Mahā-maṅgala Sutta: The Great Discourse on Blessings

Suttanipāta II,4, verses 258–269

Evaṃ me sutaṃ: Ekaṃ samayaṃ bhagavā sāvatthiyaṃ viharati jetavane anāthapiṇḍikassa ārāme. Atha kho aññatarā devatā abhikkantāya rattiyā abhikkantavaṇṇā kevalakappaṃ jetavanaṃ obhāsetvā yena bhagavā ten'upasaṅkami. Upasaṅkamitvā bhagavantaṃ abhivādetvā ekamantaṃ aṭṭhāsi. Ekamantaṃ ṭhitā kho sā devatā bhagavantaṃ gāthāya ajjhabhāsi.

Thus have I heard: On one occasion the Blessed One was living near Savatthi at Jetavana at Anathapindika's monastery. Now when the night was far advanced, a certain deity, whose radiance illuminated the whole of Jetavana, approached the Blessed One, respectfully saluted him, and stood beside him. Standing thus, he addressed the Blessed One in verse:

1. Bahu devā manussā ca maṅgalāni acintayuṃ,
ākaṅkhamānā sotthānaṃ, brūhi maṅgalam uttamaṃ.

"Many deities and human beings,
longing for happiness,
have pondered on blessings.
Please tell me what the highest blessings are."

[The Buddha replied:]

2. Asevanā ca bālānaṃ, paṇḍitānañca sevanā,
pūjā ca pūjanīyānaṃ, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamaṃ.

"Not to associate with the foolish,
but to associate with the wise,
and to honor those worthy of honor —
this is the highest blessing.

3. Patirūpadesavāso ca, pubbe ca katapuññatā,
Attasammāpaṇidhi ca, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamaṃ.

"To reside in a suitable locality,
to have done meritorious actions in the past,
and to set oneself on the right course —
this is the highest blessing.

4. Bāhusaccañ ca sippañ ca, vinayo ca susikkhito,
Subhāsitā ca yā vācā, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamaṃ.

"Abundant learning,
skill in a craft,
being well trained in discipline,
and well-spoken speech —
this is the highest blessing.

5. Mātāpitū upaṭṭhānaṃ, puttadārassa saṅgaho,
Anākulā ca kammantā, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamaṃ.

"To support one's father and mother;
to maintain one's wife and children,
and to be engaged in a harmless occupation —
this is the highest blessing.

6. Dānañca dhammacariyā ca, ñātakānañca saṅgaho,
Anavajjāni kammāni, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamaṃ.

"Generosity, righteous conduct,
rendering assistance to relatives,
and performance of blameless actions —
this is the highest blessing.

7. Ārati virati pāpā, majjapānā ca saṃyamo,
Appamādo ca dhammesu, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamaṃ.

"To cease and abstain from evil,
to refrain from intoxicating drinks,
and heedfulness in wholesome practices —
this is the highest blessing.

8. Gāravo ca nivāto ca, santuṭṭhi ca kataññutā,
Kālena dhammasavaṇaṃ, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamaṃ.

"Reverence, humility,
contentment, gratitude,
and the timely hearing of the Dhamma—
this is the highest blessing.

9. Khantī ca sovacassatā, samaṇānañ ca dassanaṃ,
Kālena dhammasākacchā, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamaṃ.

"Patience, being amenable to advice,
the seeing of renunciants,

and timely discussion on the Dhamma —
this is the highest blessing.

10. Tapo ca brahmacariyañ ca, ariyasaccāna dassanaṃ,
Nibbānasacchikiriyā ca, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamaṃ.

"Austerity, the spiritual life,
seeing of the noble truths,
and the realization of nibbāna —
this is the highest blessing.

11. Phuṭṭhassa lokadhammehi, cittaṃ yassa na kampati,
Asokaṃ virajaṃ khemaṃ, etaṃ maṅgalam uttamaṃ.

"The mind that is not shaken
when touched by the vicissitudes of life,
sorrowless, stainless, and secure —
this is the highest blessing.

12. Etādisāni katvāna, sabbattha- m-aparājitā,
Sabbattha sotthiṃ gacchanti taṃ, tesaṃ maṅgalam uttaman ti.

"Those who have fulfilled these conditions
are victorious everywhere;
they attain security everywhere—
they win the highest blessings."