Majjhima Nikāya - The Middle Length Discourses

The Warm Cloth (Baahitikasutta)

I heard thus.

At one time the Blessed One lived in the monastery offered by Anaathapindika in Jeta's grove in Saavatthi. Venerable Aananda put on robes in the morning, taking bowl and robes entered Saavatthi for alms. After the alms round, when the meal was over, approached the palace of Migaara's mother to spend the day. At that time king Pasenadi of Kosala having ascended the elephant Ekapundariika was going through Saavatthi during the day. King Pasenadi of Kosala saw venerable Aananda coming in the distance and asked the chief minister Siriwadda, 'Siriwadda, is that venerable Aananda?' 'Great king, it is venerable Aananda.' Then king Pasenadi of Kosala called a certain man, and said. 'Good man approach venerable Aananda, worship him for my sake, with your head at his feet and tell him. Venerable sir, King Pasenadi of Kosala worships you with his head at your feet and said. If venerable Aananda has no urgent work to do, would he wait a moment for king Pasenadi of Kosala, out of compassion.' He agreed, approached venerable Aananda, worshipped, stood on a side and said, 'venerable sir king Pasenadi of Kosala worships you, with his head at your feet and says. If venerable Aananda has no urgent work, could he wait a moment for king Pasenadi of Kosala out of compassion.' Venerable Aananda agreed silently. The king went on the elephant's back as far as he could go and descending from the elephant, approached venerable Aananda on foot. He worshipped venerable Aananda and stood on a side and said. 'If venerable Aananda has no urgent work, could he approach the bank of river Acirawathie, out of compassion. Venerable Aananda accepted it silently, approached the bank of river Acirawathie and sat on the prepared seat. The king went on the elephant's back as far as he could go, descending from the elephant, approached venerable Aananda on foot, worshipped him and stood on a side. Then he said. 'May venerable Aananda, sit on the elephant rug." Useless, great king, I'm seated, you sit on it. King Pasenadi of Kosala sat on the prepared seat and said. 'Venerable Aananda, does the Blessed One practise bodily behaviour that is hostile to recluses Brahmins and the wise?' 'No, great king the Blessed One does not practise any bodily behaviour that is hostile to recluses, brahmins and the wise.

Sir Aananda, does the Blessed One, practise verbal behaviour that is hostile to recluses, brahmins and the wise? Does the Blessed One practise mental behaviour that is hostile to recluses, brahmins and the wise?' 'No, great king the Blessed One does not practise any verbal... any mental behaviour that is hostile to recluses and brahmins and the wise.'

'Wonderful and surprising venerable sir, this question we could not ask and get an explained, now venerable Aananda has explained it to me. Venerable sir, fools who do not think and fathom their words, praise or blame others. I do not believe those words.

Sir Aananda, what kind of bodily behaviour is hostile to recluses, Brahmins and the wise?'

'Great king bodily behaviour that is demerit.'

'Venerable sir, what kind of bodily behaviour is demerit?'

'Great king, bodily behaviour that is faulty"

'Venerable sir, what kind of bodily behaviour is faulty?'

'Great king, bodily behaviour that is troublesome.'

'Venerable sir, what kind of bodily behaviour is troublesome?'

'Great king those with unpleasant results.'

'Venerable sir, what kind of bodily behaviour has unpleasant results?'
'Great king, bodily behaviour that is hurtful to oneself, hurtful to others and hurtful to both and on account of which demerit increases and merit decreases. Such bodily behaviour is hurtful to oneself, to others and to both.
'Sir Aananda, what kind of verbal behaviour,re mental behaviour is hostile to recluses Brahmins and the wise?'
'Great king, mental behaviour that is demerit.'
'Venerable sir, what kind of mental behaviour is demerit?'
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'Venerable sir, what kind of mental behaviour is faulty?'
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'Venerable sir, what kind of mental behaviour has unpleasant results?'

'Great king, mental behaviour that is hurtful to oneself, hurtful to others and hurtful to both and or account of which demerit increases and merit decreases. Such mental behaviour is hurtful to oneself to others and to both.
Great king, mental behaviour that is hurtful to oneself, hurtful to others and hurtful to both and or account of which demerit increases and merit decreases that mental behaviour is hurtful to oneself to others and to both.'
'Venerable sir, does the Blessed One approve the dispelling of all demerit?'
'Great king the Thus Gone One has dispelled all demerit, is endowed with merit.'
'Sir Aananda, what kind of bodily behaviour is well disposed to recluses, brahmins and the wise?'
'Great king bodily behaviour that is merit.'
'Venerable sir, what kind of bodily behaviour is merit?'
'Great king, bodily behaviour that is faultless"
'Venerable sir, what kind of bodily behaviour is faultless?'
'Great king, bodily behaviour that is not troublesome.'



'Great king those with pleasant results.'

'Venerable sir, what kind of mental behaviour has pleasant results?'

'Great king, mental behaviour that is not hurtful, to oneself, to others and to both and on account of which demerit decreases and merit increases that mental behaviour is not hurtful to oneself, to others and to both.

Great king, mental behaviour that is not hurtful, to oneself, to others and to both and on account of which demerit decreases and merit increases, that mental behaviour is not hurtful to oneself, to others and to both.'

'Venerable sir, does the Blessed One approve the acquiring of all merit?'

'Great king the Thus Gone One has dispelled all demerit, is endowed with merit.'

'Wonderful and surprising, I'm pleased with these words of venerable Aananda. I'm so pleased, I would offer my jewel of an elephant to venerable Aananda, or my jewel of a horse, or even a splendid village, we know that they are not suitable. This warm cloth was sent by kingAjaatasattu, of Magadha. in a case of reeds, it's sixteen measures by length and eight measures by breadth, it is suitable, may venerable Aananda accept it, out of compassion.'

'Useless, great king, my three robes are complete.'

'Venerable sir, we both see, this river Acirawathie falling in torrents from the mountains and flowing flooding the banks. In like manner, venerable Aananda will make his three robes with this warm

cloth. Will distribute the earlier three robes among the co-associates in the holy life, I think. May

venerable Aananda accept this warm cloth.'

Venerable Aananda accepted the warm cloth. Then king Pasenadi of Kosala said to venerable

Aananda. 'Venerable sir, we have to go now, there's much work to be done.'

'Great king do, as you think fit.' King PasenadiofKosala got up from his seat, worshipped and

circumambulated venerable Aananda and went away. Soon after the king had gone, venerable

Aananda approached and worshipped the Blessed One, and sat on a side. Venerable Aananda

informed the Blessed One all the conversation that occurred between the king and himself and

offered the warm cloth to the Blessed One.

Then the Blessed One addressed the bhikkhus. 'Bhikkhus, it is rare and great gain for king Pasenadi

of Kosala, that he approaches and associates venerable Aananda.' The bhikkhus were pleased with

the words of the Blessed One.

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