

Again, a man does not attain a position of being served by reason of other family-observances (such as polite conduct &c. other than the possession of wealth); a man without wealth is abandoned even by his wife; how much more then by others?

And this is the cardinal defect in the administration of a state—

Over-expenditure, want of supervision, as also raising money by unfair means, plundering and distant situation—these are the evils of the treasury. For,

A man of wealth, who spends his money at his will recklessly without looking to his income, is reduced to poverty although as rich as Kubera.

P. 47. Stabdhakarṇa observed—Listen, brother. These two, Damanaka and Karataka, your servants of long standing, who are the ministers of war and peace, must not at all be appointed to supervise the treasury. I will also tell you what little I have heard on the subject of making appointments.

A Brāhmaṇa, a Kshatriya and a relative should not preferably be appointed as treasury-officers. A Brāhmaṇa does not deliver up even under pressure the money though realized.

A Kshatriya having charge of money-matters is sure to show his sword (defy his master); while a relative, on the strength (by virtue) of his kinship, swallows the whole thing, having seized it.

An officer who has been a servant of long standing is fearless even when he has committed a fault; and having despised his master will act freely (*lit.* without any restraint).

A benefactor (one who has done a service) when appointed to an office is regardless of his own offence and putting forward his obligation will appropriate the whole thing.

Since a play-friend from childhood, if appointed a minister, himself acts as a king, he is sure always to despise (his master) on account of his familiarity.

He who is perverse in the mind but outwardly forbearing, verily brings on ruin of every kind: Śakuni and Śakaṭāra, O king, will serve as instances of this. — 100.

All ministers when grown great are incorrigible in the end. It is a saying of the Siddhas (sages, perfect seers) that abundance perverts the mind.