

Local Dharma from Palm Leaves: 5 Precepts

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Translated from Northern Dialect

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Translated into Thai

Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato Sammā Sambuddhassa. Thus I (the Venerable Ananda) have heard from the Lord Buddha at the Jetavana Monastery of Anathapindika about the advantage of giving alms and observing precepts. Alms giving include alms food, clothes and necessities for Buddhist monks, nuns, older people and the poor. Do not boast, gossip, blame or banter, as it will quickly get back to you as the retribution. You are already suffered and this will prolong your suffering in every life. Do not criticize the wise men and teachers. It is immoral and sinful. Though you have not met them in person, you will be crying for the downfall and burnt in hell forever.

When you meet the poor, give them food together with fruits and clothes as appropriate so that you will not be starving in your transmigration of soul. It will flow to you as smooth as the current. Having faith and be not negligent in the morals are the great virtue that will lead you to the nirvana. Men and women do abstain from misconduct in action. Panatipata veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami: abstaining from the destruction of life and be kind and afraid of the consequence of action. Keep away from all sins and live your life with virtue. Soon you will reach nirvana.

Whoever dares to take life, he already commits sin in several ways at the same time. He becomes unkind and is willing to kill and sell life of animals. Sooner or later he will be in hell for a long time before suffers from reincarnation as animals. He will never reach the heaven and nirvana as the consequence will get back to him for eternity.

Adinnadana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami: abstaining from taking that which is not given. Visiting others at their home, keeping eyes on and touching their belongings and sweet talking are not polite. Using black magic to

daze house owner before steal everything regardless how hard the owner has to work to get his property is as bad as sweet talking to get other's property. Do not think that sweet talking is clever. This is a lie. The blacksmith thought that buyers did not know or see thoroughly so he sold a pup to them. The people trusted that he was the blacksmith. However, his habit has been practiced life after life. Instead of being honest to his occupation, he just stuffed with cotton inside. The sinners were not afraid of the results. The course of action finally returned to him so he should never do it anymore otherwise his mind became vulgar and fell for other people's property. The punishment of Adinnadana is immeasurable. The convicted person when he dies, he will face the guardian of hell who will describe what he did from childhood until he died. He then will be heavily punished for stealing. No matter how hard he cries or begs for forgiveness, he will be chained and whipped. He is then questioned again before pressed with hot iron and poured furiously hot gold into his mouth. He will be moaning out of hot stomach. The guard of hell will pierce his mouth with burnt iron and tell him not stealing ever again.

The punishment of Adinnadana is massive, so do not think about committing a sin because the consequence will follow to the next life. The consequence will result in shortage of food and clothes. Even you have food and clothes, they will be stolen. Your wife and children will also suffer from lacking and they have to beg for food. They will suffer from sickness and coldness and live in so small shack that cannot even provide a shade. They will suffer for 500 lives without any help, let alone the Nirvana aeon away from them. They will rebirth and die over and over, and definitely suffer every lifetime.

Kamesu micchacara veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami: abstaining from sexual misconduct. The consequence is heavier than legal punishment. One sees other's spouse or married person and is fond of teasing him/her and commits adultery, it will turn people into rage and fight. The spouse will take it to the court and the one that commits adultery will be punished as heavily as possible.

Those sinned women avoid their husband and are infatuated with their adulterer. They neglect their work and children to live with the adulterer all day and all night. When their husband comes home from work, they claim they visit their relative and keep complaining about everything. When they got caught, their husband and in-laws scold and chase them away from the house. Running

from home in ragged clothes, they have no place to go but to the guard of hell who is waiting for them. When they die and go to hell, the guard of hell monitors what they did when they were alive. They are found that they did not do any good deeds but committing adultery. They never offered things to other people, not even to the monks. Their punishment is brutal. Before suffering in hell for hundred thousand years, they are pressed down and pierced by burnt iron all over the body and the private part. Their body will be rotten. They writhe, roll and scream in pain for their wicked action. Those living men and women who still commit adultery, they will surely receive severe punishment in hell.

For those who abstain from sexual misconduct, act faithfully, take good care of their spouse and observe accordingly to the culture and tradition, these moral acts will return the fruits. The deity will praise and bless them with no harm or disease. They are happy and rich. Worries and wickedness are away from them. They will never be bored to do make merits which will results for the nirvana in the future.

Musavada veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami: abstaining from falsehood. He or she who always lies, instigates, prattles or is hypocritical, insincere and never observes religious precepts, when dies he or she will meet the guard of hell. He or she will be tied up and beaten up at his/her mouth until he/she cannot eat anything but cries all day. The teeth will fall out and the lips will be floppy. The stink is smelt all over. The guard of hell smashes his/her mouth and hands with a hammer. He has no mercy as the wrong action is so wicked. Still, he/she would not easily die. He/she is boiled in a large copper kettle, screaming and suffering there for hundred thousand years. When the consequence is served, he/she was reborn as a cripple and stinky person. Everyday he/she is in pain and pus flowing from his/her mouth. It cannot be cured and he/she has to suffer for 500 future lives. Because of those lies, contempt, gossip, satire and telling other's secrets, they cause misunderstanding, quarrel and fighting.

Friends turn into foe because of the falsehood. Nobody likes liars because they cause misunderstanding, fighting and misconducting. In the present life, they are suffered from lacking food and necessities. Everyone shuns them. When they leave this world, they will go to hell for 500 lives. Despicable men and women are always angry, revile and satire. Noble men should be polite, speak only the truth and have no bias. Compared to the Moon, it gives light to the world. Just like the

big tree, it gives shade to those who travel. Kind words leave nice echoes, but vicious persons are vulgar and are not afraid or ashamed of evil. They commit wrong actions and the consequence will return them in hell for hundred thousand years. Those who are afraid of evil should behave themselves in the morality.

Suramerayamajjapamadatthana veramani sikkhapadam samadiyami: abstaining from intoxicants that cloud the mind and cause carelessness. Never get near intoxicants because once you taste them, you become Dutch courage. You will not be afraid of anyone. You will think that you are a millionaire buying food and drinks for others. It causes you debts. You keep postponing paying the debts. Intoxicants mislead that you are worldly and religiously knowledgeable, a good speaker, good dancer, invulnerable. When you got drunk, you are not afraid of anything and insult the superiors. You do not listen to anyone and destroy house and family. Finally, you lose everything and become a beggar crying for help. When dying, the guard of hell is waiting for you and delivering judgment for your wrong action of drinking intoxicants and killing hens and ducks for feast. The carelessness caused by intoxicants makes you ignore the monk's teachings, beat up parents, abuse other person's wife. Your punishment will be massive. No need to beg for mercy. The guard of hell puts burnt iron into your mouth and pours furiously hot gold into his mouth for those hens and ducks you have killed for feast. You will be boiled in a large copper kettle for your sin. You will faint away but not die because you have to suffer for hundred thousand years before you were born again, cripple and insane in a despicable family for 500 future lives. You will never see the nirvana. Only when you abstain from intoxicants, you will certainly be free from sufferings and there is a chance to be in the heaven and obtain nirvana.

The sermon of the Buddha's teachings of 5 precepts is therefore complete and finished.
