# RATANA SUTTA

#### **BACKGROUND STORY**

The city of Vesali was afflicted by a famine, causing death, especially to the poor folks. Due to the presence of decaying corpses the evil spirits began to haunt the city; this was followed by a pestilence. Plagued by these three fears of famine, non-human beings and pestilence, the citizens sought the help of the Buddha who was then living at Rajagaha.

Followed by a large number of monks including the Venerable Ananda, his attendant disciple, the Buddha came to the city of Vesali. With the arrival of the Buddha, there were torrential rains which swept away the putrefying corpses. The atmosphere became purified, the city was clean.

Thereupon the Buddha delivered this Discourse on the Jewels (Ratana Sutta) to the Venerable Ananda, and gave him instructions as to how he should tour the city with the Licchavi citizens reciting the discourse as a mark of protection to the people of Vesali. The Venerable Ananda followed the instructions, and sprinkled the sanctified water from the Buddha's own alms bowl. As a consequence, the evil spirits were exorcised, the pestilence subsided. Thereafter the Venerable Ananda returned with the citizens of Vesali to the Public Hall where the Buddha and his disciples had assembled awaiting his arrival. There the Buddha recited the same Discourse on the Jewels to the gathering.

# RATANA SUTTA

Yānīdha bhūtāni samāgatāni Bhummāni vā yāni va antalikkhe Sabbeva bhūtā sumanā bhavantu Atho pi sakkacca sunantu bhāsitam

Tasmā hi bhūtā nisāmetha sabbe Mettam karotha mānusiyā pajāya Divā ca ratto ca haranti ye balim Tasmā hi ne rakkhatha appamattā

Yam kiñci vittam idha vā huram vā Saggesu vā yam ratanam panītam Na no samam atthi tathāgatena Idam pi Buddhe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu

Khayam virāgam amatam panītam Yadajjhagā sakyamuni samāhito Na tena dhammena sam'atthi kiñci Idam pi dhamme ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu

Yam buddhasettho parivannayi sucim Samādhi-mānantari-kañña-māhu Samādhinā tena samo na vijjati Idam pi dhamme ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu

Ye puggalā attha satam pasatthā Cattāri etāni yugāni honti Te dakkhineyyā sugatassa sāvakā Etesu dinnāni mahapphalāni Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu

Ye suppayuttā manasā dalhena Nikkāmino gotama sāsanamhi Te pattipattā amatam vigayha Laddhā mudhā nibbutim bhuñjamānā Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu

Yathindakhīlo pathavim sito siyā Catubbhi vātehi asampakampiyo Tathūpamam sappurisam vadāmi Yo ariyasaccāni avecca passati Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu

Ye ariyasaccāni vibhāvayanti Gambhīrapaññena sudesitāni Kiñcāpi te honti bhusappamattā Na te bhavam atthamam ādiyanti Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu Sahāvassa dassana sampadāya Tayassu dhammā jahitā bhavanti Sakkāyaditthi vicikicchitañ ca Sīlabbatam vāpi yadatthi kiñci Catūhapāyehi ca vippamutto Cha cābhithānāni abhabbo kātum Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatti hotu

Kiñcāpi so kammam karoti pāpakam Kāyena vācā uda cetasā vā Abhabbo so tassa paticchādāya Abhabbatā ditthapadassa vuttā Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu

Vanappagumbe yathā phussitagge Gimhānamāse pathamasmim gimhe Tathūpamam dhammavaram adesayi Nibbānagāmim paramam hitāya Idam pi Buddhe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu

Varo varaññū varado varāharo Anuttaro dhammavaram adesayi Idam pi Buddhe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu

Khīnam purānam navam natthi sambhavam Viratta cittā āyatike bhavasmim Te khīnabījā avirūlhicchandā Nibbanti dhīrā yathā'yam padīpo Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu

Yānīdha bhūtāni samāgatāni Bhummāni vā yāni va antalikkhe Tathāgatam devamanussa-pūjitam Buddham namassāma suvatthi hotu

Yānīdha bhūtāni samāgatāni Bhummāni vā yāni va antalikkhe Tathāgatam devamanussa-pūjitam Dhammam namassāma suvatthi hotu

Yānīdha bhūtāni samāgatāni Bhummāni vā yāni va antalikkhe Tathāgatam devamanussa-pūjitam Sangham namassāma suvatthi hotu

# DISCOURSE ON THE JEWELS

Whatever beings that are here assembled, whether terrestrial or celestial, may every being be happy and joyful! And also, listen attentively to my words.

Listen here, all beings! Shower your loving-kindness to those humans who, day and night, bring offerings to you. Therefore, guard them diligently.

Whatever treasures there may be, either here or in the world beyond, or whatever precious jewels there are in the heavens; yet none is comparable to the Enlightened One. In the Buddha is this precious jewel found. On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

The tranquil Sage of the Sakyas realized cessation, freedom from passion, deathlessness and excellence.
There is nothing comparable to this Dhamma.
In the Dhamma is this precious jewel found.
On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

That pure concentration the Supreme Buddha praised is described as 'concentration without interruption'.

There is nothing like that concentration.

In the Dhamma is this precious jewel found.

On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

Those eight individuals constituting four pairs, they are praised by those at peace.

They, worthy of offerings, are the disciples of the Enlightened One, Gifts given to them yield abundant fruit.

In the Sangha is this precious jewel found.

On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

With steadfast mind, applying themselves thoroughly in the Dispensation of Gotama, free of passion, they have attained to that which should be attained. And plunging into deathlessness, they enjoyed the Peace (Nibbāna) in absolute freedom. In the Sangha is this precious jewel found. On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

Just as a firm post sunk in the earth cannot be shaken by the four winds; I say that a righteous person who thoroughly perceives the Noble Truths is similar to that. In the Sangha is this precious jewel found. On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

# DISCOURSE ON THE JEWELS

Those who clearly understand the Noble Truths, well taught by Him who has profound wisdom, do not undergo an eighth birth, no matter how exceedingly heedless they may be. In the Sangha is this precious jewel found. On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

Together with his attainment of insight, three qualities have been abandoned (by him), namely: wrong belief in selfhood, doubt and dependence on rites and ceremonies.

He is absolutely freed from the four states of misery, and is incapable of committing the six major wrong doings. In the Sangha is this precious jewel found.

On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

He is incapable of hiding whatever evil he does, whether by deed, word or thought; for it has been said that such an act is impossible for one who has seen the Path. In the Sangha is this precious jewel found. On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

Just like a forest crown in full blossom, in the first month of the summer season, so has the sublime doctrine that leads to Nibbāna been taught for the highest good (of beings). In the Buddha is this precious jewel found. On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

The peerless Excellent One, the Knower, the Giver, the Bringer of the Excellent, has expounded the sublime doctrine. In the Buddha is this precious jewel found. On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

Their past is extinct, a new becoming there is not, their minds are not attached to a future birth, their desires do not grow; those wise ones with their seeds of becoming destroyed, go out even as this lamp does.

In the Sangha is this precious jewel found.

On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

#### [ Sakka's exultation: ]

We beings that are here assembled, whether terrestrial or celestial, salute the Accomplished Buddha, who is honoured by gods and men. May there be well-being!

We beings that are here assembled, whether terrestrial or celestial, salute the Enlightening Dhamma, which is honoured by gods and men. May there be well-being!

We beings that are here assembled, whether terrestrial or celestial, salute the Noble Sangha, who are honoured by gods and men. May there be well-being!

Yānīdha bhūtāni samāgatāni Bhummāni vā yāni va antalikkhe Sabbeva bhūtā sumanā bhavantu Atho pi sakkacca sunantu bhāsitam Whatever beings that are here assembled, whether terrestrial or celestial, may every being be happy and joyful! And also, listen attentively to my words.

Meaning

Yāni whatever idha here

bhūtāni beings

samāgatāni assembled, gathered

bhummāni native to earth, earth-bound, terrestrial

 $v\bar{a}$  or

yāni va or whatever (beings)

antalikkhe sky-bound, heavenly, celestialsabbe all, everyone, no exclusion

eva each one [ used here for emphasis ]

bhūtā beings

sumanā bhavantu have peace of mind, become happy and joyful

atho piand also, moreoversakkaccaattentively, heedfully

sunantu listen

bhāsitam to (my) words

Tasmā hi bhūtā nisāmetha sabbe Mettam karotha mānusiyā pajāya Divā ca ratto ca haranti ye balim Tasmā hi ne rakkhatha appamattā Listen here, all beings!

Shower your loving-kindness to those humans who,

day and night, bring offerings to you.

Therefore, guard them diligently.

Meaning

Tasmā Therefore bhūtā beings

nisāmethagive attentionsabbeall-round

mettam (having) loving-kindness

karotha work (towards)

mānusiyā pajāya (for) human race, human beings

divā (ca)by day (and)rattoby night(ye) haranti(they) bring

balim offerings (to the deities)

ne them (i.e. those human beings)

rakkhatha protect

appamattā with diligence

Yam kiñci vittam idha vā huram vā Saggesu vā yam ratanam panītam Na no samam atthi tathāgatena Idam pi Buddhe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu Whatever treasures there may be, either here or in the world beyond, or whatever precious jewels there are in the heavens;

yet none is comparable to the Enlightened One. In the Buddha is this precious jewel found.

On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

Meaning

Yam kiñci Whatever ... is found

vittam prized, treasure, highly valued

 $idha (v\bar{a})$  here (or) huram beyond

 $saggesu (v\bar{a})$  (or) in the heavens

ratanam jewels

panītam superior, supreme, best, rare na no samam none (is) equal/comparable (to)

atthi is

tathāgatena the Perfect One, the Enlightened One

idam pi this

Buddhe Enlightened One

ratanam panītam supreme jewel (i.e. the Buddha)

etena saccena by this truth

suvatthi hotu may there be safety/happiness/well-being

Khayam virāgam amatam panītam Yadajjhagā sakyamuni samāhito Na tena dhammena sam'atthi kiñci Idam pi dhamme ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu The tranquil Sage of the Sakyas

realized cessation, freedom from passion,

deathlessness and excellence.

There is nothing comparable to this Dhamma. In the Dhamma is this precious jewel found.

On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

**Meaning** 

Khayam cessation, extinction, exhaustion (of defilements)

virāgam dispassion, free from passions

amatam deathless panītam excellent

Yad...ajjhagā such ... found ajjhagā realized, attained

sakyamuni the Sakyan Sage (i.e. the Buddha)

samāhito in concentration, thus achieving tranquility

Na no

tena dhammena with this Dhamma

sam'atthi is equal (to)

kiñci at all

dhamme the teachings of the Enlightened One

Yam buddhasettho parivannayi sucim Samādhi-mānantari-kañña-māhu Samādhinā tena samo na vijjati Idam pi dhamme ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu That pure concentration the Supreme Buddha praised is described as 'concentration without interruption'. There is nothing like that concentration. In the Dhamma is this precious jewel found. On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

#### Meaning

buddhaThe Enlightened Onesetthohighest, supremeBuddhasetthothe Supreme Buddha

yam...parivannayi such ... praised

sucim pureness, purity, stainless

samādhim concentration

ānantarikaññam without interval/interruption

āhu they describe/said

tena samādhinā with that concentration

samo similar

na vijjati there is none

Ye puggalā attha satam pasatthā Cattāri etāni yugāni honti Te dakkhineyyā sugatassa sāvakā Etesu dinnāni mahapphalāni Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu Those eight individuals constituting four pairs,

they are praised by those at peace.

They, worthy of offerings, are the disciples of the

Enlightened One,

Gifts given to them yield abundant fruit. In the Sangha is this precious jewel found.

On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

**Meaning** 

Ye Whom [an indefinite indication]

puggalā personsattha eight

satam those (who are) at peace (of mind)

pasatthā praised Cattāri four

etāni honti which are yugāni pairs

They (i.e. these four pairs or eight persons)

dakkhineyyā merit offerings sugatassa the Blessed One's

sāvakā disciples

Etesuwhatever (gifts)dinnānigiven to (them)mahapphalāni(reaps) great fruits

sanghe community (of Blessed One's disciples)

Ye suppayuttā manasā dalhena Nikkāmino gotama sāsanamhi Te pattipattā amatam vigayha Laddhā mudhā nibbutim bhuñjamānā Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu With steadfast mind, applying themselves thoroughly in the Dispensation of Gotama, free of passion, they have attained to that which should be attained.

And plunging into deathlessness,

they enjoyed the Peace (Nibbāna) in absolute freedom. In the Sangha is this precious jewel found.

On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

Meaning

Ye They (here referring to Arahants)

suppayuttā applied themselves thoroughly (to the practice)

manasā mind

dalhena (with) strong/firm, steadfast

nikkāmino without craving

gotama sāsanamhi (in) Gotama's dispensation pattipattā have attained their goals

amatam the deathless state (i.e. Nibbāna)vigayha having encountered, entered

laddhā gained

mudhā without expense

nibbutim peace

bhuñjamānā experiencing, savouring

Yathindakhīlo pathavim sito siyā Catubbhi vātehi asampakampiyo Tathūpamam sappurisam vadāmi Yo ariyasaccāni avecca passati Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu

Just as a firm post sunk in the earth cannot be shaken by the four winds; I say that a righteous person who

thoroughly perceives the Noble Truths is similar to that.

In the Sangha is this precious jewel found.

On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

Meaning

Yatha just like; as

indakhīlo a locking-post, strong pillar

pathavim the earth, ground sito deeply planted (in)

siyā [Alternative form of 'bhaveyya'] would be

catubbhi four (directions)

vātehi by wind

asampakampiyo unshaken, incapable of being shaken

tathūpamamso too indeed, similar to thatsappurisamthe True man, righteous person

vadāmiI say, I declareyo aveccawho thoroughlyariyasaccāninoble truthspassatiperceive

Ye ariyasaccāni vibhāvayanti Gambhīrapaññena sudesitāni Kiñcāpi te honti bhusappamattā Na te bhavam atthamam ādiyanti Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu Those who clearly understand the Noble Truths, well taught by Him who has profound wisdom, do not undergo an eighth birth, no matter how exceedingly heedless they may be. In the Sangha is this precious jewel found. On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

Meaning

Ye such

ariyasaccāni Noble truths

vibhāvayanti clearly comprehended; clearly evidenced

Gambhīrapaññena By him who has profound wisdom

sudesitāniwell taughtKiñcāpihowevertetheybhusamuchpamattāheedless

bhavam rebirth, existence

atthamam an eighth na...ādiyanti do not take

Sahāvassa dassana sampadāya Tayassu dhammā jahitā bhavanti Sakkāyaditthi vicikicchitañ ca Sīlabbatam vāpi yadatthi kiñci Catūhapāyehi ca vippamutto Cha cābhithānāni abhabbo kātum Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatti hotu Together with his attainment of insight,

three qualities have been abandoned (by him), namely: wrong belief in selfhood, doubt and dependence

on rites and ceremonies.

He is absolutely freed from the four states of misery, and is incapable of committing the six major

wrong doings.

In the Sangha is this precious jewel found.

On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

Meaning

Sahāva Together with

assa his (referring to a Sotāpanna)

dassana insight

sampadāya attainment (of)

tayassu there

dhammā[ plural ] statesjahitāabandoned

bhavanti are

sakkāyaditthi wrong view of 'selfhood'

vicikicchitañ skeptical doubt

sīlabbatam (belief in) vows, religious rites, rituals

vāpi and also

yadatthi kiñci all, of whatever kind there are catūhapāyehi from the four woeful states

vippamutto (he is) free from

cha six

ābhithānānimajor wrong doingsabhabbo (ca)(and) is incapable of

kātum do, commit

Kiñcāpi so kammam karoti pāpakam Kāyena vācā uda cetasā vā Abhabbo so tassa paticchādāya Abhabbatā ditthapadassa vuttā Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu He is incapable of hiding whatever evil he does, whether by deed, word or thought; for it has been said that such an act is impossible for one who has seen the Path. In the Sangha is this precious jewel found. On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

Meaning

Kiñcāpi whatever

so he kammam deed

karoti do, commit

pāpakam evil, unwholesome

kāyena by body vācā by speech

cetasā by mind (i.e. through thoughts)

abhabbo incapable

tassa that (evil deed)
paticchādāya hiding, concealing

abhabbatā this incapability (to conceal evil)

ditthapadassa one who has seen the Path

vuttā is said to be

Vanappagumbe yathā phussitagge Gimhānamāse pathamasmim gimhe Tathūpamam dhammavaram adesayi Nibbānagāmim paramam hitāya Idam pi Buddhe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu Just like a forest crown in full blossom, in the first month of the summer season, so has the sublime doctrine that leads to Nibbāna been taught for the highest good (of beings). In the Buddha is this precious jewel found. On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

Meaning

Vanappagumbe forest grove yathā just like

phussitagge fully blossomed

gimhānamāse during the summer month

pathamasmim first

gimhe heat (of summer) early summer i.e. April

tathūpamam such as

dhammavaram the sublime Dhamma

adesayi taught

Nibbānagamim that leads to Nibbāna

paramam highest

hitāya benefit (for beings)

Varo varaññū varado varāharo Anuttaro dhammavaram adesayi Idam pi Buddhe ratanam panītam Etena saccena suvatthi hotu The peerless Excellent One, the Knower, the Giver, the Bringer of the Excellent, has expounded the sublime doctrine.

In the Buddha is this precious jewel found. On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

#### Meaning

Varo Glorious one, excellent one

varaññū the knower of what is excellent (i.e. Nibbāna)

varadothe giver of that excellent statevarāharothe bringer of that excellent state

anuttaro incomparable, peerlessdhammavaram the sublime dhammaadesayi taught, expounded

Khīnam purānamTheir past is extinct, a new becoming there is not,navam natthi sambhavamtheir minds are not attached to a future birth,Viratta cittā āyatike bhavasmimtheir desires do not grow;

Te khīnabījā avirūlhicchandā those wise ones with their seeds of becoming destroyed, Nibbanti dhīrā yathā'yam padīpo go out even as this lamp does.

Idam pi sanghe ratanam panītam In the Sangha is this precious jewel found.

Etena saccena suvatthi hotu On account of this truth, may there be well-being!

**Meaning** 

Khīnam extinct, exhausted

purānam past (wholesome and unwholesome kamma)

navam new

natthi there is not

sambhavam becoming, arising

viratta not attached

cittā mind āyatike to future

bhavasmim rebirth, existence

khīnabījā seed (of becoming) is destroyed

avirūlhicchandā (their) desires do not grow

nibbanti are extinguished

dhīrā wise ones yathā'yam just like this

padīpo lamp

Yānīdha bhūtāni samāgatāni Bhummāni vā yāni va antalikkhe Tathāgatam devamanussa-pūjitam Buddham namassāma suvatthi hotu

Yānīdha bhūtāni samāgatāni Bhummāni vā yāni va antalikkhe Tathāgatam devamanussa-pūjitam Dhammam namassāma suvatthi hotu

Yānīdha bhūtāni samāgatāni Bhummāni vā yāni va antalikkhe Tathāgatam devamanussa-pūjitam Sangham namassāma suvatthi hotu [ Sakka's exultation: ]

We beings that are here assembled, whether terrestrial or celestial, salute the Accomplished Buddha, who is honoured by gods and men. May there be well-being!

We beings that are here assembled, whether terrestrial or celestial, salute the Enlightening Dhamma, who is honoured by gods and men. May there be well-being!

We beings that are here assembled, whether terrestrial or celestial, salute the Noble Sangha, who is honoured by gods and men. May there be well-being!

**Meaning** 

Tathāgatam The Enlightened One, Accomplished One

deva gods, deities

manussa humans

pūjitam honoured, revered

namassāma salute, honour, reverence