

DISCOURSE ON BLESSINGS

Thus have I heard :

On one occasion, the Blessed One
was dwelling at the monastery of Anāthapindika
in Jeta's Grove near Savatthi.

When the night was far spent,
a certain deity whose surpassing splendour
illuminated the entire Jeta Grove,
came to the presence of the Blessed One,
and drawing near, respectfully saluted the Lord
and stood to one side.

Standing thus,
he addressed the Blessed One in verse :

Many deities and men, yearning after good,
have pondered on Blessings.
Pray, tell me the Supreme Blessing.
Not to associate with fools,
to associate with the wise,
and honour those who are worthy of honour;
this is Blessing Supreme.

To live in a suitable locality,
to have done meritorious actions in the past,
and to have set oneself on the right course (towards emancipation);
this is Blessing Supreme.

Vast-learning, perfect handicraft,
a highly trained discipline
and pleasant speech;
this is Blessing Supreme.

The support of father and mother,
the cherishing of wife and children
and peaceful occupations;
this is Blessing Supreme.

Liberal giving, righteous conduct,
the helping of relatives
and blameless actions;
this is Blessing Supreme.

To cease and abstain from evil,
forbearance with respect to intoxicants
and steadfastness in virtue;
this is Blessing Supreme.

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Reverence, humility,
contentment, bearing gratitude and
opportune hearing of the Dhamma;
this is Blessing Supreme.

Patience, being easy to advise,
sight of the Samanas (holy men),
and timely discussion of the Dhamma;
this is Blessing Supreme.

Self-control, living a noble life,
realizing the Noble Truths
and the attainment of Nibbāna;
this is Blessing Supreme.

He whose mind does not waver,
by contact with worldly contingencies,
sorrowless, stainless and secure;
this is Blessing Supreme.

To them, fulfilling matters such as these,
everywhere invincible,
in every way secure;
these are Blessings Supreme.