

## Exploring the Ancient Path in the Buddha's Own Words

### Lesson 3.4.3

### Vācāsuttam

### What are the Characteristics of Blameless Speech?



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Vācāsuttam	What are the Characteristics of Blameless Speech?
“Pañcahi, bhikkhave, aṅgehi samannāgatā vācā subhāsītā hoti, no dubbhāsītā, anavajjā ca ananuvajjā ca viññūnaṃ.	“Speech, O’ Bhikkhus, that is well spoken and not badly spoken, that is faultless and not blameworthy to the wise, should be endowed with five characteristics.
Katamehi pañcahi?	What are the five?
Kālena ca bhāsītā hoti, saccā ca bhāsītā hoti, saṅhā ca bhāsītā hoti, atthasaṃhitā ca bhāsītā hoti, mettacittena ca bhāsītā hoti.	It should be spoken at the proper time, it should be spoken truthfully, it should be spoken gently, it should be connected with advantage and should be spoken with a mind full of metta.
Imehi kho, bhikkhave, pañcahi aṅgehi samannāgatā vācā subhāsītā hoti, no dubbhāsītā, anavajjā ca ananuvajjā ca viññūnaṃ”ti.	These, O’ Bhikkhus, are the five characteristics that speech should be endowed with if well-spoken and not badly spoken, that is faultless and not blameworthy to the wise.”