

The Ground Plan of the Mangala Sutta with its Thirty-Eight Blessings

Verse

- v. 1. The opening inquiry: What is truly auspicious, truly a blessing?
- v. 2. *Orientation*: cultivating the conditions for discretion
 - (1) Not to associate with the foolish (*asevanā bālānaṃ*)
 - (2) To associate with the wise (*paṇḍitīnaṃ sevanā*)
 - (3) To venerate those worthy of veneration (*pūjā pūjanīyānaṃ*)
- v. 3. *Establishing secure foundations*: the inner and outer requisites for success in life
 - (4) Dwelling in a suitable locality (*paṭirūpadesavāsa*)
 - (5) Merits done in the past (*pubbe katapuññatā*)
 - (6) To set oneself on the right course (right resolution: *attasammāpaṇidhi*)
- v. 4. *Preparations*: training oneself for success in life
 - (7) A well-rounded education (abundant learning: *bāhusacca*)
 - (8) Learning a craft or profession (*sippa*)
 - (9) A code of discipline that has been well trained in (*vinaya susikkhita*)
 - (10) Well-spoken speech (*subhāsītā vācā*)
- vv. 5, 6: *Leading a virtuous life in the world*:
- v.5. *Fulfilling family responsibilities*
 - (11) Supporting one's mother and father (*mātāpitu-upaṭṭhāna*)
 - (12) Maintaining a wife (husband) and children (*putta dārasaṅgahā*)
 - (13) A harmless occupation (*anākulā kammantā*)
- v.6. *Becoming a pillar of society*
 - (14) Generosity (*dāna*)
 - (15) Dutiful conduct (righteous conduct: *dhammacariyā*)
 - (16) Helping of relatives and friends (*ñātakānaṃ saṅgaha*)
 - (17) Blameless actions (*anavajjāni kammāni*)
- v.7. *Personal ethics*: A life of moral integrity
 - (18) Ceasing from evil (*ārati pāpā*)
 - (19) Abstaining from evil (*virati pāpā*)
 - (20) Abstention from intoxicating drinks (*majjapānā saṃyama*)
 - (21) Diligence in wholesome practices (*appamādo dhammesu*)
- vv.8, 9. *Developing a spiritual life*: Cultivating inner virtues
 - (22) Reverence (*gārava*)
 - (23) Humility (*nivāta*)
 - (24) Contentment (*santuṭṭhi*)
 - (25) Gratitude (*kataññutā*)
 - (26) Timely hearing of the Dhamma (*kālena dhammassavana*)
 - (27) Patience (*khanti*)
 - (28) Being amenable to advice (*sovacassatā*)
 - (29) Seeing renunciants (*samaṇānaṃ dassanaṃ*)
 - (30) Timely discussions on the Dhamma (*kālena dhammasākacchā*)

v.10. *The ascent towards realization:* practicing and attaining the world-transcending Dhamma

(31) Austerity (*tapa*)

(32) Celibacy (the holy life: *brahmacariya*)

(33) Seeing the Noble Truths (*ariyasaccānadassana*)

(34) Realization of Nirvana (*nibbānasacchikiriya*)

v.11. *Fulfillment:* Embodying the world-transcending Dhamma in the world

(35) A mind unshaken by changing worldly conditions (*phuṭṭhassa lokadhammehi cittaṃ yassa na kampati*)

(36) A mind that is sorrowless (*asokaṃ*)

(37) A mind that is passionless, “dust-free” (*virajaṃ*)

(38) A mind that is secure (*khemam*)

v.12. *Conclusion:* These are victorious everywhere; they attain security everywhere (*sabbattha-m-apārājitā, sabbattha sotthiṃ gacchanti*).