

## 1. Dhamma Kusaraja

*Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato Sammā Sambuddhassa. Ratane Ye Itang Tarattanti Itang Satta Jetavanna Wiharanto Akkatthitabhikku Arappa Kathesi. Thus I (the Venerable Ananda) have heard from the Lord Buddha at the Jetavana Monastery giving a sermon about King Kusaraja Jataka story for the advantage of a monk who wanted to leave the monkhood. There was a man living in Savatthi and entered the Order in Buddhism. One day the Bhikku went for alms and saw a beautiful woman with fine decorated ornaments. The Bhikku fell for her. After returned to the abode, the Bhikku lay down covering his whole body with sheet.*

*1. All Bhikkus saw the lamented Bhikku who was occupied with lust. He, who once was clean, cheerful and put on a clean robe, looked mournful like the divine run out of virtue. 5 foregoing signs have occurred in his mind. Those Bhikku then took him to the Lord Buddha and told his story to the Lord Buddha. The Lord Buddha interrogated and finally learned the truth and then said that all Bhikkus should not fall into the sensuality as defilement. In the ancient time, no matter how great and powerful a wise man was; he already declined because of women. In saying so, the Lord Buddha gave further a Jataka story of a King beginning with preaching of Atite Malarat Thokuksavatthi Rajthani Ukkeko Nama Rajdhammena Rajankaresi Bhikkawe. A long time ago, there was a King name Oka Karaja ruling Savatthi with 10 virtues of the king. He had a consort named Silavadee along with many concubines.*

*2. None of those women got pregnant and the people were afraid that the King would not have any heir to the throne. So, they gathered at the lawn and said that the King had not yet any child to inherit the throne. So, on this coming holy day, the King should wish for a son or a girl. When the King heard that, he sent all his concubines to have sex with other people to get pregnant. The concubines had been praying for a son for 7 months but none of them got pregnant. Finally, he thought about sending his queen, Silavadee who were praying for a son, to other man. Suddenly, Indra's seat in heaven was hardened and Indra, King of Gods,*

*pondered the cause and found out the situation. He thought that he should give a son to the queen. While considering, Indra saw no one but the Bodhisattva in the Trayastrimsa heaven who was almost spent his time on the Heaven and proper to descent as the queen's son.*

*3. The King of Gods approached the Bodhisattva and invited him to reincarnate as Silavadee's son, the Queen of King Oka Karaja. The Bodhisattva accepted the invitation. Indra was delighted and flew to the earth and used magic to change himself into an old Brahman entering Savatthi City. The city people saw the old Brahman and laughed at him. Suddenly, the old Brahman went to the palace and took Silavadee away.*

*4. Oka Karaja heard that Indra took away Silavadee, so he prepared his weapon to fight her back. After taking Silavadee away, Indra created a house near the Heaven's gate where he lived. Indra told the queen that there was no one living in this house but him alone. Silavadee saw the house, Parichart trees which grew in the second Heaven and angels surrounded to serve the old Brahman sitting on a throne; she then thought that this man could not be an old Brahman. She knew that the old Brahman was actually the Indra. The King of Gods then said to her that he would grant her a wish. The Queen asked for a son. Indra told her that he would give her 2 sons, one with the no good looking but witted and another with good looking but blockheaded. Which one would Silavadee like to have first? Silavadee answered that she wanted the witted son first.*

*5. Indra said that was good and gave her 5 things which were a handful of grass, a piece of divine cloth, divine sandalwood, Parichart flower and a lute called Bokunon. Then, Indra took Silavadee from the heaven back to Oka Karaja's Castle. In the bed room, Indra put her down beside the King and touched her stomach before flew back to the Trayastrimsa heaven. At that moment, the Bodhisattva has descended on earth. King Oka Karaja was suddenly awakened out of sleep and saw Silavadee at his side. He asked who took her back. Silavadee told that Indra, King of Gods took her away to the heaven and took her back. When she saw that Oka Karaja did not believe, she showed him 5 things received from Indra. Oka Karaja then believed her and then they would have a great son.*

6. King Oka Karaja provided her with good food. 10 months later, the Queen gave birth to a son with fierce look. He was named Chaiwattikumar. A few years later, the queen gave birth to the second good looking son. The Bodhisattva, who was an ugly son, was talented and learned every branch of knowledge. When he was sixteen years old, Oka Karaja wanted him to succeed to the throne and he then consulted his queen about their son's wife. They agreed to send words to princesses of other cities to come and meet with their son.

7. The Bodhisattva was informed of the news and thought that he had an unpleasant look and all beautiful women would shun him when they saw him. All shame would be his. Realizing this, the Bodhisattva wanted neither the throne nor the wife. He would attend on his parents until they passed away and he would leave for monkhood. He relayed this to his mother and his mother relayed it to King Oka Karaja. The King felt slighted. However, a couple days he sent someone to make change his mind, but the Bodhisattva still resisted. The King sent someone for the third and fourth time, the Bodhisattva still resisted. At the fourth time, the Bodhisattva however thought that it was not good that a son to be resisted to the parents like this. He came up with a plan. The Bodhisattva called in a goldsmith and gave him a lot of gold to cast a beautiful lady figure which looked very much alive and dressed it up with exquisite clothes and ornaments.

8. The Bodhisattva sent the lady figure to the King and told that if there was any woman looked beautiful just like this figure, he would marry to her. The King and the Queen thought that their son was very charismatic and talented as he was sent by Indra so the woman who would be his wife should be as beautiful as this figure. The King ordered their officers and soldiers to take this figure to other places. If they found any woman was as beautiful as this figure, they should find out about the woman and come back to him. The soldiers accepted and took the figure to places and showed it to the public. People were misunderstood the figure for real woman and kept asking who the woman was. Finally, the soldiers reached a city called Sakatta in Mattaraja. The King Mattaraja had 7 daughters who were all the same beautiful. The oldest daughter was named Prapavadee.

9. *Prapavadee had an aura like an aurora and at night her aura shone so brightly that candle did not have to be lit. That evening, when Papputjavadee, Prapavadee's escort, already prepared the dinner, she went with other escorts to the waterside to fetch water. Along the way, she saw a lady figure and misunderstood that it was Prapavadee. She thought that Prapavadee came out for water herself and she was worried if the King knew. Therefore, she grabbed on her hand but Prapavadee was so surprised that it was not her princess but a golden mold. Prapavadee laughed and walked away. However, the soldiers of King Oka Karaja saw it and asked why she touched the figure. Prapavadee told that she misunderstood it for her young master. The soldiers asked if her master was as beautiful as this figure. She answered that her master was 16 times more beautiful than this figure. The soldiers then went to see King Mattaraja and told him the story. They learned that King Mattaraja's daughter was very beautiful and asked the King to give them his daughter and they would give him the golden figure.*

*King Mattaraja was delighted that he would have a chance to be friend with the greater King, so he accepted the golden figure. He said that he promised to give his daughter to their King. The soldiers were delighted to hear and said good bye to the King before went back to King Oka Karaja and the Queen. The King and the Queen were very happy to learn this and prepared the procession to Sakatta city. Once they arrived, King Mattaraja came out and greeted them.*

*The King and the Queen stayed in the city for 3 days before the Queen asked for Prapavadee Princess. King Mattaraja sent her in. Once the Queen saw her future daughter-in-law, she said that Prapavadee was very beautiful indeed and then she thought that if Prapavadee saw her unpleasant looking son, she would not definitely want to be with him. Soon after, the Queen came up with a plan and said to King Mattaraja that the Princess was perfect for her son but in Savatthi there was a tradition that the newlyweds would meet each other at night. Only when they had the first child, they could meet any time. She asked if the Princess would find it a problem. King Mattaraja asked his daughter if she could observe the old tradition of Savatthi. Prapavadee accepted and would observe accordingly. King Oka*

*Karaja and Queen Silavadee were delighted and gave a lot of gold and silver to King Mattaraja and took Prapavadee back to Savatthi. King Mattaraja also gave her daughter processions before left the city. When arrived Savatthi, King Oka Karaja gave a general pardon to the prisoners. Before held a wedding for his son and Prapavadee, King Oka Karaja crowned the Bodhisattva the King of Savatthi, named King Kusaraja. The Bodhisattva reigned over the city with righteousness. Prapavadee lived in Savatthi and met the Bodhisattva only at night and saw him from her aura. However, the Bodhisattva wanted to see her in daytime, so he told Queen Silavadee. The Queen then planned for the Bodhisattva to disguise as a mahout in the elephant stables and she would take Prapavadee to see the elephants. When Prapavadee went to the stables, the Bodhisattva saw her and threw elephant poop at her back. Prapavadee was confused and asked Silavadee what happened. Silavadee soothed her. Soon, the Bodhisattva wanted to see her again. This time he disguised as a groom in the horse stables and the Queen took Prapavadee to the stable. Again, the Bodhisattva threw horse poop at her back. Prapavadee was very angry and asked why he did this. The Queen soothed her once again. Afterwards, Prapavadee told the Queen that she wanted to see the Bodhisattva. The Queen would not allow but she kept asking and the Queen could not refuse and told her that tomorrow she could see the Bodhisattva from the window when he was in the procession around the city. The Queen arranged a procession on the next day and had her younger son dressed up as the King and the Bodhisattva disguises as mahout and both sat on the elephant. Prapavadee looked at the younger son dressing up as the King sitting on the saddle with pleasure. However, the Bodhisattva sat on the elephant's neck looked at her and waved for her. The Queen asked if Prapavadee saw her husband. She answered that she saw him but the mahout on the elephant's neck did not have any respects to the King as he kept waving to girls. The Queen said that the mahout was just like that. Prapavadee thought that this mahout looked alike her husband but she did not say anything to her mother-in-law as she had a great respect for her. She then had her servant to find out who the King was by noticing that the man who dismounted from the elephant first would be the King.*

15. *The Bodhisattva dismounted from the elephant first and saw the servant and remembered that she was his wife's servant and she was here to find out who the King was. The Bodhisattva called the servant and told her not to tell Prapavadee and gave her some money. The servant came back to Prapavadee and told her that the King who sat on the saddle dismounted first. Prapavadee believed her. Then again the Bodhisattva told the Queen that he wanted to see Prapavadee. The Queen planned for him to go down and hid in the lotus pond and waited for Prapavadee there. The Queen invited Prapavadee to the lotus pond and Prapavadee went down in the pond to collect a lotus. Then, the Bodhisattva who hid in the pond grabbed her hand and told her that he was her husband.*

16. *Prapavadee was shocked to see the Bodhisattva and swam away. She recalled that the Bodhisattva was the mahout who threw the elephant poop at her, the groom who threw the horse poop at her and the mahout who waved at her on the procession day. So, she realized why she could not meet him at daytime. She suddenly thought that she could not live here and called for all her servants and told them to leave the city. Prapavadee informed King Oka Karaja and Queen Silavadee that she would go back to her city. The King was very sad and knew that they could not restrain her anymore as it would break her heart because their son look was really unpleasant. The next day Prapavadee left Savatthi and headed to her hometown, Mattaraja. The Bodhisattva was very sad. When she arrived in Mattaraja, she told everything to her parents.*

17. *Here is the former deed causing Prapavadee did not like the Bodhisattva and the Bodhisattva had an unpleasant appearance. In the long previous existence, in a village nearby Varanasi's gate, there were 2 families, one family had 2 sons and the other had a daughter. The Bodhisattva was born a second son of the first family. When the first son was grown up, the parents married him with a daughter of the second family. One day, the sister-in-law made food for the family and kept one portion for the younger brother who was in the woods. At that time, a Pratyeka-buddha came for alms and the sister-in-law gave the saved portion to the Pratyeka-buddha. When the younger brother came home and saw his sister-in-law giving his food to the Pratyeka-buddha. He was afraid that he would have nothing to eat and went to the*

*Pratyeka-buddha and took away the food from the alms-bowl. The sister-in-law saw that and was very hurt. She went back to her home and took ghee – clarified butter – and gave to the Pratyeka-buddha instead. She resolved that in any existence she would be born, she wanted her skin be aura and beautiful in the future lives and would never be together with this wicked brother-in-law. Therefore, she was beautiful and had aura and did not like the Bodhisattva in the future lives.*

*The Bodhisattva heard that, he then gave the food back to the alms-bowl on the ghee and resolved that he wanted to meet his sister-in-law in the future lives and had her as his wife even they were living far away. Consequently, the Bodhisattva was born as an unpleasant looking Kusaraja and Prapavadee in this life.*

*19. King Kusaraja was very sad that Prapavadee went back home. Though the palace was full of people and properties but it was quiet. He went to his mother and told her that he would go to Mattaraja and take Prapavadee back. He told his mother to run the city for him. Then the Bodhisattva cited a verse that Itang Tesyo Kasakayu Rasakhaka Mana Anusa Sakhamujja Miyacha Patpawatti Achiti Amma. The city was liked food, gold, elephants, horses and other properties but he would give them all to his mother. But he loved Prapavadee so much that he could never forget her. He had to be with her. Queen Silavadee heard that and prepared him dried food for his journey. Kusaraja Gangnitthitang Kiriya. The King Kusaraja Jataka Story was ended here.*

*At 2.00 a.m. of 11<sup>th</sup> month, 7<sup>th</sup> waxing moon, dated 2, B.E. 2492, I, Phra Nurut, has finished this writing for Grandmother Kamsang and her Buddhist fellows.*