

# DEVATA HELPS MONKS

AYONISO-MANASIKARA SUTTA

“INAPPROPRIATE ATTENTION”

&

Viveka Sutta

“Seclusion”



**A GIFT OF DHAMMA**

# AYONISO-MANASIKARA SUTTA “INAPPROPRIATE ATTENTION”

NAMO TASSA BHAGAVATO ARAHATO SAMMA SAMBUDHASSA

**INTRODUCTION:** Buddha said that to strive for Lokuttara attainment, one must strike hard on your own; it does not mean that you should not accept helps when you need help. Take for example, a forest Monk in forest seclusion, he would never find a teacher in the forest except the Devata's (1) . The two suttas explain why in this world, we all need helps to straighten us up, when we needed help. Even Buddha during his austere practice (Dutangas) (2) , his mother, a Deva from Tusita came down to encourage him say: your enlightenment is very close, a piece of encouragement when he needed most.

In the Theravada ideal, Monks need to be supported by the laity for his daily alms food. He could never survive on his own in his quest for arahatship. If he lives far from the village, then he needs some one to provide him with alms food. Thus, when we read what Buddha said: to attain Lokuttara wisdom and that - you must be self reliance; but you need outside helps to support you for your daily necessities, like alms food and medicine (the four requisites.). Buddha does not mean Bhikkhu could survive on his own to reach for Arahatsip; he does need laity support. Here in these two suttas, Devata (Deity) came to help the monks and lead them on to the right path.

Not all Monks would receive this kind of Devata's help; it only happens to those Monks who are virtuous; because both man and devata love man of virtue.

## SAMYUTTA NIKAYA IX.11 AYONISO-MANASIKARA SUTTA INAPPROPRIATE ATTENTION

Translated from the Pali by Thanissaro Bhikkhu

**Thus have I heard:**

that on one occasion a certain monk was dwelling among the Kosalans in a forest thicket. Now at that time, he spent the day's abiding thinking evil, unskillful thoughts: i.e., thoughts of sensuality, thoughts of ill will, and thoughts of doing harm.

Then, the devata inhabiting the forest thicket, feeling sympathy for the monk, desiring his benefit, desiring to bring him to his senses, approached him and addressed him with this verse:

From inappropriate attention  
you're being chewed by your thoughts.

Relinquishing what's inappropriate,

contemplate  
appropriately.

Keeping your mind on the Teacher,  
the Dhamma, the Sangha, your virtues,

you will arrive at

joy,

rapture,

pleasure

without doubt.

Then, saturated

with joy,

you will put an end  
to suffering & stress.

The monk, chastened by the devata, came to his senses.



- 1 Devata : De'va`ta - (*Hind. Myth.*) A deity; a divine being; a good spirit; an idol
2. Dutangas – Monk's thirteen austere practices.

## Samyutta Nikaya IX.1

# Viveka Sutta

## Seclusion

Translated from the Pali by Thanissaro Bhikkhu

### Introduction:

AS Buddha said, we are living in the world with devas, Mara, Brahmas and naturally, some have to deal with them one time or another. When we went astray, out of the right path, there are Devas and Brahmas who will guide you to the right path. Not all will receive this kind of Devas' helps, but the truth is such thing exists even at the time of Buddha.

## Viveka Sutta

Once, a certain Monk was admonished by a Deva in the interest of the Monk and guide him on the right path.

### Thus have I heard:

I have heard that on one occasion a certain monk was dwelling among the Kosalans in a forest thicket. Now at that time, as he had gone to spend the day [in the thicket], he was thinking unskillful thoughts, connected with the household life.

Then the devata inhabiting the forest thicket, feeling sympathy for the monk, desiring his benefit, desiring to bring him to his senses, approached him and addressed him with this verse.:

"Desiring seclusion  
you've entered the forest,  
and yet your mind  
goes running outside.  
You, a person:  
subdue your desire for people.  
Then you'll be happy, free  
from passion.

Dispel discontent,  
be mindful.  
Let me remind you  
of that which is good --  
for the dust  
of the regions below  
is hard to transcend.  
Don't let the dust  
of the sensual  
pull

you  
down.

As a bird  
spattered with dirt  
sheds the adhering dust with a shake,  
so a monk  
-- energetic & mindful --  
sheds the adhering dust."

The monk, chastened by the devata, came to his senses.



**Sadhu ! Sadhu ! Sadhu!**