

Discourse on Five Blessings of the Benevolent and Wise

Thus I have heard. One time, Gautama Buddha was staying near Savatthi in Jeta's Grove, Anathapindika's Monastery. There, he spoke to all of his disciples:

“By preaching dharma, a person of benevolence and wisdom gains five blessings. ‘What are the five blessings?’ you may ask. The first is living a long life, once born into this world. The second is becoming a person of great wealth, possessing riches and treasures. The third is having well made, handsome features. The fourth is being known as a person of renown throughout the world. The fifth is being intelligent and profoundly wise.

How is it that, by preaching dharma, one gains the blessing of longevity? When a person has preached dharma in a previous life, where every word was good and its meaning possessed of benign intentions, anyone who heard this preaching returned home a person who detested killing. Even those who had been casually engaged in destruction of life up until the previous day, after listening to the dharma preached by this person of virtue, stopped killing at once from that day forward. This is how one becomes blessed with longevity in this life.

Also, how is that, by preaching dharma, one becomes a person of great wealth, possessing riches and treasures? When a person has preached dharma in a previous life, where every word was good and its meaning possessed of benign intentions, anyone who heard this preaching returned home a person who detested stealing. Even those who had been engaged in stealing up until the previous day, after listening to the dharma preached by this person of virtue, immediately repented of their sins and reformed themselves to practice generosity to others instead. This is how one becomes blessed with great wealth in this life.

Also, how is it that, by preaching dharma, one gains the blessing of having good looks? When a person has preached dharma in a previous life, where every word was

good and its meaning possessed of benign intentions, anyone who heard this preaching returned home delighted and beaming with joy, and every household was filled with laughter. This is how one is blessed with good looks in this life.

Also, how is it that, by preaching dharma, one gains the blessing of being known as a person of renown throughout the world? When a person has preached the dharma in a previous life, where every word was good and its meaning possessed of benign intentions, anyone who heard this preaching returned home and revered the teachings of Buddha and those of all the other sages as well as the ascetics. This is how one becomes a person of renown in this life.

Also, how is it that by preaching dharma, one gains the blessing of being intelligent and profoundly wise? When a person has preached dharma in a previous life, where every word was good and its meaning possessed of benign intentions, anyone who heard this preaching gained a great deal of wisdom. This is how one becomes a person of intelligence and profound wisdom in this life.

These are the five principles and those who would preach dharma before various assemblies of people in the future should take these words to heart.”

All the disciples had listened to his discourse and bowed with great respect in Gautama Buddha’s honor; their hearts filled with delight.