

**Snp 1.6**

**Parābhava Sutta:**

**Discourse on Downfall**

**Evam̐ me sutam̐. Ekaṁ samayaṁ  
Bhagavā Sāvattthiyaṁ viharati  
Jetavane Anāthapiṇḍikassa ārāme.  
Atha kho aññatarā devatā  
abhikkantāya rattiyaṁ  
abhikkantavaṇṇā kevalakappaṁ  
Jetavanaṁ obhāsetvā yena  
Bhagavā tenupasaṅkami.**

**Upasaṅkamtivā Bhagavantam  
abhivādetvā ekamantaṃ  
atthāsi.**

**Ekamantaṃ ṭhitā kho sā devatā  
Bhagavantam 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. Parābhavantam purisaṃ –  
Mayaṃ pucchāma Gotamaṃ  
Bhagavantam puṭṭhumā'gaṃma  
– Kiṃ parābhavato mukhaṃ?**

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 bhavaṃ hoti –  
Suvijāno parābhavo  
Dhammakāmo bhavaṃ 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  
Dutiyam 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 piyaṃ  
Asataṃ dhammaṃ roceti –  
Taṃ parābhavato mukhaṃ**

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'etaṃ vijānāma –  
Dutiyo so parābhavo  
Tatiyaṃ Bhagavā brūhi –  
Kiṃ parābhavato mukhaṃ?**

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 kodhapaññaṇo –  
Taṃ parābhavato mukhaṃ**

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

**7. Iti h'etaṃ vijānāma –  
Tatiyo so parābhavo  
Catutthamṃ Bhagavā brūhi –  
Kiṃ parābhavato mukhaṃ?**

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 mātaram vā pitaram vā –  
Jiṇṇakam gata yobbanam  
Pahūsanto na bharati –  
Tam parābhavato mukham**

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'etaṃ vijānāma –  
Catuttho so parābhavo  
Pañcamamṃ Bhagavā brūhi –  
Kiṃ parābhavato mukhaṃ?**

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'etaṃ vijānāma –  
Pañcamo so parābhavo  
Chatṭhamam Bhagavā brūhi –  
Kiṃ parābhavato mukham?**

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 sādḥūni –  
Taṃ parābhavato mukhaṃ**

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'etaṃ vijānāma –  
Chaṭṭhamo so parābhavo  
Sattamaṃ Bhagavā brūhi –  
Kiṃ parābhavato mukhaṃ?**

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  
Saññātiṃ atimaññeti –  
Taṃ parābhavato mukhaṃ**

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'etaṃ vijānāma –  
Sattamo so parābhavo  
Atṭhamam Bhagavā brūhi –  
Kiṃ parābhavato mukham?**

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  
Laddham laddham vināseti –  
Tam parābhavato mukham**

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'etaṃ vijānāma –  
Atṭhamo so parābhavo  
Navamaṃ Bhagavā brūhi –  
Kiṃ parābhavato mukhaṃ?**

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'santutṭho –  
Vesiyāsu padissati  
Dissati paradāresu –  
Taṃ parābhavato mukhaṃ**

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 timbarutthaniṃ  
Tassā issā na supatī –  
Taṃ parābhavato mukhaṃ**

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 soṇḍim vikiraṇim –  
Purisaṁ vā'pi tādisaṁ  
Issariyasmim 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 twelfth,  
oh Blessed One.  
What is the cause of his  
downfall?

**24. Appabhogo mahātaṇho –  
Khattiye jāyate kule  
So'dha rajjam patthayati –  
Tam parābhavato mukham**

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 lokam 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!

**Sādhu! Sādhu! Sādhu!**

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