

Dhammapada

The Path of Truth

Translated by Bhante Suddhāso

(Ch. 9) Pāpa-Vagga

The Chapter on Harmful Actions

(116)

abhittharetha kalyāṇe, pāpā cittaṃ nivāraye.

dandhañhi karoto puññaṃ, pāpasmiṃ ramatī mano.

Hurry to do good, and hold the mind back from harmful actions.

One who is slow to do beneficial actions delights in harmful actions.

(117)

pāpañce puriso kayirā, na naṃ kayirā punappunaṃ.

na tamhi chandaṃ kayirātha, dukkho pāpassa uccayo.

If one does something harmful, let it not be done repeatedly.

Take no interest in that: the accumulation of harmful actions is painful.

(118)

puññañce puriso kayirā, kayirā naṃ punappunaṃ.

tamhi chandaṃ kayirātha, sukho puññaṃ uccayo.

If one does something good, let it be done repeatedly.

Take an interest in that: the accumulation of good actions is pleasant.

(119)

pāpopi passati bhadraṃ, yāva pāpaṃ na paccati.

yadā ca paccati pāpaṃ, atha pāpo pāpāni passati.

One sees a harmful action as wonderful,

As long as that harmful action has not reached its denouement.

But when that harmful action reaches its denouement, then one sees it as harmful.

(120)

bhadropi passati pāpaṃ, yāva bhadraṃ na paccati.

yadā ca paccati bhadraṃ, atha bhadro bhadraṇi passati.

One sees an auspicious action as harmful,

As long as that auspicious action has not reached its denouement.

But when that auspicious action reaches its denouement, then one sees it as auspicious.

(121)

māvamaññetha pāpassa, na mantam āgamissati.

udabindunipātena, udakumbhopi pūrati.

bālo pūrati pāpassa, thokaṃ thokampi ācinaṃ.

Do not disregard a harmful action, thinking "It will not return to me."

Just as falling drops of water fill up a water-jug,

A fool becomes full of harmful actions, accumulating them little by little.

(122)

**māvamaññetha puññassa, na mantam āgamissati.
udabindunipātena, udakumbhopi pūrati.
dhīro pūrati puññassa, thokam thokampi ācinam.**

Do not disregard a good action, thinking "It will not return to me."

Just as falling drops of water fill up a water-jug,

A wise person becomes full of good actions, accumulating them little by little.

(123)

**vāṇijova bhayaṃ maggaṃ, appasattho mahaddhano.
visaṃ jīvitukāmo, pāpāni parivajjaye.**

As a merchant with much wealth and little protection¹ avoids a dangerous road,

And one who wishes to live avoids poison,

In the same way, one should avoid harmful actions.

(124)

**pāṇimhi ce vaṇo nāssa, hareyya pāṇinā visaṃ.
nābbaṇaṃ visamanveti, natthi pāpaṃ akubbato.**

If a hand has no wound it can hold poison;

Poison cannot enter one who has no wound.

There is no harm for one who does no harm.

(125)

**yo appadutṭhassa narassa dussati, suddhassa posassa anaṅgaṇassa.
tameva bālaṃ pacceti pāpaṃ, sukhumo rajo paṭivātaṃva khitto.**

One who abuses a faultless person, a pure person with no flaws,

That fool's harmful act will return to him, like fine dust thrown against the wind.

(126)

**gabbhameke uppajjanti, nirayaṃ pāpakammino.
saggaṃ sugatino yanti, parinibbanti anāsavā.**

Some people appear in a womb, Those who do harmful acts appear in hell,

Those on the right course go to heaven,

And those free of corruptions attain enlightenment.

(127)

**na antalikkhe na samuddamajjhe, na pabbatānaṃ vivaraṃ pavisam.
na vijjati so jagatippadeso, yatthaṭṭhito mucceyya pāpakammā.**

Not in the sky or in the middle of the ocean, nor by entering a crack in the mountains,

No place in the world can be found, where one is free from one's harmful acts.

(128)

**na antalikkhe na samuddamajjhe, na pabbatānaṃ vivaraṃ pavisam.
na vijjati so jagatippadeso, yatthaṭṭhitam nappasaheyya maccu.**

Not in the sky or in the middle of the ocean, nor by entering a crack in the mountains,

No place in the world can be found, where one is not caught by death.

¹ Appasattha. This can mean either "with few weapons" or "with a small caravan."