Snp 2.4 — Blessings

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Text

Anthology of Discourses 2.4

Blessings

So I have heard. At one time the Buddha was staying near Sāvatthī in Jeta’s Grove, Anāthapiṇḍika’s monastery. Then, late at night, a glorious deity, lighting up the entire Jeta’s Grove, went up to the Buddha, bowed, and stood to one side. That deity addressed the Buddha in verse:

“Many gods and humans

have thought about blessings

desiring well-being:

declare the highest blessing.”

“Not to fraternize with fools,

but to fraternize with the wise,

and honoring those worthy of honor:

this is the highest blessing.

Living in a suitable region,

having made merit in the past,

being rightly resolved in oneself,

this is the highest blessing.

Education and a craft,

discipline and training,

and well-spoken speech:

this is the highest blessing.

Caring for mother and father,

kindness to children and partners,

and unstressful work:

this is the highest blessing.
Giving and righteous conduct,
kindness to relatives,
blameless deeds:
this is the highest blessing.
Desisting and abstaining from evil,
avoiding drinking liquor,
diligence in good qualities:
this is the highest blessing.
Respect and placidity,
contentment and gratitude,
and timely listening to the teaching:
this is the highest blessing.
Patience, being easy to admonish,
the sight of ascetics,
and timely discussion of the teaching:
this is the highest blessing.
Fervor and chastity
seeing the noble truths,
and realization of extinguishment:
this is the highest blessing.
Though touched by worldly conditions,
their mind does not tremble;
sorrowless, stainless, secure:
this is the highest blessing.
Having completed these things,
undefeated everywhere;
everywhere they go in safety:
this is their highest blessing.”