

## Sigalovada Sutta: Tr. Ven. Narada Thero

Thus have I heard:

On one occasion the Exalted One was dwelling in the Bamboo Grove, the Squirrels' Sanctuary, near Rajagaha.

Now at that time, young Sigala, a householder's son, rising early in the morning, departing from Rajagaha, with wet clothes and wet hair, worshipped with joined hands the various quarters — the East, the South, the West, the North, the Nadir, and the Zenith.

Then the Exalted One, having robed himself in the forenoon took bowl and robe, and entered Rajagaha for alms. Now he saw young Sigala worshipping thus and spoke to him as follows:

"Wherefore do you, young householder, rising early in the morning, departing from Rajagaha, with wet clothes and wet hair, worship, with joined hands these various quarters — the East, the South, the West, the North, the Nadir, and the Zenith?"

"My father, Lord, while dying, said to me: The six quarters, dear son, you shall worship. And I, Lord, respecting, revering, reverencing and honoring my father's word, rise early in the morning, and leaving Rajagaha, with wet clothes and wet hair, worship with joined hands, these six quarters."

"It is not thus, young householder, the six quarters should be worshipped in the discipline of the noble."

"How then, Lord, should the six quarters be worshipped in the discipline of the noble? It is well, Lord, if the Exalted One would teach the doctrine to me showing how the six quarters should be worshipped in the discipline of the noble."

"Well, young householder, listen and bear it well in mind; I shall speak." — "Very good, Lord," responded young Sigala.

And the Exalted One spoke as follows:

"Inasmuch, young householder, as the noble disciple **(1)** has eradicated the four vices in conduct,<sup>1</sup> **(2)** inasmuch as he commits no evil action in four ways, **(3)** inasmuch as he pursues not the six channels for dissipating wealth, he thus, avoiding these fourteen evil

things, covers the six quarters, and enters the path leading to victory in both worlds: he is favored in this world and in the world beyond. Upon the dissolution of the body, after death, he is born in a happy heavenly realm.

**(1)** "What are the four vices in conduct that he has eradicated? The destruction of life, householder, is a vice and so are stealing, sexual misconduct, and lying. These are the four vices that he has eradicated."

Thus spoke the Exalted One. And when the Master had thus spoken, he spoke yet again:

Killing, stealing, lying and adultery,  
These four evils the wise never praise.

**(2)** "In which four ways does one commit no evil action? Led by desire does one commit evil. Led by anger does one commit evil. Led by ignorance does one commit evil. Led by fear does one commit evil.<sup>2</sup>

"But inasmuch as the noble disciple is not led by desire, anger, ignorance, and fear, he commits no evil."

Thus spoke the Exalted One. And when the Master had thus spoken, he spoke yet again:

Whoever through desire, hate or fear,  
Or ignorance should transgress the Dhamma,  
All his glory fades away  
Like the moon during the waning half.  
Whoever through desire, hate or fear,  
Or ignorance never transgresses the Dhamma,  
All his glory ever increases  
Like the moon during the waxing half.

**(3)** "What are the six channels for dissipating wealth which he does not pursue?

- (a)** "indulgence in intoxicants which cause infatuation and heedlessness;
- (b)** sauntering in streets at unseemly hours;
- (c)** frequenting theatrical shows;
- (d)** indulgence in gambling which causes heedlessness;
- (e)** association with evil companions;

**(f)** the habit of idleness.

**(a)** "There are, young householder, these six evil consequences in indulging in intoxicants which cause infatuation and heedlessness:

- (i) loss of wealth,
- (ii) increase of quarrels,
- (iii) susceptibility to disease,
- (iv) earning an evil reputation,
- (v) shameless exposure of body,
- (vi) weakening of intellect.

**(b)** "There are, young householder, these six evil consequences in sauntering in streets at unseemly hours:

- (i) he himself is unprotected and unguarded,
- (ii) his wife and children are unprotected and unguarded,
- (iii) his property is unprotected and unguarded,
- (iv) he is suspected of evil deeds,<sup>3</sup>
- (v) he is subject to false rumours,
- (vi) he meets with many troubles.

**(c)** "There are, young householder, these six evil consequences in frequenting theatrical shows. He is ever thinking:

- (i) where is there dancing?
- (ii) where is there singing?
- (iii) where is there music?
- (iv) where is there recitation?
- (v) where is there playing with cymbals?
- (vi) where is there pot-blowing?<sup>4</sup>

**(d)** "There are, young householder, these six evil consequences in indulging in gambling:

- (i) the winner begets hate,
- (ii) the loser grieves for lost wealth,
- (iii) loss of wealth,
- (iv) his word is not relied upon in a court of law,
- (v) he is despised by his friends and associates,
- (vi) he is not sought after for matrimony; for people would say he is a gambler and is not fit to look after a wife.

**(e)** "There are, young householder, these six evil consequences in associating with evil companions, namely: any gambler, any libertine,

any drunkard, any swindler, any cheat, any rowdy is his friend and companion.

**(f)** "There are, young householder, these six evil consequences in being addicted to idleness:

"He does no work, saying:

- (i) that it is extremely cold,
- (ii) that it is extremely hot,
- (iii) that it is too late in the evening,
- (iv) that it is too early in the morning,
- (v) that he is extremely hungry,
- (vi) that he is too full.