

Exploring the Ancient Path in the Buddha's Own Words

Lesson 3.7.12 Assājānīyasuttam Eight Virtues Extolled that Qualify a Follower of the Path



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Assājānīyasuttam	Eight Virtues Extolled that Qualify a Follower of the Path
<p>“Aṭṭhahi, bhikkhave, aṅgehi samannāgato rañño bhaddo assājānīyo rājāraho hoti rājabhoggo, rañño aṅanteva saṅkham gacchati. Katamehi aṭṭhahi?”</p>	<p>“If a well-trained excellent horse possesses eight attributes, Bhikkhus, these make it worthy of a king, a garnish of a king and it is understood as a decoration of the kingship. What are these eight?”</p>
<p>Idha, bhikkhave, rañño bhaddo assājānīyo ubhato sujāto hoti – mātito ca pitito ca. Yassaṃ disāyaṃ aññepi bhaddā assājānīyā jāyanti, tassaṃ disāyaṃ jāto hoti.</p>	<p>Here, Bhikkhus, such a well-trained excellent horse is well born from both sides – maternal and parental. It gets birth in a region where all the other well-trained thoroughbred horses are born.</p>
<p>Yaṃ kho panassa bhojanaṃ denti – allam vā sukham vā – taṃ sakkaccaṃyeva paribhuñjati avikiranto.</p>	<p>Whatever food they give him, moist or dry, it eats and enjoys it with respect and without scattering it about.</p>
<p>Jegucchī hoti uccāram vā passāvaṃ vā abhinisīdituṃ vā abhinipajjituṃ vā. Sorato hoti sukhasaṃvāso, na ca aññe asse ubbejetā.</p>	<p>It gets repelled if it was to sit or recline near excrements or urine. It is pleasant and easy to live with and does not agitate other horses.</p>

<p>Yāni kho panassa honti sātheyyāni kūṭeyyāni jimheyyāni vaṅkeyyāni, tāni yathābhūtaṃ sārathissa āvikattā hoti. Tesamassa sārathi abhinimadanāya vāyamati.</p>	<p>Whatever tricks, frauds, crookedness or cunningness it may possess it will convey all as they do exist to its trainer. As a result of this the trainer is able to attempt quashing them.</p>
<p>Vāhī kho pana hoti. ‘Kāmaññe assā vahantu vā mā vā, ahamettha vahissāmī’ti cittaṃ uppādeti.</p>	<p>It carries whatever it is supposed to carry with a determined mind: “Independent if other horses carry it or not - I myself will carry it!”</p>
<p>Gacchanto kho pana ujumaggeneva gacchati. Thāmavā hoti yāva jīvitamarapaṇariyādānā thāmaṃ upadaṃsetā.</p>	<p>When moving, it walks only along a straight path. Resolute in itself, it exhibits this strength to the end of its life.</p>
<p>Imehi kho, bhikkhave, aṭṭhahi aṅgehi samannāgato rañño bhaddo assājānīyo rājāraho hoti rājabhoggo, rañño aṅganteva saṅkhaṃ gacchati.</p>	<p>If a well-trained excellent horse possesses these eight attributes, Bhikkhus, then it is it worthy of a king, a garnish of a king and it is understood as a decoration of the kingship.</p>
<p>“Evamevaṃ kho, bhikkhave, aṭṭhahi dhammehi samannāgato bhikkhu āhuneyyo hoti pāhuneyyo dakkhiṇeyyo añjalikaraṇīyo anuttaraṃ puññakkhettaṃ lokassa. Katamehi aṭṭhahi?”</p>	<p>In the same way, Bhikkhus, if a Bhikkhu possesses the following eight attributes, they will make him worthy of gifts, worthy of hospitality, worthy of offerings and of reverent salutation; they make him an incomparable field of merit for the world. Now, what are these eight?</p>
<p>Idha, bhikkhave, bhikkhu sīlavā hoti, pātimokkhasaṃvarasaṃvuto viharati ācāragocarasampanno aṇumattesu vajjesu bhayadassāvī, samādāya sikkhati sikkhāpadesu.</p>	<p>He is perfect in upholding sīla. He dwells with restraint and lives according to the precepts, his conduct and his resort are perfectly in line with these and he sees danger in minute faults.</p>

	He follows the training rules he has undertaken exactly and trains in them.
Yam kho panassa bhojanaṃ denti – lūkhaṃ vā pañītaṃ vā – taṃ sakkaccaṃyeva paribhuñjati avihaññamāno.	Whatever food is given to him coarse or sweet, he eats and enjoys it with respect and without getting annoyed about it.
Jegucchī hoti kāyaduccaritena vacīduccaritena manoduccaritena; jegucchī hoti anekavihitānaṃ pāpakānaṃ akusalānaṃ dhammānaṃ samāpattiyā.	He gets repelled by all evil physical, verbal or mental and likewise gets repelled by the acquisition of any of the many other unwholesome facets that may befall one.
Sorato hoti sukhasaṃvāso, na aññe bhikkhū ubbejetā. Yāni kho panassa honti sāṭheyyāni kūṭeyyāni jimheyyāni vañkeyyāni, tāni yathābhūtaṃ āvikattā hoti satthari vā viññūsu vā sabrahmacārīsu. Tesamassa satthā vā viññū vā sabrahmacārī abhinimmadanāya vāyamati.	He is pleasant and easy to live with and does not agitate other monks. Whatever tricks, frauds, crookedness or cunningness he may possess he will reveal them as they do exist to his Teacher or his wise fellow monks. As a result of this his Teacher or his wise fellow monks are able to attempt quashing them out.
Sikkhitā kho pana hoti. ‘Kāmaññe bhikkhū sikkhantu vā mā vā, ahamettha sikkhissāmi’ ti cittaṃ uppādeti.	He trains himself in whatever training he has undertaken with a determined mind: “Independent if other monks train themselves or not, I will train myself!”
Gacchanto kho pana ujumaggeneva gacchati; tatrāyaṃ ujumaggo, seyyathidaṃ – sammādiṭṭhi sammāsaṅkappo sammāvācā sammākammanto sammā-ājīvo sammāvāyāmo sammāsati sammāsamādhi.	When moving, he walks only along a straight path, which is: Right view, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right awareness and right concentration.
Āraddhavīriyo viharati – ‘kāmaṃ taco ca nhāru ca atṭhi ca avasissatu, sarīre	Resolute he exhibits this strength with determination: “May my skin and sinews, my

<p>upasussatu maṃsalohitaṃ; yaṃ taṃ purisathāmena purisavīriyena purisaparakkamena pattaḃbaṃ, na taṃ apāpuṇitvā vīriyassa saṅghānaṃ bhavissatī'ti.</p>	<p>bones remain and the flesh and blood of my body dry up but let my efforts be maintained until I have attained what is attainable by resolution, energy and all the exertion of a man.”</p>
<p>Imehi kho, bhikkhave, aṭṭhahi dhammehi samannāgato bhikkhu āhuneyyo hoti pāhuneyyo dakkhiṇeyyo añjalikaraṇīyo anuttaraṃ puññakkhettaṃ lokassā'ti.</p>	<p>If a Bhikkhu possesses these eight attributes, they will make him worthy of gifts, worthy of hospitality, worthy of offerings and of reverent salutation; they make him an incomparable field of merit for the world.”</p>