

**MAHĀMAṄGALASUTTAM**  
**THE DISCOURSE ON THE GREAT BLESSINGS (AN ANALYSIS)**  
**(PROSE INTRODUCTION)**

**Evam me sutam:**

Thus I have heard:

**Evam** thus  
**me** by me  
**sutam** heard

**ekam samayaṃ Bhagavā Sāvattiyam viharati**

at one time the Gracious One was dwelling near Sāvatti

**ekam** at one  
**samayaṃ** time  
**Bhagavā** the Gracious One  
**Sāvattiyam** near Sāvatti  
**viharati** was dwelling (lit: lives)

**Jetavane Anāthapiṇḍikassa ārāme.**

at Anāthapiṇḍika's grounds in Jeta's Wood.

**Jetavane** in Jeta's Wood  
**Anāthapiṇḍikassa** Anāthapiṇḍika's  
**ārāme** at grounds (later meaning monastery)

**Atha kho aññatarā devatā abhikkantāya rattiyā,**

Then a certain god, towards the end of the night,

**Atha kho** then  
**aññatarā** certain  
**devatā** god  
**abhikkantāya** towards the end  
**rattiyā** of the night

**abhikkantavaṇṇā kevalakappaṃ Jetavanam obhāsetvā,**

having lit up the whole of Jeta's Wood with his surpassing beauty,

**abhikkanta-** surpassing  
**-vaṇṇā** beauty  
**kevala-** whole  
**kappaṃ** whole  
**Jetavanam** Jeta's Wood  
**obhāsetvā** having lit up

**yena Bhagavā tenupasaṅkami,**  
approached the Gracious One,

**Bhagavā** the Gracious One  
**yena ... tenupasaṅkami** approached

**upasaṅkamtivā Bhagavantam abhivādetvā, ekam-antam aṭṭhāsi.**  
and after approaching and worshipping the Gracious One, he stood on one side.

**upasaṅkamtivā** after approaching  
**abhivādetvā** worshipping  
**Bhagavantam** the Gracious One  
**ekam-** one  
**antam** side  
**aṭṭhāsi** he stood

**Ekam-antam ṭhitā kho sā devatā Bhagavantam gāthāya ajjhabhāsi:**  
While standing on one side that god addressed the Gracious One with a verse:

**Ekam-** one  
**antam** side  
**ṭhitā** standing  
**kho** (emphatic particle)  
**sā** that  
**devatā** god  
**Bhagavantam** the Gracious One  
**gāthāya** with a verse  
**ajjhabhāsi** addressed

(VERSES)

(VERSE 1: SPOKEN BY ONE OF THE GODS)

**“Bahū devā manussā ca ~ maṅgalāni acintayum**  
“Many are the gods and the men ~ who have thought about the blessings

**Bahū** many  
**devā** gods  
**manussā** men  
**ca** and  
**maṅgalāni** blessings  
**acintayum** have thought

(VERSE 2-12: SPOKEN BY THE BUDDHA IN REPLY)

**ākaṅkhamānā sotthānaṃ: ~ brūhi maṅgalam-uttamaṃ.** [1]  
hoping for safety: ~ now please say what is the supreme.”

**ākaṅkhamānā** hoping  
**sotthānaṃ** for safety  
**brūhi** please say  
**maṅgalam-** blessing  
**uttamaṃ** supreme

**“Asevanā ca bālānaṃ, ~ paṇḍitānañ-ca sevanā,**  
“Not associating with fools, ~ but associating with the wise,

**Asevanā** not associating  
**ca** (connective particle)  
**bālānaṃ** with fools  
**paṇḍitānañ** with the wise  
**ca** but  
**sevanā** associating

**pūjā ca pūjanīyānaṃ: ~ etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ.** [2]  
honouring those worthy of honour: ~ this is the supreme blessing.

**pūjā** honouring  
**ca** (connective particle)  
**pūjanīyānaṃ** worthy of honour (the honourable)  
**etaṃ** this  
**maṅgalam-** blessing  
**uttamaṃ** supreme

**Paṭirūpadesavāso ca, ~ pubbe ca katapuññatā,**  
Living in a suitable place, ~ formerly having done good deeds,

**paṭirūpa-** suitable  
**desa** place (lit: district)  
**vāso** living  
**ca** (and)  
**pubbe** formerly  
**ca** (and)  
**kata-** having done  
**puññatā** good deeds

**attasammāpaṇidhi ca: ~ etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ.** [3]  
having the right aspiration for oneself: ~ this is the supreme blessing.

**atta-** oneself  
**sammā-** right  
**paṇidhi** aspiration  
**ca** (and)  
**etaṃ** this  
**maṅgalam-** blessing  
**uttamaṃ** supreme

**Bāhusaccañ-ca sippañ-ca, ~ vinayo ca susikkhito,**

Having great learning and craft, ~ being disciplined and well trained,

**Bāhu-** great  
**saccañ-** learning  
**ca** and  
**sippañ-** craft  
**ca** and  
**vinayo** being disciplined  
**ca** and  
**su-** well  
**sikkhito** trained

**subhāsītā ca yā vācā: ~ etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ. [4]**

and whatever words are well spoken: ~ this is the supreme blessing.

**su-** well  
**bhāsītā** spoken  
**ca** and  
**yā** whatever  
**vācā** words  
**etaṃ** this  
**maṅgalam-** blessing  
**uttamaṃ** supreme

**Mātāpitu-upaṭṭhānaṃ, ~ puttadārassa saṅgaho,**

Attending on one's mother and father, ~ looking after one's wife and children,

**Mātā-** mother  
**pitu** father  
**upaṭṭhānaṃ** attending on  
**putta-** children  
**dārassa** wife  
**saṅgaho** looking after

**anākulā ca kammantā: ~ etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ. [5]**

having work that is not agitating: ~ this is the supreme blessing.

**anākulā** (= an+ākulā) not agitating  
**ca** (and)  
**kammantā** work  
**etaṃ** this  
**maṅgalam-** blessing  
**uttamaṃ** supreme

**Dānañ-ca Dhammacariyā ca, ~ ñātakānañ-ca saṅgaho,**  
Giving, and living by the Dhamma, ~ and looking after one's relatives,

**dānañ-** giving  
**ca** and  
**Dhamma-** Dhamma  
**cariyā** living by  
**ca** and  
**ñātakānañ-** relatives  
**ca** and  
**saṅgaho** looking after

**anavajjāni kammāni: ~ etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ. [6]**  
(performing) actions that are blameless: ~ this is the supreme blessing.

**anavajjāni** (= an+a+vajjāni) blameless  
**kammāni** actions  
**etaṃ** this  
**maṅgalam-** blessing  
**uttamaṃ** supreme

**Ārati virati pāpā, ~ majjapānā ca saññamo,**  
Abstaining, refraining, from bad deeds, ~ restraint from intoxicating drink,

**ārati** abstaining  
**virati** refraining  
**pāpā** from bad deeds  
**majja-** intoxicating  
**pānā** from drink  
**ca** (and)  
**saññamo** restraint

**appamādo ca dhammesu: ~ etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ. [7]**  
being heedful regarding (all) things: ~ this is the supreme blessing.

**appamādo** being heedful  
**ca** (and)  
**dhammesu** regarding things  
**etaṃ** this  
**maṅgalam-** blessing  
**uttamaṃ** supreme

**Gāravo ca nivāto ca, ~ santuṭṭhī ca kataññutā,**  
Having respect and being humble, ~ being satisfied and grateful,

**gāravo** having respect  
**ca** and  
**nivāto** being humble  
**ca** and  
**santuṭṭhī** being satisfied  
**ca** and  
**kataññutā** grateful

**kālena Dhammasavaṇaṃ: ~ etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ. [8]**

listening to the Dhamma at the right time: ~ this is the supreme blessing.

**kālena** at the right time  
**Dhamma-** the Dhamma  
**savaṇaṃ** listening  
**etaṃ** this  
**maṅgalam-** blessing  
**uttamaṃ** supreme

**Khantī ca sovacassatā, ~ samaṇānañ-ca dassanaṃ,**

Being patient and easily spoken to, ~ seeing ascetics,

**Khantī** being patient  
**ca** and  
**so-** easily  
**vacassatā** spoken to  
**samaṇānañ-** ascetics  
**ca** (and)  
**dassanaṃ** seeing

**kālena Dhammasākacchā: ~ etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ. [9]**

discussing the Dhamma at the right time: ~ this is the supreme blessing.

**kālena** at the right time  
**Dhamma-** the Dhamma  
**sākacchā** discussing  
**etaṃ** this  
**maṅgalam-** blessing  
**uttamaṃ** supreme

**Tapo ca brahmacariyañ-ca, ~ ariyasaccānadassanaṃ,**

Austerity, living spiritually, ~ insight into the noble truths,

**Tapo** austerity  
**ca** (and)  
**brahma-** spiritually  
**cariyañ-** living  
**ca** (and)  
**ariya-** noble  
**saccāna-** truths  
**dassanaṃ** insight

**Nibbānasacchikiriya ca: ~ etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ. [10]**

the experience of Nibbāna: ~ this is the supreme blessing.

**Nibbāna-** Nibbāna  
**sacchikiriya** experience  
**ca** (and)  
**etaṃ** this  
**maṅgalam-** blessing  
**uttamaṃ** supreme

**Phuṭṭhassa lokadhammeḥi, ~ cittaṃ yassa na kampati,**  
He whose mind does not waver, when it is touched by worldly things,

**Phuṭṭhassa** touched  
**loka-** worldly  
**dhammeḥi** by things  
**cittaṃ** mind  
**yassa** he whose  
**na** not  
**kampati** waver

**asokaṃ virajaṃ khemaṃ: ~ etaṃ maṅgalam-uttamaṃ. [11]**  
being griefless, dustless, and secure: ~ this is the supreme blessing.

**asokaṃ** being griefless  
**virajaṃ** dustless  
**khemaṃ** secure  
**etaṃ** this  
**maṅgalam-** blessing  
**uttamaṃ** supreme

**Etādisāni katvāna, ~ sabbattha-m-aparājitā,**  
Having done as here directed, ~ being undefeated everywhere,

**Etā-** here  
**disāni** directed  
**katvāna** having done  
**sabbattha** everywhere  
**m** (euphonic particle)  
**aparājitā** (= a+parājitā) undefeated

**sabbattha sotthiṃ gacchanti: ~ taṃ tesaṃ maṅgalam-uttaman"-ti. [12]**  
they go everywhere in safety: ~ for them this is the supreme blessing.”

**sabbattha** everywhere  
**sotthiṃ** safety  
**gacchanti** they go  
**taṃ** for them  
**tesaṃ** this  
**maṅgalam-** blessing  
**uttaman-** supreme  
**ti** (quotation marker)