Dhp 179-196 — Chapter on the Buddha

English translation by Bhante Suddhāso.
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Text

Collection of Minor Texts

Verses of Dhamma

Chapter on the Buddha

One whose victory does not diminish,

whose victory cannot be removed by anyone in the world,

the domain of that Awakened One is infinite -

No one can lead that one astray.

One who is not entangled or stuck,

in whom no craving can be found,

the domain of that Awakened One is infinite -

No one can lead that one astray.

They are steadfast, committed to Jhāna,

appreciate the peacefulness of renunciation,

and are envied even by the angels -

those who are mindful and fully Awakened.

It is hard to become a human,

it is hard to live a mortal life,

it is hard to hear the true Dhamma,

it is hard to encounter an Awakened One.

Not doing anything evil,

commitment to the wholesome,

and cleansing one's own mind -

this is the teaching of the Awakened Ones.
Endurance is the highest austerity,
Nibbāna is the highest, according to those who are Awakened.
A renunciant does not harm others,
a contemplative does not oppress others.
Not insulting, not harming,
self-restraint in accordance with the Pātimokkha,
Knowing the right amount when eating,
sitting and sleeping in a secluded place,
and commitment to improving the mind -
this is the teaching of the Awakened Ones.
Not even with a rain of money
can one be sated when it comes to sensuality.
There is little gratification in sensuality, it is unsatisfying;
this is what the wise understand.
Even in heavenly sensuality
one cannot find satisfaction.
But there is satisfaction in the elimination of craving
for a disciple of the Fully Awakened One.
They go to many places for refuge -
mountains, groves,
forest shrines -
people who are struck by fear.
But that is not a secure refuge,
that is not the ultimate refuge;
that is not a refuge
which brings freedom from all suffering.
But one who has gone for refuge
to the Buddha, Dhamma, and Sangha,

and who sees the Four Noble Truths
with correct wisdom -
suffering, the origin of suffering,
the transcending of suffering,
and the Noble Eightfold Path
which leads to the pacification of suffering -
this is a secure refuge,
this is the ultimate refuge.
This is the refuge
which brings freedom from all suffering.
It is hard to find a high-quality person;
they are not born everywhere.
Wherever a steadfast person is born,
their family grows in happiness.
Happy is the arising of Awakened Ones,
happy is the teaching of the true Dhamma,
happy is the harmony of the Sangha,
happy is the austerity of those on the same Path.
One who honors those worthy of honor -
Awakened Ones or their disciples,
those who have transcended complication
and gone beyond sorrow and grief,
who have reached Nibbāna,
and are fearless -
it is not possible to calculate the merit
of one who honors such beings.