

# Sharing Merits

Tirokudda Kanda Sutta

Presented as Dhamma Dana



## Tirokudda Kanda Sutta– Hungry Shades Outside the Walls 🚩

### Introduction:

Some Buddhists say ancestor worship is not part of the Buddhist Theravada tradition? Then, when we look through the Pali Suttas, we found the *Tirokudda Kanda Sutta* – “*meaning Hungry Shades Outside the Walls*”. We will take a careful look at this sutta and see our real world system we live in and perceive it in the more pragmatic way. That is the source of our tradition of sharing merits and doing merits for our relatives who have long passed away from our world. This sutta said about Peta – in Burmese we called them as *Peik Tar* – the Hungry Ghosts

### Tirokudda Kanda Sutta

Outside the walls they stand,  
& at crossroads.  
At door posts they stand,  
returning to their old homes.  
But when a meal with plentiful food & drink is served,

no one remembers them:  
Such is the *kamma* of living beings.

Thus those who feel sympathy for their dead relatives  
give timely donations of proper food & drink  
-- exquisite, clean --  
[thinking:] "May this be for our relatives.  
May our relatives be happy!"

And those who have gathered there,  
the assembled shades of the relatives,  
with appreciation give their blessing  
for the plentiful food & drink:  
"May our relatives live long  
because of whom we have gained [this gift].  
We have been honored,  
and the donors are not without reward!"

For there [*in their realm*] there's  
no farming,  
no herding of cattle,  
no commerce,  
no trading with money.  
They live on what is given here,  
hungry shades  
whose time here is done.

As water raining on a hill  
flows down to the valley,  
even so does what is given here  
benefit the dead.  
As rivers full of water  
fill the ocean full,  
even so does what is given here  
benefit the dead.

"He gave to me, she acted on my behalf,  
they were my relatives, companions, friends":  
Offerings should be given for the dead  
when one reflects thus

on things done in the past.  
For no weeping,  
no sorrowing  
no other lamentation  
benefits the dead  
whose relatives persist in that way.  
But when this offering is given, well-placed in the  
Sangha,  
it works for their long-term benefit  
and they profit immediately.

In this way --- the proper duty to relatives has been  
shown,  
great honor has been done to the dead,  
and monks have been given strength:

The merit you've acquired  
isn't small.

Sutta -  
[http://www.accesstoinsight.org/canon/khuddaka/khp/  
khp.html#7](http://www.accesstoinsight.org/canon/khuddaka/khp/khp.html#7)

Ananta Metta

Maung Paw