



Exploring the Ancient Path in the Buddha's Own Words

Lesson 3.6.12



Cakkavattisuttam

The Duties of a Righteous King

.....”Katamam pana tam, deva, ariyam cakkavattivatta’nti? ‘Tena hi tvam, tāta, dhammamāmyeva nissāya dhammam sakkaronto dhammam garum karonto dhammam mānento dhammam pūjento dhammam apacāyamāno dhammaddhajo dhammaketu dhammādhipateyyo dhammikam rakkhāvaraṇaguttiṁ samvidahassu antojanasmīm balakāyasmīm khattiyesu anuyantesu brāhmaṇagahapatikesu negamajānapadesu samaṇabrāhmaṇesu migapakkhīsu. Mā ca te, tāta, vijite adhammakāro pavattittha. Ye ca te, tāta, vijite adhanā assu, tesañca dhanamanuppadeyyāsi. Ye ca te, tāta, vijite samaṇabrāhmaṇā madappamādā paṭiviratā khantisoracce niviṭṭhā ekamattānam damenti, ekamattānam samenti, ekamattānam parinibbāpenti, te kālena kālam upasaṅkamitvā paripuccheyyāsi pariggaṇheyyāsi – “kim, bhante, kusalam, kim akusalam, kim sāvajjam, kim anavajjam, kim sevitabbam, kim na sevitabbam, kim me karīyamānam dīgharattam ahitāya dukkhāya assa, kim vā pana me karīyamānam dīgharattam hitāya sukhāya assā”ti? Tesam sutvā yam akusalam tam abhinivajjeyyāsi, yam kusalam tam samādāya vatteyyāsi.

Idam kho, tāta, tam ariyam cakkavattivatta’nti.

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(Āyuvaṇṇādipariyānikathā)

..... Tesam sutvā dhammikañhi kho rakkhāvaraṇaguttiṁ samvidahi, no ca kho adhanānam dhanamanuppadāsi. Adhanānam dhane ananuppadiyamāne dāliddiyam

vepullamagamāsi. Dāliddiyē vepullam gate aññataro puriso paresam adinnaṁ theyyasaṅkhātam ādiyi. Tamenam aggaheṣum. Gaheṭvā rañño khattiyassa muddhābhīsittassa¹ dassesum – ‘ayam, deva, puriso paresam adinnaṁ theyyasaṅkhātam ādiyī’ti. Evaṁ vutte, bhikkhave, rājā khattiyo muddhābhīsitto tam purisam etadavoca – ‘saccam kira tvam, ambho purisa, paresam adinnaṁ theyyasaṅkhātam ādiyī’ti? ‘Saccam, devā’ti. ‘Kim kāraṇā’ti? ‘Na hi, deva, jīvāmī’ti. Atha kho, bhikkhave, rājā khattiyo muddhābhīsitto tassa purisassa dhanamanuppādāsi – ‘imīnā tvam, ambho purisa, dhanena attanā ca jīvāhi, mātāpitaro ca posehi, puttadārañca posehi, kammante ca payojehi, samañabrahmañesu uddhaggikam dakkhiṇam patiṭṭhāpehi sovaggikam sukhavipākam saggasamvattanika’nti. ‘Evaṁ, devā’ti kho, bhikkhave, so puriso rañño khattiyassa muddhābhīsittassa paccassosi.

Aññataropi kho, bhikkhave, puriso paresam adinnaṁ theyyasaṅkhātam ādiyi. Tamenam aggaheṣum. Gaheṭvā rañño khattiyassa muddhābhīsittassa dassesum – ‘ayam, deva, puriso paresam adinnaṁ theyyasaṅkhātam ādiyī’ti. Evaṁ vutte, bhikkhave, rājā khattiyo muddhābhīsitto tam purisam etadavoca – ‘saccam kira tvam, ambho purisa, paresam adinnaṁ theyyasaṅkhātam ādiyī’ti? ‘Saccam, devā’ti. ‘Kim kāraṇā’ti? ‘Na hi, deva, jīvāmī’ti. Atha kho, bhikkhave, rājā khattiyo muddhābhīsitto tassa purisassa dhanamanuppādāsi – ‘imīnā tvam, ambho purisa, dhanena attanā ca jīvāhi, mātāpitaro ca posehi, puttadārañca posehi, kammante ca payojehi, samañabrahmañesu uddhaggikam dakkhiṇam patiṭṭhāpehi sovaggikam sukhavipākam saggasamvattanika’nti. ‘Evaṁ, devā’ti kho, bhikkhave, so puriso rañño khattiyassa muddhābhīsittassa paccassosi.

Assosum kho, bhikkhave, manussā – ‘ye kira, bho, paresam adinnaṁ theyyasaṅkhātam ādiyanti, tesam rājā dhanamanuppādetī’ti. Sutvāna tesam etadahosi – ‘yamnūna mayampi paresam adinnaṁ theyyasaṅkhātam ādiyeyyāmā’ti. Atha kho, bhikkhave, aññataro puriso paresam adinnaṁ theyyasaṅkhātam ādiyi. Tamenam aggaheṣum. Gaheṭvā rañño khattiyassa muddhābhīsittassa dassesum – ‘ayam, deva, puriso paresam adinnaṁ theyyasaṅkhātam ādiyī’ti. Evaṁ vutte, bhikkhave, rājā khattiyo muddhābhīsitto tam purisam etadavoca – ‘saccam kira tvam, ambho purisa, paresam adinnaṁ

¹ *rañño khattiyassa muddhābhīsittassa*: expression for the king, who was a khattiya, anointed king, translated as: rightful king

theyyasañkhātam ādiyī’ti? ‘Saccam, devā’ti. ‘Kīm kāraṇā’ti? ‘Na hi, deva, jīvāmī’ti. Atha kho, bhikkhave, rañño khattiyassa muddhābhīsittassa etadahosi – ‘sace kho aham yo yo paresam adinnam theyyasañkhātam ādiyissati, tassa tassa dhanamanuppādassāmi, evamidañ adinnādānam pavaḍḍhissati. Yaṁnūnāham imam purisam sunisedham nisedheyam, mūlaghaccam kareyyam, sīsamassa chindeyya’nti. Atha kho, bhikkhave, rājā khattiyo muddhābhīsitto purise āñāpesi – ‘tena hi, bhañe, imam purisam dalhāya rajjuyā pacchābāham gālhabandhanam bandhitvā khuramuñdam karitvā kharassarena pañavena rathikāya rathikam siñghātakena siñghātakam parinetvā dakkhiñena dvārena nikhamitvā dakkhiñato nagarassa sunisedham nisedhetha, mūlaghaccam karotha, sīsamassa chindathā’ti. ‘Evam, devā’ti kho, bhikkhave, te purisā rañño khattiyassa muddhābhīsittassa paṭissutvā tam purisam dalhāya rajjuyā pacchābāham gālhabandhanam bandhitvā khuramuñdam karitvā kharassarena pañavena rathikāya rathikam siñghātakena siñghātakam parinetvā dakkhiñena dvārena nikhamitvā dakkhiñato nagarassa sunisedham nisedhesum, mūlaghaccam akam̄su, sīsamassa chindim̄su.

Assosum kho, bhikkhave, manussā – ‘ye kira, bho, paresam adinnañ theyyasañkhātam ādiyanti, te rājā sunisedham nisedheti, mūlaghaccam karoti, sīsāni tesam chindatī’ti. Sutvāna tesam etadahosi – ‘yaṁnūna mayampi tīhāni satthāni kārāpessāma, tīhāni satthāni kārāpetvā yesam adinnam theyyasañkhātam ādiyissāma, te sunisedham nisedhessāma, mūlaghaccam karissāma, sīsāni tesam chindissāmā’ti. Te tīhāni satthāni kārāpesum, tīhāni satthāni kārāpetvā gāmaghātampi upakkamim̄su kātum, nigamaghātampi upakkamim̄su kātum, nagaraghātampi upakkamim̄su kātum, panthaduhanampi upakkamim̄su kātum. Yesam te adinnañ theyyasañkhātam ādiyanti, te sunisedham nisedhenti, mūlaghaccam karonti, sīsāni tesam chindanti.

Iti kho, bhikkhave, adhanānam dhane ananuppādiyamāne dāliddiyam vepullamagamāsi, dāliddiyē vepullam gate adinnādānam vepullamagamāsi, adinnādāne vepullam gate sattham vepullamagamāsi, satthe vepullam gate pāñātipāto vepullamagamāsi, pāñātipāte vepullam gate tesam sattānam āyupi parihāyi, vaññopi parihāyi. Tesam āyunāpi parihāyamānānam vaññenapi parihāyamānānam asītivassasahassāyukānam manussānam cattārīsavassasahassāyukā puttā ahesum.

Cattārīsavassasahassāyukesu, bhikkhave, manussesu aññataro puriso paresam

adinnam theyyasañkhātam ādiyi. Tamenam paresam adinnam theyyasañkhātam ādiyīti. Evaṁ vutte, bhikkhave, rājā khattiyo muddhābhisisitto tam purisam etadavoca – ‘saccam kira tvam, ambho purisa, paresam adinnam theyyasañkhātam ādiyīti? ‘Na hi, devā’ti sampajānamusā² abhāsi.

Iti kho, bhikkhave, adhanānam dhane ananuppadiyamāne dāliddiyam ve pullamagamāsi. Dāliddiye ve pullam gate adinnādānam ve pullamagamāsi, adinnādāne ve pullam gate sattham ve pullamagamāsi. Satthe ve pullam gate pāṇātipāto ve pullamagamāsi, pāṇātipāte ve pullam gate musāvādo ve pullamagamāsi, musāvāde ve pullam gate tesam sattānam āyupi parihāyi, vanṇopi parihāyi. Tesam āyunāpi parihāyamānānam vanṇenapi parihāyamānānam cattārīsavassasahassāyukānam manussānam vīsativassasahassāyukā puttā ahesum.

Vīsativassasahassāyukesu, bhikkhave, manusse su aññataro puriso paresam adinnam theyyasañkhātam ādiyi. Tamenam aññataro puriso rañño khattiya ssa muddhābhisisitta ssa ārocesi – ‘itthannāmo, deva, puriso paresam adinnam theyyasañkhātam ādiyīti pesuññamakāsi.

Iti kho, bhikkhave, adhanānam dhane ananuppadiyamāne dāliddiyam ve pullamagamāsi. Dāliddiye ve pullam gate adinnādānam ve pullamagamāsi, adinnādāne ve pullam gate sattham ve pullamagamāsi, satthe ve pullam gate pāṇātipāto ve pullamagamāsi, pāṇātipāte ve pullam gate musāvādo ve pullamagamāsi, musāvāde ve pullam gate pisuñā vācā ve pullamagamāsi, pisuñāya vācāya ve pullam gatāya tesam sattānam āyupi parihāyi, vanṇopi parihāyi. Tesam āyunāpi parihāyamānānam vanṇenapi parihāyamānānam vīsativassasahassāyukānam manussānam dasavassasahassāyukā puttā ahesum.

Dasavassasahassāyukesu, bhikkhave, manusse su ekidam sattā vanṇavanto honti, ekidam sattā dubbaññā. Tattha ye te sattā dubbaññā, te vanṇavante satte abhijjhāyantā paresam dāresu cārittam āpajjim̄su.

Iti kho, bhikkhave, adhanānam dhane ananuppadiyamāne dāliddiyam ve pullamagamāsi. Dāliddiye ve pullam gate gate adinnādānam ve pullamagamāsi, adinnādāne

² for sampajānamusā see introduction to lesson 3.3.6 *Ambalaṭṭhikarāhulovādasuttam* and lesson 3.4.4 *Musāvādasuttam*

vepullam gate sattham vepullamagamāsi, satthe vepullam gate pāṇatipāto vepullamagamāsi, pāṇatipāte vepullam gate musāvādo vepullamagamāsi, musāvāde vepullam gate pisuṇā vācā vepullamagamāsi, pisuṇāya vācāya vepullam gatāya kāmesumicchācāro vepullamagamāsi, kāmesumicchācāre vepullam gate tesam sattānam āyupi parihāyi, vaṇṇopi parihāyi. Tesam āyunāpi parihāyamānānam vaṇṇenapi parihāyamānānam dasavassasahassāyukānam manussānam pañcavassasahassāyukā puttā ahesum.

Pañcavassasahassāyukesu, bhikkhave, manussesu dve dhammā vepullamagamāmsu – pharusāvācā samphappalāpo ca. Dvīsu dhammesu vepullam gatesu tesam sattānam āyupi parihāyi, vaṇṇopi parihāyi. Tesam āyunāpi parihāyamānānam vaṇṇenapi parihāyamānānam pañcavassasahassāyukānam manussānam appekacce adḍhateyyavassasahassāyukā, appekacce dvevassasahassāyukā puttā ahesum.

Adḍhateyyavassasahassāyukesu, bhikkhave, manussesu abhijjhābyāpādā vepullamagamāmsu. Abhijjhābyāpādesu vepullam gatesu tesam sattānam āyupi parihāyi, vaṇṇopi parihāyi. Tesam āyunāpi parihāyamānānam vaṇṇenapi parihāyamānānam adḍhateyyavassasahassāyukānam manussānam vassasahassāyukā puttā ahesum.

Vassasahassāyukesu, bhikkhave, manussesu micchādiṭṭhi vepullamagamāsi. Micchādiṭṭhiyā vepullam gatāya tesam sattānam āyupi parihāyi, vaṇṇopi parihāyi. Tesam āyunāpi parihāyamānānam vaṇṇenapi parihāyamānānam vassasahassāyukānam manussānam pañcavassasatāyukā puttā ahesum.

Pañcavassasatāyukesu, bhikkhave, manussesu tayo dhammā vepullamagamāmsu. Adhammarāgo visamalobho micchādhammo. Tīsu dhammesu vepullam gatesu tesam sattānam āyupi parihāyi, vaṇṇopi parihāyi. Tesam āyunāpi parihāyamānānam vaṇṇenapi parihāyamānānam pañcavassasatāyukānam manussānam appekacce adḍhateyyavassasatāyukā, appekacce dvevassasatāyukā puttā ahesum.

Adḍhateyyavassasatāyukesu, bhikkhave, manussesu ime dhammā vepullamagamāmsu. Amatteyyatā apetteyyatā asāmaññatā abrahmaññatā na kule jeṭṭhāpacāyitā.

Iti kho, bhikkhave, adhanānam dhane ananuppadiyamāne dāliddiyam vepullamagamāsi. Dāliddiye vepullam gate adinnādānam vepullamagamāsi. Adinnādāne vepullam gate sattham vepullamagamāsi. Satthe vepullam gate pāṇatipāto vepullamagamāsi.

Pāññatipāte vepullam gate musāvādo vepullamagamāsi. Musāvāde vepullam gate pisuṇā vācā vepullamagamāsi. Pisuṇāya vācāya vepullam gatāya kāmesumicchācāro vepullamagamāsi. Kāmesumicchācāre vepullam gate dve dhammā vepullamagamaṁsu, pharusā vācā samphappalāpo ca. Dvīsu dhammesu vepullam gatesu abhijjhābyāpādā vepullamagamaṁsu. Abhijjhābyāpādesu vepullam gatesu micchādiṭṭhi vepullamagamāsi. Micchādiṭṭhiyā vepullam gatāya tayo dhammā vepullamagamaṁsu, adhammarāgo visamalobho micchādhammo. Tīsu dhammesu vepullam gatesu ime dhammā vepullamagamamaṁsu, amatteyyatā apetteyyatā asāmaññatā abrahmaññatā na kule jetṭhāpacāyitā. Imesu dhammesu vepullam gatesu tesam sattānam āyupi parihāyi, vaṇṇopi parihāyi. Tesam āyunāpi parihāyamānānam vaṇṇenapi parihāyamānānam aḍḍhateyyavassasatāyukānam manussānam vassasatāyukā puttā ahesum.

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Cakkavattiarivavattam, Cakkavattisuttam, Pāthikavaggapāli, Dīghanikāyo

abhijjhāyatā	abhijjhā + yantā (suffix)	covetousness + filled with
abhinivajjeyyāsi	abhi + nivajjeti (opt.)	get rid of, avoid, turn back from,
desist		
addhateyyavassasatāyukānam	aḍḍhateyya+vassa+sata+āyukānam	two and half + century + lifespan
ādiyeyyāmā	ādiyāti (opt.)	we should attend to,
ādiyissati	ādiyāti (fut.)	attend to, seize, take up
aggahesum	aggaheti (aor.)	take, seize
amatteyyatā	a + matteyyatā	not + motherhood
ananuppadiyamāne	an + anuppadiya + mane (ger.)	not + giving out, handing over
anuyantesu	anuyanta/anuyutta (pp)	subjects / applying oneself to
apacāyamāno	apacāyāti + māno (ger.)	honouring, paying reverence
āpajjimāsu	āpajjati (aor.)	produce, get into, make
apetteyyatā	a + petteyyatā	not + fatherhood
ārocesi	āroceti (aor.)	declare, tell, announce
āyuvanṇādipariyānikathā	āyu+vanṇa+ādipariyāni+kathā	age + complexion + starting point +
turning round + talk, sermon		
balakāyasmim	balakāyo (loc)	army
cakkavattivatta'nti	cakkam + vatti + vattam + ti	wheel (of righteousness) + they say
+ duty, observance		
dālhāya	dālha (dat.; gen.)	strong, firm
dāliddiyam	dasseti (aor.)	poverty
dassesum	dhamma + ādhipateyyo/ādhipacco	point to, show
dhammādhipateyyo	dhanam + anuppadeti (opt.)	dhamma + master, chief, ruler
dhanamanuppadeyyāsi	gālha + bandhanam	property, wealth + hand out, give
gālhabandhanam	gāma + ghātam + pi	strong + binding
gāmaghātampi	jetṭhā + apacayati (pp.)	village + destroying, killing
jetṭhāpacāyitā		elders + honouring



kārāpessāma	kārāpeti (caus.)	cause to do
khantisoracce	khanti + soracce	tolerance, forbearance + sympathy,
gentleness		
kharassarena	khara + s + sara (instr.)	harsh, rough + sound
khuramunḍam	khura + munḍam	shave + closely
muddhābhisittassa	muddhābhisitta (gen./ dat.)	to the king
mūlaghaccam	mūla + ghacco	root + to be destroyed
negamajānapadesu	negama + jānapado (loc.)	town + country
nisedheyyam	nisedheti (opt.)	prevent, stop, make and end
pañavena	(instr.)	drum
panthaduhanampi	pantha + duhanam + pi	road + robbery, waylaying, hurting
pariggaṇheyঃ	pariggaṇhati (opt.)	embrace, seize, take hold, search
paṭissutvā	paṭissuṇāti (ger.)	agree, consent
pavaḍḍhissati	pa + vaḍḍhati (ft.)	grow, increase
pavattittha	pavatteti (pp.)	set moving, proceeding, going on
payojeti	payojeti (imp.)	conduct, perform, carry out
pesuññamakāsi	pesuññam + akāsi (aor.)	backbiting, slander + made
posehi	poseti (imp.)	feed, nourish
rajjuyā	(instr.)	rope, string
rakkhāvaraṇaguttim	rakkhā + varāna + guttim	protection + surrounding + guarding
samvidahassu	saṃvidahati (opt.)	arrange, appoint, fix, accomplish
siṅghatakena	(instr.)	four roads meet, crossroad
sovaggikam	su + nisedha	connected with heavenly fields
sunisedham	tāta	well + prohibition, prevention
tāta	theyya + saṅkhāta	respected, dear, father, (son)
theyyasaṅkhātam	uddhaggikam	theft + named, called, reckoned
uddhaggikam	vattati (cus.; opt.)	living with the object of spiritual
progress		proceed, occupy yourself with,
vatteyyāsi		development, increase
practise		increase + go to
vepullam	vepullam + gacchatī (aor.)	conquered land, realm, country
vepullamagamāsi	vijayati (pp., noun; loc.)	
vijite		
