**34. Parābhava Sutta:**Discourse on Downfall

Evaṁ me sutaṁ. Ekaṁ samayaṁ Bhagavā Sāvatthiyaṁ viharati Jetavane Anāthapiṇḍikassa ārāme. Atha kho aññatarā devatā abhikkantāya rattiyā abhikkantavaṇṇā kevalakappaṁ Jetavanaṁ obhāsetvā yena Bhagavā tenupasaṅkami. Upasaṅkamitvā Bhagavantaṁ abhivādetvā ekamantaṁ aṭṭhāsi. Ekamantaṁ ṭhitā kho sā devatā Bhagavantaṁ gāthāya ajjhabhāsi.

Thus have I heard: On one occasion  the Blessed One was living in Sāvatthi,  at Jeta’s Grove, at Anāthapiṇḍika’s monastery. Now when the night was far advanced,  a certain deity whose surpassing radiance  illuminated the whole of Jeta’s Grove,  came to the presence of the Blessed One,  respectfully saluted him, and stood beside him. Standing thus, he addressed the Blessed One in verse:

1. Parābhavantaṁ purisaṁ – Mayaṁ pucchāma Gotamaṁ

Bhagavantaṁ puṭṭhumā’gaṁma – Kiṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ?

About the declining man we question you,  Gotama, the great teacher  we have come to ask the Blessed One:  What is the cause of his downfall?

2. Suvijāno bhavaṁ hoti – Suvijāno parābhavo

Dhammakāmo bhavaṁ hoti – Dhammadessī parābhavo

Easily known is the progressing one.  Easily known is the declining one. The lover of Dhamma prospers.  The hater of Dhamma declines.

3. Iti h’etaṁ vijānāma – Paṭhamo so parābhavo

Dutiyaṁ Bhagavā brūhi – Kiṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ?

We understand this as explained by you;  this is the first cause of his downfall. Tell us the second, oh Blessed One.  What is the cause of his downfall?

4. Asant’assa piyā honti – Sante na kurute piyaṁ

Asataṁ dhammaṁ roceti – Taṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ

The vicious are dear to him.  He likes not the virtuous. He approves the teachings of the ill taught.  This is the cause of his downfall.

5. Iti h’etaṁ vijānāma – Dutiyo so parābhavo

Tatiyaṁ Bhagavā brūhi – Kiṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ?

We understand this as explained by you;  this is the second cause of his downfall. Tell us the third, oh Blessed One.  What is the cause of his downfall?

6. Niddāsīli sabhāsīli – Anuṭṭhātā ca yo naro

Alaso kodhapaññāṇo – Taṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ

The fondness of sleep and company,  being inactive and lazy,  and displaying anger  this is the cause of his downfall.

7. Iti h’etaṁ vijānāma – Tatiyo so parābhavo

Catutthaṁ Bhagavā brūhi – Kiṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ?

We understand this as explained by you;  this is the third cause of his downfall. Tell us the fourth, oh Blessed One.  What is the cause of his downfall?

8. Yo mātaraṁ vā pitaraṁ vā – Jiṇṇakaṁ gata yobbanaṁ

Pahūsanto na bharati – Taṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ

If someone being affluent,  does not support his mother and father  who are old and past their prime  this is the cause of his downfall.

9. Iti h’etaṁ vijānāma – Catuttho so parābhavo

Pañcamaṁ Bhagavā brūhi – Kiṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ?

We understand this as explained by you;  this is the fourth cause of his downfall. Tell us the fifth, oh Blessed One.  What is the cause of his downfall?

10. Yo brāhmaṇaṁ vā samaṇaṁ vā – Aññaṁ vā’pi vaṇibbakaṁ

Musāvādena vañceti – Taṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ

If one by falsehood deceives  either a brāhmana, or a recluse,  or any other homeless one  this is the cause of his downfall.

11. Iti h’etaṁ vijānāma – Pañcamo so parābhavo

Chaṭṭhamaṁ Bhagavā brūhi – Kiṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ?

We understand this as explained by you;  this is the fifth cause of his downfall. Tell us the sixth, oh Blessed One.  What is the cause of his downfall?

12. Pahūtavitto puriso – Sahirañño sabhojano

Eko bhuñjati sādhūni – Taṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ

If someone who is possessed of much wealth,  who has gold and abundance of food,  but enjoys these delicacies by himself  this is the cause of his downfall.

13. Iti h’etaṁ vijānāma – Chaṭṭhamo so parābhavo

Sattamaṁ Bhagavā brūhi – Kiṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ?

We understand this as explained by you;  this is the sixth cause of his downfall. Tell us the seventh, oh Blessed One.  What is the cause of his downfall?

14. Jātitthaddho dhanatthaddho – Gottatthaddo ca yo naro

Saññātiṁ atimaññeti – Taṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ

If one, proud of his birth,  of his wealth, and of his clan,  despises his relations  this is the cause of his downfall.

15. Iti h’etaṁ vijānāma – Sattamo so parābhavo

Aṭṭhamaṁ Bhagavā brūhi – Kiṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ?

We understand this as explained by you;  this is the seventh cause of his downfall. Tell us the eighth, oh Blessed One.  What is the cause of his downfall?

16. Itthidhutto surādhutto – Akkhadhutto ca yo naro

Laddhaṁ laddhaṁ vināseti – Taṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ

If one is addicted to women,  is a drunkard, a gambler,  and wastes all of his earnings  this is the cause of his downfall.

17. Iti h’etaṁ vijānāma – Aṭṭhamo so parābhavo

Navamaṁ Bhagavā brūhi – Kiṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ?

We understand this as explained by you;  this is the eighth cause of his downfall. Tell us the ninth, oh Blessed One.  What is the cause of his downfall?

18. Sehi dārehi’santuṭṭho – Vesiyāsu padissati

Dissati paradāresu – Taṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ

Not satisfied with his own wife,  he is seen among prostitutes  and the wives of others.  This is the cause of his downfall.

19. Iti h’etaṁ vijānāma – Navamo so parābhavo

Dasamaṁ Bhagavā brūhi – Kiṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ?

We understand this as explained by you;  this is the ninth cause of his downfall. Tell us the tenth, oh Blessed One.  What is the cause of his downfall?

20. Atītayobbano poso – Āneti timbarutthaniṁ

Tassā issā na supati – Taṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ

A person past his youth  takes as wife, a girl in her teens,  and sleeps not, being jealous of her.  This is the cause of his downfall.

21. Iti h’etaṁ vijānāma – Dasamo so parābhavo

Ekādasamaṁ Bhagavā brūhi – Kiṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ?

We understand this as explained by you;  this is the tenth cause of his downfall. Tell us the eleventh, oh Blessed One.  What is the cause of his downfall?

22. Itthi soṇḍiṁ vikiraṇiṁ – Purisaṁ vā’pi tādisaṁ

Issariyasmiṁ ṭhāpeti – Taṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ

If one appoints authority  to a woman or a man  who is a drunkard  and spends carelessly,  this is the cause of his downfall.

23. Iti h’etaṁ vijānāma – Ekādasamo so parābhavo

Dvādasamaṁ Bhagavā brūhi – Kiṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ?

We understand this as explained by you;  this is the eleventh cause of his downfall. Tell us the twelth, oh Blessed One.  What is the cause of his downfall?

24. Appabhogo mahātaṇho – Khattiye jāyate kule

So’dha rajjaṁ patthayati – Taṁ parābhavato mukhaṁ

One is born in the kings’ cast  but having little wealth and great ambitions,  wishes selfishly to become the king.  This is the cause of his downfall.

25. Ete parābhave loke – Paṇḍito samavekkhiya

Ariyo dassanasampanno – Sa lokaṁ bhajate sivan’ti.

Fully realizing these twelve causes  of downfall in the world,  the sage, endowed with noble insight,  enters the realm of Nibbāna.

Etena saccena suvatthi hotu!

By this truth, may there be well-being!