

# Bhikkhu-aparihāṇīyā-dhammā Sutta

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*Seven Conditions for the Welfare of the Bhikkhus, AN 7.23*

[ Handa mayaṃ bhikkhu-aparihāṇīyā-dhammā-sutta-pāṭhaṃ bhaṇāmaṣe ]

[ Evaṃ me sutāṃ. ] Ekaṃ samayaṃ bhagavā rājagahe viharati gijjhakūṭe pabbate. Tatra kho bhagavā bhikkhū āmantesi: “satta vo, bhikkhave, aparihāṇīye dhamme desessāmi. Taṃ suṇātha, sādhukaṃ manasi karotha, bhāssissāmi”ti. “Evaṃ, bhante”ti kho te bhikkhū bhagavato paccassosum. Bhagavā etadavoca:

*I have heard that on one occasion the Blessed One was staying in Rajagaha, on Vulture Peak. There he addressed the monks: “Monks, I will teach you the seven conditions that lead to no decline. Listen & pay close attention. I will speak.” “Yes, lord,” the monks responded. The Blessed One said:*

[ 1 ] “Katame ca, bhikkhave, satta aparihāṇīyā dhammā? Yāvakīvaṇca, bhikkhave, bhikkhū abhiṇhaṃ sannipātā bhavissanti sannipātabahulā; vuddhiyeva, bhikkhave, bhikkhūnaṃ pāṭikaṅkhā, no parihāṇi.

*“And which seven are the conditions that lead to no decline? As long as the monks meet often, meet a great deal, their growth can be expected, not their decline.*

[ 2 ] “Yāvakīvaṇca, bhikkhave, bhikkhū samaggā sannipatissanti, samaggā vuṭṭhahissanti, samaggā saṅghakaraṇīyāni karissanti; vuddhiyeva, bhikkhave, bhikkhūnaṃ pāṭikaṅkhā, no parihāṇi.

*“As long as the monks meet in harmony, adjourn from their meetings in harmony, and conduct Sangha business in harmony, their growth can be expected, not their decline.*

[ 3 ] “Yāvakīvaṇca, bhikkhave, bhikkhū apaññattaṃ na paññāpessanti, paññattaṃ na samucchindissanti, yathāpaññattesu sikkhāpadesu samādāya vattissanti; vuddhiyeva, bhikkhave, bhikkhūnaṃ pāṭikaṅkhā, no parihāṇi.

*“As long as the monks neither decree what has been undecreed nor repeal what has been decreed, but practice undertaking the training rules as they have been decreed, their growth can be expected, not their decline.*

[ 4 ] “Yāvakīvaṇca, bhikkhave, bhikkhū ye te bhikkhū therā rattaññū cirapabbajitā saṅghapitaro saṅghapariṇāyakā te sakkarissanti garuṃ karissanti mānessanti

pūjessanti, tesañca sotabbaṃ maññissanti; vuddhiyeva, bhikkhave, bhikkhūnaṃ pāṭikañkhā, no parihāni.

*“As long as the monks honor, respect, venerate, and do homage to the elder monks — those with seniority who have long been ordained, the fathers of the Sangha, leaders of the Sangha — regarding them as worth listening to, their growth can be expected, not their decline.”*

[ 5 ] “Yāvakīvañca, bhikkhave, bhikkhū uppannāya taṇhāya ponobhavikāya na vasaṃ gacchissanti; vuddhiyeva, bhikkhave, bhikkhūnaṃ pāṭikañkhā, no parihāni.

*“As long as the monks do not submit to the power of any arisen craving that leads to further becoming, their growth can be expected, not their decline.”*

[ 6 ] “Yāvakīvañca, bhikkhave, bhikkhū āraññakesu senāsanesu sāpekkhā bhavissanti; vuddhiyeva, bhikkhave, bhikkhūnaṃ pāṭikañkhā, no parihāni.

*“As long as the monks see their own benefit in wilderness dwellings, their growth can be expected, not their decline.”*

[ 7 ] “Yāvakīvañca, bhikkhave, bhikkhū paccattaññeva satim upaṭṭhāpessanti: ‘kinti anāgatā ca pesalā sabrahmacārī āgaccheyyūṃ, āgatā ca pesalā sabrahmacārī phāsuṃ vihareyyun’ti; vuddhiyeva, bhikkhave, bhikkhūnaṃ pāṭikañkhā, no parihāni.

*“As long as the monks each keep firmly in mind: ‘If there are any well-behaved fellow followers of the chaste life who have yet to come, may they come; and may the well-behaved fellow-followers of the chaste life who have come live in comfort,’ their growth can be expected, not their decline.”*

“Yāvakīvañca, bhikkhave, ime satta aparihāniyā dhammā bhikkhūsu ṭhassanti, imesu ca sattasu aparihāniyesu dhammesu bhikkhū sandississanti; vuddhiyeva, bhikkhave, bhikkhūnaṃ pāṭikañkhā, no parihāni”ti. Idam-avoca Bhagavā. Attamanā te bhikkhū Bhagavato bhāsitaṃ, abhinandun’ti.

*“As long as the monks remain steadfast in these seven conditions, and as long as these seven conditions endure among the monks, the monks’ growth can be expected, not their decline.” That is what the Blessed One said. Gratified, the monks delighted in the Blessed One’s words.*