

Great Benefits to Be Accrued To Do Charities During The Buddha Dispensation



Dear Dhamma Friends:

We have a story of a Deva who asked a question: - to compare the benefit of a charity done during the teaching of the Buddha against one made outside the teaching of Buddha teaching? Buddha gave the answer: -

"O deva! When giving charities and donations you should choose whom you give, for acts of charities are just like seeds. Seeds put into fertile soil will grow into strong, vigorous plants or trees and will bear much fruit; but you had sown your seed in poor soil, so you reap poorly."

So, whoever read this story should be encouraged to do charities lavishly, because he (she) is doing charities during the Buddha the teaching of the Buddha (dispensation). In this fourth world cycle, his dispensation last for 5,000 years and we have just passed the half-way point. So, the benefits that could be accrued are tremendous and countless.

I am presenting the Dhammapada Story Verse 356 thru. 359 – translated by Daw Mya Tin – Tipitaka Association – distributed through Nibbana.com as a gift of Dhamma.

Verse 356 to 359 - The Story of Deva Ankura

While on a visit to the Tavatimsa deva realm, the Buddha uttered Verses (356) to (359) of this book, with reference to a deva named Ankura.

The Buddha visited the Tavatimsa deva realm to expound the Abhidhamma to Deva Santusita, who had been his mother. During that time, there was a deva named Indaka in Tavatimsa. Indaka, in his last existence as a man, had offered a little alms-food to Thera Anuruddha. As this good deed was made to a thera within the period of the Buddha's Teaching he was amply rewarded for it. Thus, on his death he was reborn in the Tavatimsa realm and was lavishly bestowed with the luxuries of the deva world. At that time, there was also another deva by the name of Ankura in Tavatimsa who had given much in charity; in fact, many times more than what Indaka had given. But his charity was made outside the period of the Teaching of any of the Buddhas. So, in spite of his lavish and grand charities, he was enjoying the benefits of the life of a deva on a much smaller scale than Indaka, who had offered very little. As the Buddha was then at Tavatimsa, Ankura asked him the reason for the discrepancy in gaining the benefits. To him the Buddha answered, "O deva! When giving charities and donations you should choose whom you give, for acts of charities are just like seeds. Seeds put into fertile soil will grow into strong, vigorous plants or trees and will bear much fruit; but you had sown your seed in poor soil, so you reap poorly."

Then the Buddha spoke in verse as follows:

Verse 356. Weeds damage fields; lust spoils all beings.
Therefore, giving to those free from lust yields great benefit.

Verse 357. Weeds damage fields; ill will spoils all beings.
Therefore, giving to those free from ill will yields great benefit.

Verse 358. Weeds damage fields; ignorance spoils all beings. Therefore, giving to those free from ignorance yields great benefit.

Verse 359. Weeds damage fields; covetousness spoils all beings. Therefore, giving to those free from covetousness yields great benefit.



Ananta Metta

Maung Paw