



**ADHAMMIKASUTTA
THE DISHONEST**

**AN 4.70
translated by
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Adhammikasuttam

The Discourse on the Dishonest

AN 4.70

Yasmiñ, bhikkhave, samaye rājāno adhammikā honti,
At whatever time, monastics, there are dishonest kings,

rājāyuttā pi tasmim samaye adhammikā honti.
at that time royal agents are dishonest.

Dasame adhammikā hontī ti

In the tenth (discourse in this section) there are dishonest (kings) means

porāṇaka-rājūhi ṭhapitam,
established by the kings of old,

dasa-bhāga-baliñ-ceva aparādhānurūpañ-ca daṇḍam aggahetvā,
(agents,) having taken a tenth in tax shares and the fines in accordance with guilt,

atireka-balino ceva atireka-daṇḍassa ca gahaṇena adhammikā.
dishonestly take extra taxes and extra fines.

Rājāyuttā ti rañño janapadesu kicca-saṁvidhāyakā āyuttaka-purisā.
Royal agents means there are people who are agents managing (various) duties within the king's realms.

Rājāyuttesu adhammikesu

When there are dishonest royal agents

brāhmaṇa-gahapatikā pi tasmim samaye adhammikā honti.
at that time brahmins and householders are dishonest.

Brāhmaṇa-gahapatikesu adhammikesu

When there are dishonest brahmins and householders

negama-jānapadā pi tasmim samaye adhammikā honti.
at that time the citizens are dishonest.

Brāhmaṇa-gahapatikā ti anto-nagara-vāsino brāhmaṇa-gahapatayo.
Brahmins and householders means those brahmins and householders dwelling within the cities.

Negama-jānapadā ti nigama-vāsino ceva janapada-vāsino ca.
Citizens means those who dwell in the towns or the countryside.

Negama-jānapadesu adhammikesu

When there are dishonest citizens

visamaṃ candima-sūriyā parivattanti.

moon and sun move irregularly.

Visamaṃ candima-sūriyesu parivattantesu

When there is the irregular movement of the moon and sun

visamaṃ nakkhattāni tāraka-rūpāni parivattanti.

the constellations and stars move irregularly.

Visamaṃ nakkhattesu tāraka-rūpesu parivattantesu

When there is the irregular movement of the constellations and stars

visamaṃ rattin-divā parivattanti.

night and day move irregularly.

Visamaṃ rattindivesu parivattantesu

When there is the irregular movement of night and day

visamaṃ māsaddhamāsā parivattanti.

the months and fortnights move irregularly.

Visamaṃ māsaddhamāsesu parivattantesu

When there is the irregular movement of the months and fortnights

visamaṃ utusāṃvaccharā parivattanti.

the seasons and years move irregularly.

Visamaṃ utusāṃvaccharesu parivattantesu

When there is the irregular movement of the seasons and years

visamaṃ vātā vāyanti visamā apañjasā.

the blowing of the winds is irregular and abnormal.

Visaman-ti visamā hutvā, asamayena vāyantī ti attho.

Irregular means having become uneven, blowing at the wrong time is the meaning.

Visamā ti na samā, atithaddhā vā atimudukā vā ti attho.

Irregular means not regular, too strong or too weak is the meaning.

Apañjasā ti maggato apagatā.

Abnormal means having departed from the (right) path.

Ummagga-gāmino hutvā vāyantī ti attho.

It is blowing along a devious path is the meaning.

Visamañ vātesu vāyantesu visamesu apañjasesu

When there is the irregular and abnormal movement of the winds

devatā parikupitā bhavanti.

the gods become agitated.

Devatā parikupitā bhavanti ti

The gods become agitated means

vātesu hi visamesu apañjasesu vāyantesu

because of irregular and abnormal winds

rukkhā bhijjanti, vimānāni bhijjanti.

the trees break, (their) palaces break.¹

Devatāsu parikupitāsu

When the gods are agitated

devo na sammā dhāraṃ anuppavecchati.

the gods do not give proper (rain).

Tasmā devatā parikupitā bhavanti,

Therefore the gods become agitated,

tā devassa sammā vassituṃ na denti.

and those gods do not give the proper rain.

Tena vuttam: devo na sammā dhāraṃ anuppavecchatī ti.

Because of that this was said: the gods do not give the proper (rain)

Deve na sammā dhāraṃ anuppavecchante

When the gods do not give proper (rain)

visamapākāni sassāni bhavanti.

the crops ripen irregularly.

Visamapākāni sassāni bhavanti ti

The crops ripen irregularly means

ekasmiṃ ṭhāne gabbhīni honti,

in one place they are swelling,²

¹ Evidently the *bhumā devā* are intended here, those who live on earth, thought to inhabit trees and other places.

² Literally, *they are pregnant*, in the sense I take it of being larger than normal. I owe much of the interpretation of this passage to Dr. Junko Matsumura.

ekasmiṃ sañjātakhīrāni,
in one (place) sap has arisen,

ekam ṭhānaṃ paccatī, ti
(in) one place it is (still) ripening,

evaṃ visamaṃ pākāni sassāni bhavanti.
thus the crops ripen irregularly.

Visamapākāni, bhikkhave, sassāni manussā paribhuñjantā
When the crops ripen irregularly, monastics, humans who eat them

appāyukā honti, dubbaṇṇā ca bāvhabādā ca.
have a short life, are ugly and have many illnesses.

Yasmiṃ, bhikkhave, samaye rājāno dhammikā honti,
At whatever time, monastics, there are honest kings,

rājāyuttā pi tasmīṃ samaye dhammikā honti.
at that time royal agents are honest.

Rājāyuttesu dhammikesu
When there are honest royal agents

brāhmaṇa-gahapatikā pi tasmīṃ samaye dhammikā honti.
at that time brahmins and householders are honest.

Brāhmaṇa-gahapatikesu dhammikesu
When there are honest brahmins and householders

negama-jānapadā pi tasmīṃ samaye dhammikā honti.
at that time the citizens are honest.

Negama-jānapadesu dhammikesu
When there are honest citizens

samaṃ candima-sūriyā parivattanti.
the moon and sun move regularly.

Samam candima-sūriyesu parivattantesu
When there is the regular movement of the moon and sun

samaṃ nakkhattāni tāra-ka-rūpāni parivattanti.
the constellations and stars move regularly.

Samam nakkhattāni tāraka-rūpāni parivattantī ti
The constellations and stars move regularly means

yathā Kattika-puṇṇamā Kattika-nakkhattam-eva labhati,
just as the Kattika full moon is found in the Kattika constellation

Migasira-puṇṇamā Migasira-nakkhattam-evā ti,
and the Migasira full moon is found in the Migasira constellation,

evam tasmiṃ tasmiṃ māse sā sā puṇṇamā taṃ taṃ nakkhattam-eva labhati,
so in whatever month the full moons are, they are always found in the (right) constellations,

tathā sammā parivattanti.
therefore they move properly.

Samam nakkhattesu tāraka-rūpesu parivattantesu
When there is the regular movement of the constellations and stars

samam rattindivā parivattanti.
night and day move regularly.

Samam rattindivesu parivattantesu
When there is the regular movement of night and day

samam māsaddhamāsā parivattanti.
the months and fortnights move regularly.

Samam māsaddhamāsesu parivattantesu
When there is the regular movement of the months and fortnights

samam utusamvaccharā parivattanti.
the seasons and years move regularly.

Samam utusamvaccharesu parivattantesu
When there is the regular movement of the seasons and years

samam vātā vāyanti samā pañjasā.
the blowing of the winds is regular and normal.

Samam vātā vāyantī ti avisamā hutvā समयस्मिṃ yeva vāyanti,
The blowing of the winds means after being irregular the (winds) blow on time,

cha māse uttarā vātā, cha māse dakkhiṇā ti.
six months there are northerly winds, six months there are southerly (winds).

Evam tesam tesam janapadānam anurūpe samaye vāyanti.

Thus for those people (the winds) blow in accordance with the time (of the year).

Samā ti samappavattino, nātithaddhā nātimudū.

Regular means moving regularly, neither too strong or too weak.

Pañjasā ti maggappaṭipannā.

Normal means along the (right) path.

Maggeneva vāyanti, no amaggenā ti attho.

They blow along the path, not against the path is the meaning.

Samam vātesu vāyantesu samesu pañjasesu

When there is the regular and normal movement of the winds

devatā aparikupitā bhavanti.

the gods become calm.³

Devatāsu aparikupitāsu

When the gods are calm

devo sammā dhāram anuppavecchati.

the gods give proper (rain).

Deve sammā dhāram anuppavecchante

When the gods give proper (rain)

samapākāni sassāni bhavanti.

the crops ripen regularly.

Samapākāni, bhikkhave, sassāni manussā paribhuñjantā

When the crops ripen regularly, monastics, humans who eat them

dīghāyukā ca honti vaṇṇavanto ca balavanto ca appābādhā cā ti.

have a long life, are beautiful and have few illnesses.

Gunnam ce taramānānam, jimham gacchati puṅgavo,

If, when cattle are hurrying, the leader goes off course,

sabbā tā jimham gacchanti, nette jimham gate sati.

they all go off course, as the leader is going off course.

³ Or, more literally, unagitated.

Jimhaṃ gacchatī ti kuṭilaṃ gacchati, atitthaṃ gaṇhāti.

Goes off course means goes crookedly, grasping an unsuitable way.

Nette jimhaṃ gate satī ti nayatī ti nettā.

The leader is going off course, here leader means (their) guide.

Tasmiṃ nette jimhaṃ gate, kuṭilaṃ gantvā

Because the leader goes off course, having gone in an unsuitable way,

atitthaṃ gaṇhante itarā pi, atitthaṃ-eva gaṇhantī ti attho.

the others also grasp an unsuitable way, grasp at a truly unsuitable way is the meaning.

Nete ti pi pāṭho.

Nete is also a reading.

Evam-evamṃ manussesu, yo hoti seṭṭha-sammato,

So it is with humans, he who is agreed upon as the chief,

so ce adhammaṃ carati, pageva itarā pajā?

if he is dishonest, what to say of the other people?

Sabbaṃ raṭṭhaṃ dukkhaṃ seti rājā ce hoti adhammiko.

The whole country sleeps badly if the king is dishonest.

Dukkhaṃ setī ti dukkhaṃ sayati, dukkhitam hotī ti attho.

Sleeps badly means sleeping miserably, there is affliction is the meaning.

Gunnaṃ ce taramānānaṃ, ujum gacchati puṅgavo,

If, when cattle are hurrying, as the leader is going straight,

sabbā tā ujum gacchanti, nette ujum gate sati.

they all go straight, following the one who goes straight.

Evam-evamṃ manussesu, yo hoti seṭṭha-sammato,

So it is with humans, he who is agreed upon as the chief,

so sace dhammaṃ carati, pageva itarā pajā?

if he is honest, what to say of the other people?

Sabbaṃ raṭṭhaṃ sukhaṃ seti rājā ce hoti dhammiko ti.

The whole country will sleep happily if the king is but honest.