Vv 55 — Dvārapālaka Sutta: Doorkeeper’s Mansion

English translation by Mahamevnawa Buddhist Monastery (Sutta Friends).

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Text

Moggallana Bhante:

Dear Devata, your mansion is way up in the sky and spreads over one hundred and twenty kilometers. Pillars of beryl and other gemstones, and seven hundred pinnacled buildings are in your estate. It is very beautiful. Inside the mansion, you drink and eat and enjoy the sweetness of heavenly food. Guitars play sweet music. You have the five kinds of sensual pleasures. Devatas dance for you, wearing gold jewelry.

What are the meritorious deeds that led to this happiness?

Tell me Devata, what kind of meritorious action did you do when you were in the human world to have gained this beauty that shines in all directions, and to have earned all these wonderful things?

That devata, delighted at being questioned by Arahant Moggallana, gladly explained what she had done that resulted in such great happiness.

Devata:

I have a lifespan of one thousand heavenly years. When I was in the human world, I spoke good words and lived with a clean and happy mind. Those were the only meritorious deeds I did. Because of that, I have gained this divine happiness.

That is why the pure radiance of my body and limbs is stainless and shines in all directions. Great Bhante, those were the meritorious deeds I did to have such a beautiful body.