

Mahā Maṅgala Suttā

The Discourse on Blessings

Khuddakapāṭha 5
Sutta Nipāta 2.4

**Evam me sutam. Ekaṃ samayaṃ Bhagavā
Sāvatthiyaṃ viharati Jetavane
Anāthapiṇḍikassa ārāme. Atha kho
aññatarā devatā abhikkantāya rattiya
abhikkantavaṇṇā kevalakappaṃ
Jetavanaṃ obhāsetvā yena Bhagavā
tenupasaṅkami. Upasaṅkamitvā
Bhagavantaṃ abhivādetvā ekamantaṃ
aṭṭhāsi. Ekamantaṃ ṭhitā kho sā devatā
Bhagavantaṃ gāthāya ajjhabhāsi.**

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Thus have I heard: • On one occasion, the Blessed One was living in Sāvatti • at Jetavana • Anāthapiṇḍika's monastery. • Now when the night was far advanced, • a certain deity, whose surpassing radiance • illuminated the whole of Jetavana, • approached the Blessed One, • respectfully saluted him and stood to one side. • Standing thus, he addressed the Blessed One in verse:

**1. Bahū devā manussā ca
Maṅgalāni acintayum
Ākaṅkhamānā sotthānaṃ
Brūhi maṅgalamuttamaṃ**

1. Many deities and humans longing for happiness • have pondered on the question of blessings. Pray, tell me, what are the highest blessings?

**2. Asevanā ca bālānaṃ
Paṇḍitānañ ca sevanā
Pūjā ca pūjanīyānaṃ
Etaṃ maṅgalamuttamaṃ**

2. Not to associate with the foolish
but to associate with the wise;
to honour those worthy of honour
these are the highest blessings.

**3. Patirūpadesavāso ca
Pubbe ca katapuññatā
Attasammāpaṇīdhi ca
Etaṃ maṅgalamuttamaṃ**

3. To live in a good place
having done merit in the past,
and to set oneself in the right direction
these are the highest blessings.

**4. Bāhusaccañca sippañca
Vinayo ca susikkhito
Subhāsitā ca yā vācā
Etaṃ maṅgalamuttamaṃ**

4. Possessing vast knowledge and many skills, well disciplined and pleasant in speech • these are the highest blessings.

**5. Mātāpitū upaṭṭhānaṃ
Puttadārassa saṅgaho
Anākulā ca kammantā
Etaṃ maṅgalamuttamaṃ**

5. Supporting one's mother and father,
caring for one's wife and children,
an honest occupation well undertaken
these are the highest blessings.

**6. Dānañca dhammacariyā ca
Ñātakānañ ca saṅgaho
Anavajjāni kammāni
Etaṃ maṅgalamuttamaṃ**

6. Being devoted to giving and living by the Dhamma, caring for relatives and blameless conduct • by body speech and mind. These are the highest blessings.

**7. Ārati virati pāpā
Majjapānā ca saññaṃ
Appamādo ca dhammesu
Etaṃ maṅgalamuttamaṃ**

7. To cease and abstain from evil,
to refrain from intoxicating drinks,
and diligence in practising the Dhamma.
These are the highest blessings.

**8. Gāravo ca nivāto ca
Santutṭhī ca kataññutā
Kālena dhammasavanaṃ
Etaṃ maṅgalamuttamaṃ**

8. Paying reverence to those worthy of reverence, humility, contentment, gratitude, and timely hearing of the Dhamma. These are the highest blessings.

**9. Khantī ca sovacassatā
Samaṇānañca dassanaṃ
Kālena dhammasākacchā
Etaṃ maṅgalamuttamaṃ**

9. Patience, obedience, meeting monks • and timely discussions on the Dhamma. These are the highest blessings.

**10. Tapo ca brahmacariyañca
Ariyasaccānadassanaṃ
Nibbāṇasacchikiriyaṃ ca
Etaṃ maṅgalamuttamaṃ**

10. Self-control, celibacy,
understanding the Noble Truths,
and realizing Nibbāna
these are the highest blessings.

**11. Phuṭṭhassa lokadhammehi
Cittaṃ yassa na kampaṭi
Asokaṃ virajaṃ khemaṃ
Etaṃ maṅgalamuttamaṃ**

11. The mind that is unfazed
by the ups and downs of life,
sorrowless, stainless, fearless
these are the highest blessings.

**12. Etādisāni katvāna
Sabbatthamaparājitā
Sabbattha sotthiṃ gacchanti taṃ
Tesaṃ maṅgalamuttaman'ti.**

12. Having acted in this way
being victorious everywhere,
they achieve all that is good.
For them, these are the highest blessings.

Etena saccena suvatthi hotu!

*By this truth,
may there be well-being!*