

Exploring the Ancient Path in the Buddha's Own Words

Lesson 3.7.0

Sīlakkhaṇapaṇho

Proceeding Further on the Path - the Wholesome Base of *Sīla* is only a Precondition!



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Sīlakkhaṇapaṇho	Proceeding Further on the Path - the Wholesome Base of <i>Sīla</i> is only a Precondition!
<p>Rājā āha “bhante nāgasena, yaṃ panetaṃ brūsi ‘aññehi ca kusalehi dhammehi’ ti, katame te kusalā dhammā” ti?</p> <p>“Sīlaṃ, mahārāja, saddhā vīriyaṃ sati samādhi, ime te kusalā dhammā” ti.</p> <p>“Kiṃlakkhaṇaṃ, bhante, sīlaṃ” ti?</p>	<p>The King said: “Bhante Nāgasena, further you say ‘those other wholesome qualities’ – what are those wholesome qualities you mention?”</p> <p>“These wholesome qualities, O King, are sīla, faith, effort, awareness and concentration.”</p> <p>“And what, Bhante Nāgasena, is the particular characteristic of sīla?”</p>
<p>“Patitṭhānalakkhaṇaṃ, mahārāja, sīlaṃ sabbesaṃ kusalānaṃ dhammānaṃ,</p> <p>indriya-bala-bojjhaṅga-maggaṅga-satipatṭhāna-sammappadhāna-iddhipāda-jhāna-vimokkha-samādhi-samāpattīnaṃ sīlaṃ patitṭhaṃ,</p>	<p>“Sīla, great King, has the particular characteristic to be the foundation of establishing all other wholesome qualities:</p> <p>Mastery over the sense-faculties; the factors of enlightenment; the constituents of the path; the establishment of awareness; the right endeavours, the psychic powers; states of absorption; deliverance; concentration and final attainment. All these are based on sīla.</p>
<p>sīle patitṭhito kho, mahārāja, yogāvacaro sīlaṃ nissāya sīle patitṭhāya</p> <p>pañcendriyāni bhāveti saddhindriyaṃ vīriyindriyaṃ satindriyaṃ samādhindriyaṃ paññindriyanti, sabbe kusalā dhammā na parihāyanti” ti.</p>	<p>A spiritual practitioner, O King, on the base of sīla, established in sīla and well founded in sīla develops the five mental strengths: the strength of faith, the strength of effort, the strength of awareness, the strength of concentration and the strength of wisdom, to him all these wholesome qualities will not decrease!”</p>
<p>“Opammaṃ karohi” ti.</p> <p>“Yathā, mahārāja, ye keci bījaḡamabhūtagāma vuddhiṃ virūhiṃ vepullaṃ āpajjanti, sabbe te pathaviṃ nissāya pathaviyaṃ patitṭhāya vuddhiṃ</p>	<p>“Give me an analogy!”</p> <p>“Just as, great King, whatever growth, increase and development seeds and plants undergo, all undergo such growth, increase and development based on</p>

<p>virūlhiṃ vepullaṃ āpajjanti. Evameva kho, mahārāja, yogāvacaro sīlaṃ nissāya sīle patiṭṭhāya pañcindriyāni bhāveti saddhindriyaṃ vīriyindriyaṃ satindriyaṃ samādhindriyaṃ paññindriyaṃ”ti.</p>	<p>the soil, depending on the soil. In the same way, great king, a spiritual practitioner, O King, on the base of sīla, established in sīla and well founded in sīla develops the five mental strengths: the strength of faith, the strength of effort, the strength of awareness, the strength of concentration and the strength of wisdom, to him all these wholesome qualities will not decrease!”</p>
<p>“Bhiyyo opammaṃ karohī””ti. “Yathā, mahārāja, ye keci balakaraṇīyā kammantā kayiranti, sabbe te pathaviṃ nissāya pathaviyaṃ patiṭṭhāya kayiranti. Evameva kho, mahārāja, yogāvacaro sīlaṃ nissāya sīle patiṭṭhāya pañcindriyāni bhāveti saddhindriyaṃ vīriyindriyaṃ satindriyaṃ samādhindriyaṃ paññindriyaṃ”ti.</p>	<p>“Give me another analogy!” “Just as, great King, those doing physical work using their physical strength depend on the earth, and can work only in dependence on the earth. In the same way, O King, a spiritual practitioner on the base of sīla, established in sīla and well founded in sīla develops the five mental strengths: the strength of faith, the strength of effort, the strength of awareness, the strength of concentration and the strength of wisdom, to him all these wholesome qualities will not decrease!”</p>
<p>“Bhiyyo opammaṃ karohī””ti. “Yathā, mahārāja, nagaravaḍḍhakī nagaraṃ māpetukāmo paṭhamaṃ nagaraṭṭhānaṃ sodhāpetvā khāṇukaṇṭakaṃ apakaḍḍhāpetvā bhūmiṃ samaṃ kārāpetvā tato aparabhāge vīthi-catukka-siṅghāṭakādi-paricchedena vibhajitvā nagaraṃ māpeti. Evameva kho, mahārāja, yogāvacaro sīlaṃ nissāya sīle patiṭṭhāya pañcindriyāni bhāveti saddhindriyaṃ vīriyindriyaṃ satindriyaṃ samādhindriyaṃ paññindriyaṃ”nti.</p>	<p>“Give me another analogy!” “Just as a planner of a town, desirous of building it, first clears the site, removes tree-stumps and obstacles, levels the ground and only later on determines on streets, squares, crossroads and so forth and in this way builds the town, in the same way, O King a spiritual practitioner on the base of sīla, established in sīla and well founded in sīla develops the five mental strengths: the strength of faith, the strength of effort, the strength of awareness, the strength of concentration and the strength of wisdom, to him all these wholesome qualities will not decrease!”</p>