdom will increase.




## 

A good awakening has ever Gotama's disciples, whose recollection is always established, day and night on the Buddha.



A good awakening has ever Gotama's disciples, whose recollection is always established, day and night on the Teaching.



A good awakening has ever Gotama's disciples, whose recollection is always established, day and night on the Order.



A good awakening has ever Gotama's disciples, whose recollection is always established, day and night on the body.



A good awakening has ever Gotama's disciples, whose minds are always rejoicing in non violence.



A good awakening has ever Gotama's disciples, whose minds are always rejoicing in the practice of meditation.



It is hard to take up a life of renunciation, and difficult to find satisfaction in it, but it is also difficult to live in bad households, and painful to live with people unlike oneself, when one is forever tangled in suffering and restless. Therefore don't always be restless, and don't let yourself be tangled in suffering.






When a man has faith, is endowed with virtue, and possessed of fame and wealth, wherever he lives he will be honored.



The good are conspicuous a long way off, like a Himalayan peak, while the bad are just not noticed, like arrows shot into the dark.



## ๒๒- ถิรฺรรัก (รงกั Hell)

He who speaks untruth goes to hell, as does he who, having done something, says, "I didn't do it." Men of ignoble behavior, they both end up the same bad place.



It is better to swallow a red-hot, flaming iron ball than for an unrestrained and immoral person to eat the alms food of the land.

รูกกิ่


The thoughtless man who consorts with another man's wife encounters four things -accumulation of demerit, disturbed sleep, thirdly disgrace, and hell fourth.




Accumulation of demerit, a bad rebirth and the slight pleasure of a frightened man and a frightened woman -- while the authorities impose a severe penalty too. Therefore a man should not consort with another man's wife.




In the same way that a wrongly handled blade of grass will cut one's hand, so a badly fulfilled life in religion will drag one down to hell.



If it ought to be done, then do it; apply yourself to it strenuously. A lax man of religion just spreads even more dust.



A bad action is best left undone. One is punished later for a bad action. But a good deed is best done, for which one will not be punished for doing it.



## 

One can take a trained elephant even into a crowd. The king himself will ride a trained elephant. He who is disciplined is the best of men, since he can bear criticism.




Trained mules are excellent, and so are thoroughbred horses from the Sindh, and so are great battle elephants, but more excellent than them all is a disciplined man.




My mind used formerly to go off wandering wherever it felt like, following its own inclination, but today I shall control it carefully, like a mahout does a rutting elephant.



Take pleasure in being careful. Guard your mind well. Extricate yourself from the mire, like a great tusker sunk in the mud.



If you find an intelligent companion, a wise and well-behaved person going the same way as yourself, then go along with him, overcoming all dangers, pleased at heart and mindful.

 เสุสึษบ

But if you do not find an intelligent companion, a wise and well-behaved person going the same way as yourself, then go on your way alone, like a king abandoning a conquered kingdom, or like a great elephant in the deep forest.




It is good to have companions when occasion arises, and it is good to be contented with whatever comes. Merit is good at the close of life, and the elimination of all suffering is good.

 ญูตัตร

## 

In the same way that even a felled tree will grow again if its root is strong and undamaged, so if latent desire has not been rooted out, then suffering shoots up again and again.




When the thirty six pleasure-bound streams of craving are strong in a man, then numerous desire-based thoughts pull the deluded man along.



Let go the past, let go the future, and let go what is in between, transcending the things of time. With your mind free in every direction, you will not return to birth and aging.




The Three daughters of the Mara, the Evil (Craving, Loust \& Boredome) Tempting the Loord




Free of craving and without clinging, an expert in the study of texts, and understanding the right sequence of the words, he may indeed be called "In his last body", "Great in wisdom" and a "Great man".




Riches destroy a fool, but not those who are seeking the other shore. The fool destroys himself by his craving for riches, as he destroys others too.

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Restraint of the eyes is good. So is restraint of the ears. Restraint of the nose is good, and so is restraint of the palate.

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Restraint of the body is good. So is restraint of speech. Restraint of mind is good, and so is restraint in everything. The monk who is restrained in everything, is freed from all suffering.



Restrained of hand, restrained of foot, restrained of speech and restrained in his highest faculty, with his joy turned inwards, his mind still, alone and contented -- that is what they call a monk.




When a monk is restrained of tongue, quotes wise sayings, and is peaceful, expounding both letter and spirit -- his speech is good to hear.




One should not underestimate what one has got, and one should not live envying others. A monk who envies others does not achieve stillness of mind in meditation.



When a man is without self-identification with any object or idea, and does not grieve for what does not exist -- that is what is called a monk.



The monk who lives full of goodwill, with faith in the religion of the Buddha -- he will reach the place of peace, the satisfaction of stilling the functions of the mind.



There is no meditation without wisdom, and there is no wisdom without meditation. When a man has both meditation and wisdom, he is indeed close to nirvana.




In the same way that the jasmine drops its withered flowers, you too should discard desire and aversion, monk.



Peaceful of body, peaceful of speech and with his mind thoroughly stilled, the monk who has rid himself of attachment to the world -- is called "at peace".



You should encourage yourself, yourself. You should restrain yourself, yourself. When you are self-protected like that, you will live happily as a monk.
 กางตTร

## 

Meditating, free from stain, settled in mind, with job accomplished, without inflowing thoughts, and having achieved the supreme purpose -- that is what I call a brahmin.



One should not strike a brahmin, and nor should a brahmin lose his temper. Shame on him who strikes a brahmin, and shame on him who loses his temper because of it.




Nothing is better in a brahmin than this -- that he restrains his mind from pleasurable things. Suffering disappears for him to the same extent that he gets rid of thoughts of harming anyone.




He who does no wrong with body, speech or mind, but is restrained in all three spheres -- that is what I call a brahmin.



One is not a brahmin by virtue of matted hair, lineage or caste. When a man possesses both Truth and truthfulness, then he is pure, then he is a brahmin.




What use is your matted hair, you fool? What use is your antelope skin? You are tangled inside, and you are just making the outside pretty.




I do not call him a brahmin who is so by natural birth from his mother. He is just a supercilious person if he still has possessions of his own. He who owns nothing of his own, and is without attachment -- that is what I call a brahmin.




He who endures undisturbed criticism, ill-treatment and bonds, strong in patience, and strength is his power -- that is what I call a brahmin.



Without anger, devout, upright, free from craving, disciplined and in his last body -- that is what I call a brahmin.



Abandoning violence to all living creatures moving or still, he who neither kills or causes killing -- that is what I call a brahmin.



Unagitated amongst the agitated, at peace among the violent, without clinging among those who cling -- that is what I call a brahmin.



He who utters only gentle, instructive and truthful speech, criticizing no-one -- that is what I call a brahmin.



He who takes nothing in the world that has not been given him, long or short, big or small, attractive or unattractive -- that is what I call a brahmin.



Noble, a hero, a great sage, and a conqueror, he who is motionless of mind, washed clean and awakened -- that is what I call a brahmin.




Lilian Jaying Respect to the Buddha Statue at Samakyseriratanarama Temple


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## 1 - The Mouse Merchant (Diligence and Gratitude)

Once upon a time, an important adviser to a king was on his way to a meeting with the king and others advisers. Out of the corners of the eye, he saw a dead mouse by the roadside. He said to those who were with him. "Even from such small beginning as this dead mouse, an energetic young fellow could build a fortune. If he worked hard and used his intelligence, he could start a business and support a wife and family."

A passer-by heard the remark. He knew this was a famous adviser to the king, so he decided to follow his words. He picked up the dead mouse by the tail and went off with it. As luck would have it, before he had gone even a block, a shopkeeper stopped him. He said, "My cat has been pestering me all morning. I'll give you two copper coins for that mouse." So it was done.

With the two copper coins, he bought sweet cakes, and waited by the side of the road with them and some water. As he expected, some people who picked flowers for making garlands were returning from work. Since they were all hungry and thirsty, they agreed to buy sweet cakes and water for the price of a bunch of flowers from each of them. In the evening, the man sold the flowers in the city. With some of the money he bought more sweet cakes and returned the next day to sell to the flower pickers.

This went on for a while, until one day there was a terrible storm, with heavy rains and high winds. While walking by the king's pleasure garden, he saw that many branches had been
blown off the trees and were lying all around. So he offered to the king's gardener that he would clear it all away for him, if he could keep the branches. The lazy gardener quickly agreed.

The man found some children playing in a park across the street. They were glad to collect all the branches and brush at the entrance to the pleasure garden, for the price of just one sweet cake for each child.

Along came the king's potter, who was always on the lookout for firewood for his glazing oven. When he saw the piles of the wood the children had just collected, he paid the man a handsome price for it. He even threw into the bargain some of his pots.

With his profits from selling the flowers and the firewood, the man opened up a refreshment shop. One day all the grass mowers, who were on their way into town, stopped in his shop. He gave them free sweet cakes and drinks. They were surprised at his generosity and asked , "What can we do for you?" He said there nothing for them to do now, but he would let them know in the future.

A week later, he heard that a horse dealer was coming to the city with 500 horses to sell. So he got in touched with the grass mowers and told each of them to give him a bundle of grass. He told them not to sell any grass to the horse dealer until he had sold his. In this way he got a very good price.

Time passed until one day, in his refreshment shop, some customers told him that a new ship from a foreign country had just anchored in the port. He saw this to be the opportunity he had been waiting for. He thought and thought until he came up with a good business plan.

First, he went to a jeweler friend of his and paid a low price for a very valuable gold ring, with a beautiful red ruby in it. He knew that the foreign ship was from a country that had no rubies of its own, where gold was too expensive. So he gave the wonderful ring to the captain of the ship as an advance on his commission. To earn his commission the captain agreed to send all his passengers to him a broker. He would then lead them to the best shops in the city. In turn, the man got the merchants to pay for him a commission for sending customers to them.

Acting as a middle man in this way, after several ships came into port, the man became very rich. Being pleased with his success, he also remembered that it had all started with the words of the king's adviser. So he decided to give him a gift of 100,000 gold coins. This was half of his entire wealth. After making the proper arrangement, he met with the king's adviser and gave him the gift, along with his humble thanks.

The adviser was amazed, and he asked, "How did you earn so much wealth to afford such a generous gift?" The man told him it had all started with the adviser's own words not long ago. They had led him to a dead mouse, a hungry cat, bunches of flowers, storm damaged tree branches, children in park, the king's potter, a refreshment shop, grass for 500 horse, a golden ruby ring, good business contacts, and finally a large fortune.

Hearing all this, the royal adviser thought to himself, "It would not be good to lose the talents of such an energetic man. I too have much wealth, as well as my beloved only daughter. As this man is single, he deserved to marry her. Then he can inherit my wealth in addition to his own, and my daughter will be cared for."

This all came to pass and after the wise adviser died, the one who had followed his advise became the richest man in the city. The king appointed him to the adviser's position. Throughout his remaining life, he generously gave his money for the happiness and well being of many people.

The moral is: With the energy and ability, great wealth comes even from small beginning

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## 2 - Price Goodspeaker and the Water Demon

Once upon a time, there was a very righteous king. He had a lovely queen who gave birth to a beautiful baby. This made the king very happy. He decided to give his son a name that might help him in later life. So he called him Prince Goodspeaker.

It just so happened that the prince was no ordinary baby. This was not his first life or his first birth. Millions of years before, he had been a follower of a long-forgotten teaching "Buddha", a fully "Enlightened One". He had wished with all his heart to become a Buddha just like his beloved master.

He was reborn in many lives - sometimes as poor animal, sometimes as long-living gods and sometimes as human beings. He always tried to learn from his mistakes and develop the "Ten Perfections", This was so he could purify his mind and remove the three root causes of unwholesomeness: The poisons of craving, anger and delusion of a separate self. By using the perfections, he would someday be able to replace the poisons with the tree purities: Nonattachment, loving-Kindness and wisdom.

This "Great Being" had been a humble follower of the forgotten Buddha. His goal was to gain the same enlightenment of a Buddha - the experience of a complete Truth. So People call him "Bodhisatta" which means "Enlightenment Being". No one really knows about the millions of lives lived by this great hero. But many stories have been told - including this one about a prince called Goodspeaker. After many more rebirths, he became Buddha who is remembered and loved in all the world today.

In time, the queen gave birth to another son, who was named Prince Moon. Shortly after both children began walking about; their mother suddenly became very sick, and died.

To help him look after his playful children, the king found a princess to become his new queen. In a few years, this queen gave birth to a beautiful little boy. He was named Prince Sun. Since the king was so happy, he wanted to please his queen, and reward her for bringing up all three children. So he promised to grant her one wish. The queen considered, and said, "Thank you my lord, I will make my wish at some time in the future."

As time went on, the three princes grew into wonderful playful youngsters. The queen saw that the Prince Goodspeaker was intelligent and understanding. She thought, "If these two older princes remain in the palace, my son, Prince Sun, will never get a chance to be king. Therefore, I must do something to make him the next king."

One day, when the king was in a good mood the queen respectfully approached him and reminded him of the promised wish. He was very happy and said, "Ask whatever you want!" The queen said, "Oh my husband and king, grant that after the course of your life is over, my son, Prince Sun, will be the next king. "

The king was shocked by the request. He became angry and said, "My first two children are like bright stars! How can I give the kingdom to my third son? All the people will blame me. That cannot be done! The queen kept silent.

As happy as the king had been; he now became just as unhappy, He was afraid and filled with doubts. He suspected that the queen might destroy his first-born children by some wicked means. He decided that he must make sure his children were safe.

Secretly, the king called Prince Goodspeaker and Prince Moon to him. He told them of the queen's dangerous desire. He sadly said that the only safe thing for them to do was to leave the kingdom. They should return only after their father's death. The two obedient princes accepted their father's order and prepared to leave.

In a few days they were ready. They said their good-byes to their father and friends, and left the palace. On their way through the royal gardens, they came upon Prince Sun. He had always been very affectionate and friendly toward his two older half-brothers. He was upset to hear that they were leaving for a long time. So he decided that he too would leave the kingdom. The three friendly princes departed together.

For several months they traveled, until they reached the forest country of the mighty Himalayas. They were very tired and sat down under a tree. The oldest brother, Prince Goodspeaker, said to the youngest, Prince Sun, "Please go down to the nearby lake and fill some lotus leaves with water. Bring them back here so we all can drink."

They did not know that the beautiful dark blue lake was possessed by a water demon! He was permitted by his demon ruler to eat any beings that he could convince to go into the water. There was also one condition. He could not eat anyone who knew the answer to the question, "What is the teaching of the gods?"

When Prince Sun arrived at the shore of the lake, being dry and dirty and tired, he went directly into the water without any investigation. Suddenly the water demon rose up from under the water and captured him. He asked him, "What is the teaching of the gods?" Prince Sun Said, "I know the answer to that! The sun and the moon are the teachings of the gods." "You don't know the teaching of the gods, so you belong to me!" said the water demon. Then he pulled Prince Sun under the water and locked him up in a deep cave.

Since Prince Sun was delayed, Prince Goodspeaker asked the second brother, Prince Moon, to go down to the lake and bring back water in lotus leaves. When he got there, he too went directly into the water without examining. Again the water demon appeared, grabbed him and asked, "What is the teaching of gods?" Prince Moon said, "I know the answer to that! The four directions: North, East, South \& West. - these are the teaching of the gods." You don't know the teaching of the gods, so you belong to me!" replied the water demon. Then he locked up Prince Moon in the same underwater cave with Prince Sun.

When both his brothers did not return, Prince Goospeaker began to worry that they might be in some danger. So he himself went down to the beautiful dark blue lake. As he was a wise and careful person, he did not go directly into the water. Instead, he investigated and saw that there were two sets of footprints leading into the lake - but not coming out again! To protect himself, he got his sword and bow and arrows ready. He began to walk around the lake.

Seeing that this prince did not go straight into the lake, the water demon appeared to him disguised as a humble village. He said to the Prince, "My dear friend, you look tired and dirty from much walking. Why don't you get into the water and bathe, drink and eat some lotus roots?"

Remembering the one-way footprints, Prince Goospeaker said, "You must be some kind of demon disguised as a human! What have you done with my brothers?" Surprised at being recognized so quickly, the water demon returned to his true ferocious appearance. He replied to the wise Prince, "By my rights, I have captured your brothers!"

The prince asked, "For what reason?" "So that soon I can gobble them up!" The demon answered, "I have permission from my demon ruler to eat all those who go into this lake who do not know the teaching of the gods. If anyone does know the teaching to the gods, I am not allowed to eat him."

The Prince asked, "Why do you need to know this? What is the advantage to a demon like you, to know the teaching of the gods?" The water demon replied, "I know there must be some advantage to me." "Then I will tell you what the gods teaching," said the Prince Goodspeaker, "but I have a problem. Look at me. I am covered with dust and dirt from traveling. I cannot speak about wise teachings in this condition."

By now, the demon realized that this prince was especially wise. So he washed and refreshed him. He gave the Prince water to drink from lotus leaves, and tender lotus roots to eat. He prepared a comfortable seat for him, decorated with pretty wild flowers. After laying aside his sword and bow and arrows, the Enlightenment Being sat on the adorned seat. The ferocious demon sat by his feet, just like a student listening to a respected teacher.

Prince Goodspeaker said, "This is the teaching of the gods:
You should be ashamed to do unwholesome deeds.
You should be afraid to do unwholesome deeds.
You should always do wholesome deeds - that bring happiness to others, and help mankind.
Then you will shine with the inner light of calm and peacefulness."
The water demon was pleased with this answer, and said, "Worthy Prince, you have completely satisfied my question. You have made me so happy that I will give you back one of your brothers. Which one do you choose?"

Prince Goodspeaker said, "Release my youngest brother, Prince Sun." To this the demon replied, "My lord Prince, wise one, you know the teaching of gods but you do not practice it!' The Prince asked, "Why do you say that?" The demon said, "Because you leave the older one to die, and save the younger. You do not respect elders!"

The Prince then said, "Oh demon, I know the teaching of the gods, and I do practice it. We three princes came to this forest because of the youngest brother. His mother requested our father's kingdom for him. So it was for our protection that our father sent us here. The youngest Prince Sun joined us out of friendship. But if we return to the court without him, and say he was eaten by a water demon who wanted to know the teaching of gods, who would believe us? They would think we killed him because he was the cause of our danger. This would bring shame to us and unhappiness to the kingdom. Fearing such unwholesome results, I tell you again to release the young Prince Sun."

The water demon was so pleased with this answer that he said, "Well done, well done, my lord. You know the true teaching of the gods, and you do practice that true teaching. I will gladly give back both your brothers!" So saying, he went down into the lake and brought both princes back to shore. They were wet, but unharmed.

Later on, the Bodhisatta gave further helpful advice to the demon. He said "Oh water demon, my new friend, you must have done many unwholesome deeds in your previous lives, so that you were born as a flesh eating demon. And if you continue in this way, you will be trapped
in a terrible state even in later lives; for unwholesome deeds lead to shame, fear and unpleasant rebirth. But wholesome deeds lead to self-respect, peace and pleasant rebirth. Therefore, it would be much better for you to do pure deeds, rather than impure deeds, from now on." This turned the demon from his past ways, and the princes lived together happily under his protection.

One day, word came that the king had died. So the three princes, as well as their friend the water demon, returned to the capital city. Prince Goodspeaker was crowned as king. Prince Moon became the chief minister, and Prince Sun became commander of the army. The water demon as awarded a safe place to live, where he was well fed, cared for and entertained for the rest of his life. In this way they all acquired wholesome meritorious thoughts, leading to rebirth in a heaven world.

The moral is: Unwholesome actions bring shame and fear; wholesome actions bring self-respect and peace.


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At age 29, at Midnight on a Full Moon in the Year of the Rabbit Bodhisatta Cut off His Hair to Ordaine His Monkhood and Began His §eareh for Dharma.

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${ }^{25}$ Refer to Cambodian-English dictionary by Catholic University of America Press, Washington D.C. 1977:
According to Solar Calendar there are 4 Seasons:


According to Lunar Calendar there are 3 Seasons:




## 3 - Don't Judge Life By One Difficult Season

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a persimmon tree that was a great distance away.

The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest son in the fall. When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted. The second son said no it was covered with green buds and full of promise.

The third son disagreed; he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen. The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment.

The man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen but only one season in the tree's life.
He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life can only be measured at the end, when a ll the seasons are up. If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, fulfillment of your fall. Author Unknown

The Moral is : Don't judge life by one difficult action.

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## 4 - Little Prince No-father (The power of Truth)

Once upon a time, the king of Benares went on a picnic in the forest. The beautiful flowers and trees and fruits made him very happy. As he was enjoying their beauty, he slowly went deeper and deeper into the forest. Before long, he became separated from his companions and realized that he was all alone.

Then he heard the sweet voice of a young women. She was singing as she collected firewood. To keep from being afraid of being alone in the forest, the king followed the sound of the lovely voice. When he finally came upon the singer of the songs, he saw that she was a beautiful fair young woman, and immediately fell in love with her. They became very friendly, and the king became the father of the firewood woman's child.

Later, he explained how he had gotten lost in the forest, and convinced her that he was indeed the king of Benares. She gave him directions for getting back to his palace. The king gave her his valuable signet ring, and said, "If you give birth to a baby girl, sell this ring and use the money to bring her up well. If our child turns out to be a baby boy, bring him to me along with this ring for recognition." So saying, he departed for Benares.

In the fullness of time, the firewood woman gave birth to a cute little baby boy. Being a simple shy woman, she was afraid to take him to the fancy court in Benares, but she saved the king's signet ring.

In a few years, the baby grew into a little boy. When he played with the other children in the village, they teased him and mistreated him, and even started fights with him. It was because his mother was not married that the other children picked on him. They yelled at him, "Nofather!" No-father! Your name should be , No-father!"

Of course this made the little boy feel ashamed and hurt and sad. He often ran home crying to his mother. One day, he told her how the other children called him, "No-father! Nofather! Your name should be No-father!" Then his mother said, Don't be ashamed, my son. You are not just an ordinary little boy. Your father is the king of Benares!"

The little boy was very surprised. He asked his mother "Do you have any proof of this?" So she told him about his father giving her the signet ring, and that if the baby was a boy she should bring him to Benares, along with the ring as proof. The little boy said, Let's go then." Because of what happened she agreed, and the next day they set out for Benares.

When they arrives at the king's palace, the gate keeper told the king the firewood woman and her little son wanted to see him. They went into the royal assembly hall, which was filled with the king's ministers and advisers. The woman reminded the king of their time together in the forest. Finally she said, "Your majesty, here is your son."

The king was ashamed in front of all the ladies and gentlemen of his court. So, even though he knew the woman spoke the truth, he said, "He is not my son!" Then the lovely young mother showed the signet ring as proof. Again the king was ashamed and denied the truth, saying, "It is not my ring!"

Then the poor woman thought to herself, "I have no witness and no evidence to prove what I say. I have only my faith in the power of truth." So wisely she said to the king, If I throw this little boy up into the air, If he truly is your son, may be he remain in the air without falling. If he is not your son, may he fall to the floor and die!"
Suddenly, she grabbed the boy by his foot and threw him up into the air. Instinctively, as a father, the king jump out of his seat and gently snared the little boy with his two arms as the boy was falling back down. Everyone was astonished, Remaining in the king arms the little boy spoke to the mighty king. "My lord, I am indeed a son born to you. You take care of many people who are not related to you. You even maintain countless elephants, horses and other animal. And yet, you do not think of looking after and raising me, your own son. Please take care of me and my mother."

Hearing this, the king's pride was overcome. He was humble by the truth of the little boy's powerful words. Holding the little boy in his arms the king said, "My dear son, I will take good care of you."

Amazed by such a wonder, all the others in the court put out their arms. They too asked the little boy to come to their arms. With his son seated on his lap, the king announced that he would be the crown prince, and his mother would be the number one queen.
In this way, the king and all his court learned the power of truth. Benares became known as a place of honest justice. In the time the king died the grown up crown prince wanted to show the people that all deserve respect, regardless of birth. So he had himself crowned under the official name, "King-No-father!" He went on to rule the kingdom in a generous and righteous way.

The moral is: The truth is always stronger than lie.















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## 5 - King Banyan Deer (Compassion and Teaching)

Once upon a time, an unusual and beautiful deer was born in the forest near Benares, in northern India. Although he was as big as young colt, it was easy for his mother to give birth to him. When he opened his eyes, they were as bright as sparkling jewels. His mouth was as red as the reddest forest berries. His hoofs were as black as polish coal. His little horns glistened like sliver. And his color was golden, like a perfect summer's dawn. As he grew up, a herd of 500 deer gathered around him, and he became known as king Banyan Deer.

Meanwhile, not far away, another beautiful buck deer was born, just as splendidly golden in color. In time, a separate herd of 500 deer cam to follow him, and he was known as Branch Deer.

The King of Benares at that time was very fond of eating venison. So he regularly hunted and killed deer. Each time he hunted, he went to a different village and ordered the people to serve him. They had to stop what they were doing, whether plowing or harvesting or whatever, and work in the king's hunting party.

The people's lives were upset by these interruptions. They grow less crops, and business also had less income. So they came together and decided to build a large deer park for the king, at Benares. There he, could hunt by himself. With no need to command the services of the villagers.

So the people built a deer park. They made ponds where the deer could drink, and added trees and grasses for them to eat from. When it was ready, they opened the gate and went out into the nearby forest. They surrounded the entire herds of Banyan and Branch deer. Then, with sticks and weapons and noise makers, they drove them all into the deer park trap, and locked the gate behind them.

After the deer had settled down, the people went to the king and said, "Our crops and income have suffered because of your hunting requirements. Now we had made you a pleasant
safe deer park, where you can hunt by yourself as you like. With no need of our aid, you can enjoy both the hunting and eating of deer."
The King went to the new deer park. There he was pleased to see the vast herds. While watching them, his eye was caught by the two magnificent golden deer, with large fully grown antlers.

Because he admired their unusual beauty, the king granted immunity to these two alone. He ordered that they should be completely safe. No one could harm or kill them.

Once a day the king would come and kill a deer for his dinner table. Sometimes, when he was too busy, the royal cook would do this. The body would then be brought to the chopping block to be butchered for the oven.

Whenever the deer saw the bow and arrows, they went into a panic, trembling for their lives. They ran around wildly, some being injured and some wounded, many suffering great pain.

One day, King Banyan Deer's herd gathered around him. He called Branch Deer, and the two herds joined for a meeting. King Banyan Deer addressed them. "Although in the end, there is no escape from death, this needless suffering due to injuries and wounds can be prevented. Since the king only wishes to meat of one deer per day, let one be chosen by us each day to submit himself to the chopping block. One day from my herd, and the next day from Branch Deer's herd, the victim's lot will fall to one deer at a time."

Branch Deer agreed. From then on, the one whose turn it was, meekly surrendered himself and laid his neck on the block. The cook came each day, simply killed the waiting victim. and prepared the king's venison.

One day, the turn fell by chance to a pregnant doe in Branch Deer's herd. Caring for the others as well as herself and the unborn one, she went to Branch Deer and said, "My lord, I am pregnant. Grant that I may live until I have delivered my fawn. Then we will fill two turns rather than just one. This will save a turn, and thereby a single life for one long day."

Branch Deer replied, "No, no, I cannot change the rules in midstream and put your turn upon another. The pregnancy is yours, the baby is your responsibility. Now Leave Me."

Having failed with Branch Deer, the poor mother doe went to King Banyan Deer and explained her plight. He replied gently, "Go in peace. I will change the rules in midstream and put your turn upon another."

And the deer king went to the executioner's block, and laid down his own golden neck upon it.

A silence fell in the deer park. And some who tell the story even say, that silence also fell in other worlds not seen from here.

Soon the royal cook cam to kill the willing victim on the block; but when he saw it was on of the two golden deer the king ordered spared, he was afraid to kill him. So he went and told the king of Benares.

The king was surprised, so he went to the park. He said to the golden deer still lying on the block, "Oh king of deer did I not promise to spare your life? What is the reason you come here like the others?"

King Banyan Deer replied, "Oh king of men, this time a pregnant doe was unlucky enough to be the one to die. She pleaded for me to spare her, for the sake of others as well as her unborn baby and herself. I could not help but feel myself in her place, and feel her suffering. I could help but weep, to think the little one would never see dawn, would never taste the dew. And yet, I could not force the pain of death on another, relieved to think it was not his turn today. So mighty king, I offer my life for the sake of the doe and the unborn fawn. Be assured there is no other reason."

The king of Benares was overwhelmed. Powerful as he was, a tear rolled down his cheek. Then he said, "Oh great lord, the golden king of deer, even among human beings, I have not seen any such as you! Such great compassion, to share in the suffering of others! Such great generosity, to give your life for others! Such great kindness and tender love for all your fellow deer! Arise. I decree that you will never be killed by me or anyone else in my kingdom; and so too the doe and her baby."

Without yet raising his head, the golden one asked, "Are only we to be saved? What of the other deer in the park, our friends and kin?" The king replied, "My lord, I cannot refuse you, I grant safety and freedom to all the deer in the park." "And what of the deer outside the park, will they be killed?" asked Banyan. "No my lord, I spare all the deer in my whole kingdom."

Still the golden deer did not rise up his head. He pleaded, "So the deer will be safe, but what will the other four-footed animals do?" "My lord, from now on they too are safe in my land." "And what of the birds? They too want to live." "Yes my lord, the birds to will be safe from death at the hands of men." "And what of the fish, who live in the water?" "Even the fish will be free to live my lord." So saying, the king of Benares granted immunity in his land.

Having pleaded for the lives of all creatures, the great Being arose.
Out of compassion and gratitude, King Banyan Deer - the Enlightenment Being, taught the king of Benares. He advised to climb the five steps of training, in order to purify his mind. He described them by saying, "It will benefit you, if you give up the five unwholesome actions. There are:
. Destroying life, for this is not compassion
. Taking what is not given, for this is not generosity
. Doing wrong in sexual ways, for this is not loving-kindness
. Speaking falsely, for this is not Truth
. Losing your mind from alcohol, for this leads to falling down the
first four steps.
He further advised the king to do wholesome actions that would bring happiness in his life and beyond. Then King Banyan Deer, and both herds, returned to the forest.

In the fullness of time, the pregnant doe that had stayed with Banyan's herd gave birth to a fawn. He was as beautiful as a lotus blossom given as an offering to the gods.

When the fawn had grown into a young buck deer, he began playing with Branch Deer's herd. Seeing this his mother said to him, "Better to die after a short life with the great compassionate one, than to live a long life with an ordinary one." Afterwards, her son lived happily in the herd of King Banyan Deer.

The only ones felt unhappy, were the farmers and villagers of the kingdom. For, given total immunity by the king, the deer began to fearlessly eat the people's crops. They even grazed in the vegetables garden inside the villages and the city of Benares itself.

So the people complained to the king, and asked permission to kill at least some of the deer as a warning. But the king said, "I myself promised complete immunity to King Banyan Deer. I would give up the kingship before I would break my word to him. No one may harm a deer!"

When King Banyan Dear heard of this, he said to all deer. "You should not eat the crops that belong to others." And he sent a message to the people. Instead of making fences, he asked people to tie up bunches of leaves as boundaries around their field. This began the Indian custom
of making fields with tied up leaves, which have protected them from deer to this very day. Both King Banyan Deer and the King of Benares lived out their lives in peace.

The moral is: Whatever it is found, compassion is a sign of greatness.

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## 6 - The Fawn Who Played Dead (Attendace)

Once upon a time, there was a herd of forest deer. In this herd was a wise and respected teacher, cunning in the ways of deer. He taught the tricks and strategies of survival to the young fawns.

On day, his younger sister brought her son to him, to be taught what is so important for deer. She said, "Oh brother teacher, this is my son. Please teach him the tricks and strategies of deer." The teacher said to the fawn, "Very well, you can came at this time tomorrow for your first lesson."

The young deer came to the lessons as he was supposed to. When others cut classes to spend all day playing, he remained and paid attention to the good teacher. He was well liked by the other young bucks and does, but he only played when his class work was complete. Being curious to learn, he was always on time for the lessons. He was also patient with the other students, knowing that some learn more quickly than others. He respected the teacher deer for his knowledge and with grateful for his willingness to share it. One day, the fawn stepped in a trap in the forest and was captured. He cried out in great pain. This frightened the other fawns, who ran back to the herd and told his mother. She was terrified, and ran to her brother the teacher. Trembling with fear, crying big tears, she said to him, "Oh my dear brother, have you heard the news that my son has been trapped by sortie hunter's snare? How can I save my little child's life? Did he study well in your presence?"

Her brother said, "My sister, don't be afraid. I have no doubt he will be safe. He studied hard and always did his best. He never missed a class and always paid attention. Therefore, there is no need to have doubt or pain in your heart. He will not be hurt by any human being. Don't worry. I am confident he will return to you and make you happy again. He has learned all the tricks and strategies used by deer to cheat the hunters. So be patient. He will return!"

Meanwhile, the trapped fawn was thinking, "All my friends were afraid and ran away. There is no one to help me get out of this deadly trap. Now I must use the tricks and strategies I learned from the wise teacher who taught so well."

The deer strategy he decided to use was the one called, "Playing dead." First, he used his hoofs to dig up the dirt and grasses, to make it look like he had tried very hard to escape. Then he relieved his bowels and released his urine, because this is what happens when a deer is caught in a trap and dies in very great fear. Next, he covered his body with his own saliva.

Lying stretched out on his side, he held his body rigidly and stiffened his legs out straight. He turned up his eyes, and let his tongue hang out of the side of his mouth. He filled his lungs with air and puffed out his belly. Finally, with his head leaning on one side, he breathed through the nostril next to the ground, not through the upper one.

Lying motionless, he looked so much like a stiff corpse that flies flew around him, attracted by the awful smells. Crows stood nearby waiting to eat his flesh.

Before long it was early morning and the hunter cam to inspect his traps. Finding the fawn who was playing dead, he slapped the puffed up belly and found if stiff. Seeing the flies and the mess he thought, "Ah it has already started to stiffen. He must have been trapped much earlier this morning. No doubt the tender meat is already starting to spoil. I will skin and butcher the carcass right here, and carry the meat home." Since he completely believed the deer was dead, he removed and cleaned the trap, and began spreading leaves to a place to do the
butchering. Realizing he was free, the fawn suddenly sprang to his feet. He ran like a little cloud blown by a swift wind, back to the comfort and safety of his mother. The whole herd celebrated his survival, thanks to learning so well from the wise teacher.

The moral is: Well-learned lessons bring great rewards.




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## 7 - The Great Horse Knowing-one (Courage)

Once upon a time, King Brahmadatta ruled in Benares, in northern India. He had a mighty horse, who had been born in the land of Sindh, in the Indus River valley of Western India. Indeed, this horse was the Enlightenment Being.

As well as being big and strong, he was very intelligent and wise. When he was still young, people noticed that he always seemed to know what his rider wanted before being told. So he was called knowing-one.

He was considered the greatest of royal horses, and was given the very best of everything. He stall was decorated and was always kept clean and beautiful. Knowing-one was especially loyal, and was grateful for how well the king cared for him. Of all the royal horses, Knowing-one was also the bravest. So the king respected and trusted him.

It came to pass the seven neighboring kings joined together to make war on king Brahmadatta. Each king brought four great armies - an elephant cavalry, a horse cavalry, a chariot brigade and ranks of foot solders. Together the seven kings, with all their armies, surrounded the city of Benares.

King Brahmadatta assembled his ministers and advisers to make plans for defending the kingdom. They advised him "Do not surrender. We must fight to protect our high positions. But you should not risk your royal person in the beginning. Instead, send out the champion of all the knights to represent you on the battlefield. If he fails, only then must you yourself go."

So the king called the Champion to him and asked, "Can you be victorious over these seven kings?" The knight replied, "If you permit me to ride out on the bravest and wisest, the great horse Knowing-one, only then can I win the battle. " The king agreed and said, "My champion, it is up to you and Knowing-one to save the country in its time of danger. Take with you whatever you need."

The champion knight went to the royal stable. He ordered that Knowing-one be will fed and dressed in protective armor, with all the finest trimmings. Then he bowed respectfully and climbed into the beautiful saddle.

Knowing-one knew the situation. He thought, "These seven kings have come to attack my country and my king, who feeds and cares for and trusts me. Not only the seven kings, but also their large and powerful armies threaten my king and all in Benares. I cannot let them win. But I also cannot permit the champion knight to kill those kings. Then I too would share in the unwholesome action of taking the lives of others, in order to win and ordinary victory. Instead, I will teach a new way. I will capture all seven kings without killing one. That would be a truly great victory.!"

The knowing-one spoke to his rider. "Sir knight, let us win this battle in a new way, without destroying life. You must only capture each king one at a time, and remain firmly on my back. Let me find the true course through the many armies. Watch me as you ride, and I will show you the courage that goes beyond the old way, the killing way!"

As he spoke of "a new way", and "the true course" and "the courage that goes beyond", it seemed the noble steed became larger than life. He reared up majestically on his powerful hind legs, and looked down on all the armies surrounding the city. The eyes of all were drawn to this magnificent one. The earth trembled as his front hoofs returned to ground and he charged into the midst of the four armies of the first king. He seemed to have speed of lightning, the might of a hundred elephants, and the glorious confidence of one from some other world.

The elephants could remember no such horse as this, and so the elephant cavalry retreated in fear. The horses knew that this their relative was the worthy master of them all, and so the horse cavalry and the chariot brigade stood still and bowed as the great Being passed. And the ranks of foot-solders scattered like flies before a strong wind.

The first king hardly knew what had happened, before he was easily captured and brought back into the city of Benares. And so too with the second, third, fourth and fifth kings.

In the same way the sixth king was captured. But one of his loyal bodyguards leaped out from hiding and thrust his sword deep into the side of the brave Knowing-one. With blood streaming from the wound, he carried the champion knight and captured sixth king back to the city.

When the knight saw the terrible wound, he suddenly became afraid to ride the weakened Knowing-one against the seventh king. So he began to dress in armor another powerful war horse, who was really just as big as knowing-one. Seeing this, though suffering in great pain from his deadly wound, Knowing-one thought "This Champion knight has lost his courage so quickly. He has not understood the true nature of my power - the knowledge that true peace is only won by peaceful means. He tries to defeat the seventh king and his armies in the ordinary way, riding and ordinary horse."
"After taking the first step of giving up the killing of living beings, I cannot stop part way. My great effort to teach a new way would disappear like a line drawn in water!"

The great horse Knowing-one spoke to the champion knight, "Sir knight, the seventh king and his armies are mightiest of all. Riding an ordinary horse, even if you slaughter a thousand men and animals, you will be defeated. I of the mighty tribe of Sindh horses, the one called Knowing-one, only I can pass through them harming none, and bring back the seventh king alive!"

The champion knight regained his courage. The brave horse struggled to his feet, in great pain. While the blood continued to flow, he reared and charged through the four armies, and the knight brought back the last of the seven warlike kings. Again all those in his path were spared from harm. Seeing their seven kings in captivity, all the armies laid down their weapons and asked for peace.


Realizing the great horse Knowing-one would not live through the night, King Brahmadatta went to see him. He had raised him from a colt, so he loved him. When the king saw that he was dying, his eyes filled with tears.

Knowing-one said, "My lord king, I have served you well. And I have gone beyond and shown a new way. Now you must grant my last request. You must not kill these seven kings, even though they have wronged you. For, a bloody victory sows the seeds of the next war. Forgive their attack on you, let them return to their kingdoms, and may you all live in peace from now on.
"Whatever reward you would give to me, give instead to the champion knight. Do only wholesome deeds, be generous, honor the Truth, and kill no living being. Rule with justice and compassion. "

Then he closed his eyes and breathed his last. The king burst into tears, and all mourned his passing. With the highest honors, they burned the body of the great horse Knowing-one - the Enlightenment Being.

King Brahmadatta had the seven kings brought before him. They too honored the great one, who had defeated their vast armies without spilling a drop of blood, except his own. In his memory they made peace, and never again did these seven kings and Brahmadatta make war on each other.

The moral is: True Pease is only won by peaceful means.








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## 8 - The Silent Buddha (Generosity)

Once upon a time, there was a very rich man living in Benares, in the northern India. When his father died, he inherited even more wealth. He thought, "Why should I use this treasure for myself alone? Let my fellow beings also benefit from these riches."

So he built dining halls at the four gates of the city - North, East, South and West. In these halls he gave food freely to all who wished it. He became famous for his generosity. It also became known that he and his followers were practicers of five Training Steps.

In those days, there was a Silent Buddha meditating in the forest near Benares.
He was called Buddha because he was enlightened. This means that he no longer experienced himself, the one called "I or me", as being in any way different from all life living itself. So he was able to experience life as it really is, in every present moment.

Being one with all life, he was filled with compassion and sympathy for the unhappiness of all being; so he wished to teach and help them to be enlightened just as he was. But the time of our story was a most unfortunate time, a very sad time. It was a time when no one else was able to understand the Truth, and experience life as it really is. And since this Buddha knew this, that was why he was Silent.

While meditating in the forest, the Silent Buddha entered into a very high mental state. His concentration was so great that he remained in one position for seven days and nights, without eating or drinking.

When he returned to the ordinary state, he was in danger of dying from starvation. At the usual time of day, he went to collect alms food at the mansion of the rich man of Benares.

When the rich man had just sat down to have lunch, he saw the Silent Buddha coming with his alms bowl. He rose from his seat respectfully. He told his servants to go and give alms to him.

Meanwhile, Mara, the god of death, had been watching. Mara is the one who is filled with greed for power over all beings. He can only have this power because of the fear of death.

Since a Buddha lives life fully in each moment, he has no desire for future life, and no fear of future death. Therefore, since Mara could have no power over the Silent Buddha, he wished to destroy the Silent Buddha. When he saw that he was near death from starvation, he knew that he had a good chance of succeeding.

Before the servant could place the food in the Silent Buddha's alms bowl, Mara caused a deep pit of red hot burning coals to appear between them. It seems like the entrance to a hell world.

When he saw this, the servant was frightened to death. He ran back to his master. The rich man asked him why he returned without giving the alms food. He replied, "My dear lord, there is a deep pit full of red hot burning coals just in front of the Silent Buddha."

The rich man thought, "This man must be seeing things!" So he sent another servant with alms food. The second servant was also frightened by the same pit of fiery coals. Several servants were sent, but all returned frightened to death.

Then the master thought, "There is no doubt that Mara, the god of Death, must be trying to prevent my wholesome deed of giving alms food to the silent Buddha. Because wholesome deeds are the beginning of the path to enlightenment, this Mara wished to stop me at all costs. But he does not understand my confidence in the Silent Buddha and my determination to give."

So he himself took the alms food to Silent Buddha. He too saw the flames rising from the fiery pit. Then he looked up and saw the terrible god of death, floating above in the sky. He asked, "Who are you?" Mara replied, "I am the god of death!"
"Did you create this pit of fire?" asked the rich man. "I did," said the god of the death. "Why did you do so?" "To keep you from giving alms food, and in this way to cause the Silent Buddha to die! Also to prevent your wholesome deed from helping you on the path to enlightenment, so you will remain in my power!"

The rich man of Benares said, "Oh Mara, god of death, the evil one, you cannot kill the Silent Buddha, and you cannot prevent my wholesome giving! Let us see whose determination is stronger!"

Then he looked across the raging pit of fire, and said to the calm and gentle
Enlightenment One, "Oh Silent Buddha, let the light of Truth continue to shine as an example to us. Accept this gift of life!"

So saying, he forgot himself entirely, and in that moment there was no fear of death. As he stepped into the burning pit, he felt himself being lifted up by a beautiful cool lotus blossom. The pollen from this miraculous spread into the air, and covered him with the glowing color of gold. While standing in the heart of the lotus, the Great Being poured the alms food into the bowl of the Silent Buddha. Mara, god of death, was defeated!

In appreciation for this wonderful gift, the Silent Buddha raised his hand in blessing. The rich man bowed in homage, joining his hands above his head. Then the Silent Buddha departed from Benares, and went to the Himalayan forests. Still standing on the wonderful lotus, glowing with color of gold, the generous master taught his followers. He told them that practicing the Five Training Steps is necessary to purify the mind. He told them that with such a pure mind, there is great merit in giving alms - indeed it is truly the gift of life!

When he had finished teaching, the fiery pit and lovely cool lotus completely disappeared.

The moral is: Have no fear when doing wholesome deeds.

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## 9- The Bull Called Delightful

(All Deserve Respect)
Once upon a time, in the country of Grandhara in northern India. There was a city called Takkasila. In that city the Enlightenment Being was born as a certain calf. Since he was well bred for strength, he was bought by a high class rich man. He became very fond of this gentle animal and called him "Delightful". Ho took good care of him and fed him only the best.

When Delightful grew up into a fine strong bull, he thought, "I was brought up by this generous man. He gave me such good food and constant care, even though sometimes there were difficulties. Now I am a big grown up bull and there is no other bull can pull as heavy as a load as I can. Therefore, I would like to use my strength to give something in return to my master."

So he said to the man, "Sir, please find some wealthy merchant who is proud of having many strong bull. Challenge him by saying that your bull can pull one hundred heavily loaded bullock carts."
`Following his advice, the high class rich man went to such a merchant and struck up a conversation. After a while, he brought up the idea of who had the strongest bull in the city.

The merchant said, "Many have bulls, but no one has any as strong as mine." The rich man Said, "Sir, I have a bull who can pull one hundred heavily loaded bullocks carts." "No, friend, how can there be such a bull? That is unbelievable!" said the merchant. The other replied, "I do have such a bull, and I am willing to make a bet."

The merchant said: I will bet a thousand gold coins that your bull cannot pull a hundred loaded bullock carts." So the bet was made and they agreed on a date and time for the challenge.

The merchant attached together one hundred big bullock carts. He filled them with sand and gravel to make them very heavy.

The high class rich man fed the finest rice to the bull called Delightful. He bathed him and decorated him and hung a beautiful garland of flowers around his neck.

Then he harnesses him to the first cart and climbed up into it. Being so high class, he could not resist to urge to make himself seem very important. So he cracked a whip in the air, and yelled at the faithful bull, "Pull, you dumb animal! I command you to pull, you big dummy!"

The bull called Delightful thought, "This challenge was my ideal. I have never done anything bad to my master, and yet he insult me with such hard and harsh words!" So he remained in his place and refused to pull the carts.

The merchant laughed and demanded his winnings from the bet. The high class rich man had to pay him the one thousand gold coins. He returned home and sat down, saddened by his lost bet, and embarrassed by the blow to his pride.

The bull grazed peacefully on his way home. When he arrived, he saw his mater sadly lying on his side. He asked, "Sir why are you lying there like that? Are you sleeping?" You look sad." The man said, I lost a thousand gold coins because of you. With such a loss, how could I sleep?"
The bull replied. "" Sir, you called dummy. You even cracked a whip in the air over my head. In all my life, did I ever break anything, step on anything, make a mess in wrong place, or behave like a dummy in any way?" He answered, "No my pet."

The bull said, "Then sir why did you call me 'dummy animal', and insult me even in the presence of others?" The fault is yours. I have done nothing wrong. But since I feel sorry for you, go again to the merchant and make the same bet for two thousand gold coins, And remember to use only the respectful words I deserve so well."

Then the high class rich man went back to the merchant and made the bet for two thousand gold coins. The merchant thought it would be easy money. Again The merchant set up the one hundred heavily loaded bullock carts. Again the rich man fed and bathed the bull, and hang a garland of flowers around his neck.

When all was ready, the rich man touched Delightful's forehead with a lotus blossom, having given up the whip. Thinking of him as fondly as if the bull was hid own child, he said, "My son, please do me the honor of pulling these one hundred bullock carts."

Lo and behold, the wonderful bull pulled with all his might and dragged the heavy carts until the last one stood in the place of the first.

The merchant, with his mouth hanging open in disbelief, had to pay the two thousand gold coins. The onlookers were so impressed that they honored the bull with gifts. But even more important to the high class rich man than his winning, was his valuable lesson in humility and respect.

The moral is: Harsh words bring no reward. Respectful words bring honor to all.

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## 10 - Grandma's Blackie (Loving-kindness)

Once upon a time, when king Brahmadatta was ruling in Benares, there was an old woman who had a calf. This calf was of a noble dark color. In fact, he was jet black without a spot of white. He was the Bodhisatta - the Enlightenment Being.

The old woman raised the little calf just as though the was her own child. She fed him only the very best rice and rice porridge. She petted his head and neck, and he licked her hand. Since they were so friendly, people began calling the calf "Grandma's Blackie".

Even after he grew up into a big strong bull. Grandma's Blackie remained very tame and gentle. The village children played with him, holding onto his neck and ears and horns. They would even grab his tail and swing up onto his back for a ride. He liked children, so he never complained.

The friendly bull thought, "The loving old woman, who brought me up, is like a kind mother to me. She raised me as if I was her own child. She is poor and in need, but to humble to ask for my help. She is too gentle to force me to work. Because I also love her, I wish to release her from the suffering of poverty." So he began looking for work.

One day a caravan of 500 carts came by the village. It stopped at a difficult place to cross the river. The bullocks were not able to pull the carts across. The caravan leader hooked up all 500 pairs of bullocks to the first cart. But the river was so rough that they could not pull across even that one cart.

Faced with this problem, the leader began looking for more bulls. He was known to be an expert judge of the qualities of bulls. While examining the wandering village herd, he noticed Grandma's Blackie. At once he thought, "This noble bullock looks like he has the strength and the will to pull my carts across the river."

He said to the villagers standing by, "To who does this big black bull belong? I would like to use him to pull my caravan across the river, and I am willing to pay his owner for his services." The people said, "By all means, take him. His master is not here."

So he put a rope through Grandma's Blackie's nose. But when he pulled, he could not budge him! The bull was thinking, "Until this man says what he will pay for my work, I will not move."

Being such a good judge of bulls, The caravan leader understood his reasoning. So he said, "My dear bull, after you have pulled my 500 carts across the river, I will pay you two gold coins for each cart - not just one but two!" Hearing this, Grandma's Blackie went with him at once.

Then the man harnessed strong black bull to the first cart. He proceeded to pull it across the river. This was what all one thousand bulls could not do before. Likewise, he pulled across each of the other 499 carts, one at a time, without slowing down a bit!

When all was done, the caravan leader made a package containing only one gold coin per cart, that is 500 coins. He hung this around the mighty bullock's neck. The bull thought, " This man promised two coins per cart, but that is not what he has hung around my neck. So I will not let him leave!" He went to the front of the caravan and blocked the path.

The leader tried to push him out of the way, but he would not move. He tried to drive the carts around him. But all the bulls had seen how strong he was, so they would not move either!

The man thought, "There is no doubt that this is a very intelligent bull, who knows I have given him only half-pay." So he made a new package containing the full one thousand gold coins, and hung it instead around the bull's neck.

Then Grandma's Blackie re-crossed the river and walked directly toward the old woman, his mother. Along the way, the children tried to grab the money package, thinking it was a game. But he escape them.

When the woman saw the heavy package, she was surprised. The children told her all about what happened down the river. She opened the package and discovered the one thousand gold coins.

The old woman also saw the tired look in the eyed of her child. She said, "Oh my son, do you think I wish to live off the money you earn? Why did you wish to work so hard and suffer so? No matter how difficult it may be, I will always care for and look after you."

Then the kind woman washed the lovely bull and massaged his tired muscles with oil. She fed him good food and cared for him, until the end of their happy lives together.

The moral is: Loving-kindness makes the poorest house into the richest home.

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## 11 - The Baby Quail Who Could Not Fly Away <br> (The Power of Truth, Wholesomeness and Compassion)

Once upon a time, the Enlightenment Being was born as a tiny quail. Although he had little feet and wings, he could not yet walk or fly. His parents worked hard bringing food to the nest, feeding him from their beaks.

In that part of the world, there were usually forest fires every year. So it happened that a fire began in that particular year. All the birds who were able, flew away at the first sign of smoke. As the fire spread, and got closed and closer to the nest of the baby quail, his parents remained with him. Finally the fire got so close, that they too had to fly away to save their lives.

All the trees, big and small, were burning and cracking with a loud noise. The little one saw that everything was being destroyed by the fire that raged out of control. He could do nothing to save himself. At that moment his mind was overwhelmed by a feeling of helplessness.

Then it occurred to him, "My parents loved me very much. Unselfishly they built a nest for me, and then fed me without greed. When the fire came, they remained with me until the last moment. All the other birds who, could had flown away a long time before.


So great was the loving-kindness of my parents, they had stayed and risked their lives, but still they were helpless to save me. Since they could not carry me, they were forced to fly away alone. I thank them, wherever they re, for loving me so. I hope with all my heart they will be safe and well and happy.
"Now I am all alone. There is no one I can go to for help. I have wings, but I cannot fly away. I have feet, but I cannot run away. But I can still think. All I have left to use is my mind a mind that remains pure. The only beings I have known in my short life were my parents, and my mind has been filled with loving-kindness toward them. I have done nothing unwholesome to anyone. I am filled with new-born innocent truthfulness."

Then an amazing miracle took place. This innocent truthfulness grew and grew until it became larger than the little baby bird. The knowledge of truth beyond that one lifetime, and many previous births became known. One such previous birth had led to knowing a Buddha, a fully enlightened knower of truth - one who had power of Truth, the purity of wholesomeness, and the purpose of compassion.

Then the Great Being within the tiny baby quail thought, "May this very young innocent truthfulness be united with that ancient purity of wholesomeness and power of Truth. May all birds and other beings, who are still strapped by the fire be saved. And may this spot be safe from fire for a million years!"

And so it was.
The moral is: Truth, wholesomeness and compassion can save the world.

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## 12- The Prince Who Had a Plan (The Power of Superstition)

Once upon a time, King Brahmadatta was ruling in Benares, in the northern India. The Enlightenment Being was born as his son the prince. Being quite intelligent, he completed his entire education by the age of 16 . So, at this early age, his father made him second in command.

In those days, most people in Benares worshiped gods. They were very superstitious. They thought gods caused thing to happen to them, rather than being results of their own actions. So they would pray these gods and ask special favors. They would ask for a lucky marriage, or the birth of a child or riches or fame.

They would promise, the gods that, if their prayers were answered, they would pay them, my making offerings to them. In addition to flowers and perfumes, they imagined the gods desired the sacrifice of animals. So, when they thought the gods had helped them, they killed many animals - goats, lambs, chickens, pigs and others.

The prince saw all this and thought, "These helpless animals are also subjects of the king, so I must protect them. The people commit these unwholesome acts due to ignorance and superstition. This cannot be true religion. For true religion offers life as it really is., not killing. True religion offers peace of mind, not cruelty."
"I fear these people believe in their superstitions too strongly to give them up. This is very sad. But perhaps their beliefs can at least be put to good use. Some day I will become king. So I must begin to make a plan to let their superstitions help them. It they must offer sacrifices, let them kill their own greed and hatred, instead of these animals! Then the whole kingdom will benefit."

So the prince devised a clever long term plan. Every so often, he rode in his grand chariot to a popular banyan tree just outside the city. This was a hue tree, where the people prayed and made offerings to a god they thought lived here. The prince cam down from his chariot and made the same offerings as the others - incense, flowers, perfumes and water - but not animal sacrifices.

In this way he made a great show, and the news spread about his offerings. Pretty soon, all the people thought he was a true believer in the great god of the Banyan tree.

In due time, King Brahmadatta died and his son became king. He ruled as a righteous king. And he benefited. So all his subjects came to trust and respect him as a just and honorable king.

Then one day, he decided it was the right time to carry out the rest of his plan. So he called all the leading citizens of Benares to the royal assembly hall. He asked them, "Worthy ministers and royal subjects, do you know how I was able to make sure that I would become king?" No one could answer.

He said, "Do you remember that I often gave wonderful sweet offerings to the great god of the banyan tree?" "Yes , our lord," they said.

The king continued, "At each of those times, I made a promise to the powerful god of the tree. I prayed, Oh mighty One, if you make me king of Benares, I will offer a special sacrifice to you, far greater than flowers and perfumes."
"Since I am now the king, you all can see for yourself that the god has answered my prayers. So now I must keep my promise and offer the special sacrifice."

All those in the assembly hall agreed. They said, "We must prepare this sacrifice at once. What animal do you wish to kill?"

The king said, "My dear subjects, I am glad you are so willing to corporate. I promised the great god of the banyan tree that I would sacrifice anyone who fails to practice the five Training Steps. That is, anyone who destroys life, takes what is not given, does wrong in sexual ways, speaks falsely, or loses his mind from alcohol. I promised that, if any do these things, I will offer their guts, and their flesh and blood on the great god's altar!"

Being so superstitious, all those in the hall agreed that this must be done, or the god would surely punish the king and the kingdom.

The king thought, "Ah, such is the power of superstition that these people have lost all common sense.! They cannot see that, since the first training step is to give up killing, if I sacrificed one of my subjects, I would be next on the altar! And such is the power of superstition that I could make such a promise, and never have to carry it out!"

So, with full confidence in the power of superstition, the king said to the leading citizens, "Go into all the kingdom and announce the promise I made to god. Then proclaim that the first one-thousand who break any of the training steps will have the honor of being sacrificed, to keep the kink's promise."

Lo and behold, the people of Benares became famous for carefully practicing the Five Training Steps. And the good king, who knew his subjects so well, sacrificed no one.
The moral is: Sacrifice your own wrong doing, not some helpless animals.

 A Buddhist Stupa in Cambodia


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ For more detail, please read Mahayana Buddhism by Richards Hines: hinesric@wsunix.wsu.edu

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ Ven. C Phangcham, Ph.D.

[^2]:    ${ }^{3}$ Ven. C Phangcham, Ph.D.

[^3]:    ${ }^{4}$ By Ven. C Phangcham, Ph.D.

[^4]:    ${ }^{5}$ Buddhism In Daily Life by Nina Van Gorkom Published by Zalag.co.UK

[^5]:    ${ }^{6}$ Buddhism In Daily Life by Nina Van Gorkom Published by Zalag.co.UK

[^6]:    ${ }^{7}$ By Ven. C Phangcham, Ph.D.

[^7]:    ${ }^{8}$ By Ven. C Phangcham, Ph.D.

[^8]:    ${ }^{9}$ By Ven. C Phangcham, Ph.D.
    
    

[^9]:    ${ }^{11}$ by Cambodian Institue (Research in Buddhim)

[^10]:    ${ }^{12}$ Cambodian Institue (Research in Buddhim)

[^11]:    ${ }^{13}$ Cambodian Institue (Research in Buddhim)

[^12]:    

[^13]:    
    ${ }^{16}$ Leng Lim, Author, Secretary of board directors of Khmer Community, Seattle, WA
    ${ }^{17}$ By Brooke Schedneck

[^14]:    
    
    
    
    
    
    
    
    
    
    
    
    
    
    
    
    

[^15]:    ${ }^{19}$ Cambodian Institue: Researched and written by Vathany Say

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[^17]:    ${ }^{21}$ Kathina Then and Now by Aggacitta Bhikkhu published by Buddha Dharma Education Association, Inc.
    ${ }^{22}$ Vassa is a Pali abbreviation for Vassāvāsa, which mean "rainy-season residence"

[^18]:    

[^19]:    ${ }^{24}$ Translated from Bali into English by John Richards

