

Exploring the Ancient Path in the Buddha's Own Words

Lesson 3.5.6 Daṇḍasuttaṃ Why never Beat with a Stick?¹



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Daṇḍasuttaṃ	Why never Beat with a Stick?
Evaṃ me suttaṃ.	Thus has been heard by me.
Ekam samayaṃ bhagavā sāvatthiyaṃ viharati jetavane anāthapiṇḍikassa ārāme.	At one time the Bhagavā was staying at Savatthi in Anathpindika's park in Jeta's grove.
Tena kho pana samayena sambahulā kumārakā antarā ca sāvatthiṃ antarā ca jetavanaṃ ahiṃ daṇḍena hananti.	At that time a number of boys between Savatthi and Jeta's grove were killing a snake with a stick.
Atha kho bhagavā pubbaṇhasamayaṃ nivāsetvā pattacīvaramādāya sāvatthiṃ piṇḍāya pāvīsi.	In the forenoon the Bhagavā after having dressed in his robe and taking his bowl and robe entered Savatthi for alms.
Addasā kho bhagavā sambahule kumārake antarā ca sāvatthiṃ antarā ca jetavanaṃ ahiṃ daṇḍena hanante.	There the Bhagavā saw this number of boys between Savatthi and Jeta's grove killing that snake with a stick.
Atha kho bhagavā etamatthaṃ veditvā tāyaṃ velāyaṃ imaṃ udānaṃ udānesi:	Having realised the significance of this, the Bhagavā uttered, at that occasion, the following exclamation:
<i>“Sukhākāmāni bhūtāni, yo daṇḍena vihiṃsati; attano sukhamesāno, pecca so na labhate sukhaṃ</i>	Beings desiring their own happiness by beating beings with a stick. Themselves seeking happiness for themselves, they will not attain happiness thereafter.
<i>Sukhākāmāni bhūtāni, yo daṇḍena na hiṃsati; attano sukhamesāno, pecca so labhate sukhaṃ”</i> ti	Beings desiring their own happiness and do not beat beings with a stick: Themselves seeking happiness for themselves they will attain happiness thereafter.

¹ Khuddakanikāye, Udānapāli, Mucalindavaggo