

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