

NAMO BUDDHAYA!!!

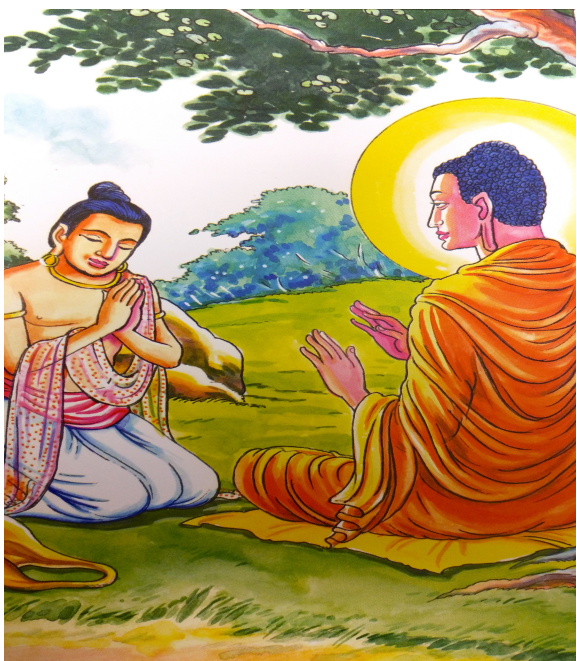
Children's Dhamma Program

Noble Dhamma for Little Hearts

The Story of Chaththa Manavaka

Dear Children,

Today, you are going to learn a story about a young boy who lived during the times of the Supreme Buddha. This boy's name was Chaththa. He was very talented and intelligent. He completed all his studies quite earlier than others. There was a custom at that time, to offer gifts to the teacher once a student completes his education.



One day, Chaththa went to meet his teacher to offer the gifts. The road to the teacher's home was through a forest, and it was very isolated. The most compassionate Buddha saw with his divine eye that Chaththa was going through the forest and he was about to face a great danger. Out of compassion for Chaththa, Buddha wanted to help him, so Supreme Buddha started to walk on that lonely road and sat under a tree. Chaththa saw the Supreme Buddha and recognized him; he was very happy to see the Buddha. Buddha talked with him for a while. The Supreme Buddha taught Chaththa the value of the refuge in the Buddha, Dhamma, and Sangha. Chaththa was very wise he understood the importance of taking refuge in the Triple Gem. He took refuge in the Supreme Buddha, the Noble Dhamma, and the Noble Sangha wholeheartedly.

Then the Buddha explained about the Five Precepts and asked him to follow the precepts. Chaththa was so happy to learn the five precepts. He observed the five precepts and vowed to protect them.

Also, the Supreme Buddha taught the qualities of the Noble Triple Gem to Chaththa using three Beautiful stanzas.

**1. Yō Vadatang Pavaro Manujēsu - Sakyamunī Bhagavā kata kich chō
Pāra gatō Bala viriya Samaṅgī - Tañ Suga-tañ Saranatta mupēmi**

The great teacher who is Supreme among humans, The holy one, who has done what should have been done, By ending the round of rebirths, Possessed of power and energy, I go for refuge to the Supreme Buddha.

**2.Rāga Virāga Maneja Masōkaṅ - Dhamma masaṅ kata Mappati kūlaṅ
Madu-rami maṅ Pagunaṅ Suvibhattaṅ - Dhamma mimaṅ Saranatta mupēmi**

Free from desires and sadness, The Dhamma cannot be changed, it is explained perfectly and highly practical. Like sweet music to the ear of the listener, I go for refuge to the Supreme Dhamma.

**3.Yattha Cha Dinna Maha-pphala māhu - Catusu Suchīsu Purisa yugesu
Aṭṭha cha Puggala Dhamma dasāthe - Sangha-mimaṅ Saranatta mupēmi**

Whatever gifts that are offered to the Sangha, The giver receives incalculable merit, Those four pairs of persons, the eight types of persons, who have seen and realized the Dhamma, I go for refuge to the Supreme Sangha.

The talented Chaththa learned these stanzas at that very moment. Remembered them well and continued his journey to his teacher's home through the woods. However, Chaththa could go only a short distance. He was surrounded by a group of thieves. They wanted to steal Chaththa's money, so they started to beat him with sticks. Unfortunately due to the physical injuries, Chaththa passed away.

Even when he was getting beaten he was thinking only about the qualities of the Supreme Buddha, the Noble Dhamma, the Noble Sangha and the precepts that he had just observed. He did not have an angry mind at those robbers. Even though he had to die in an unfortunate way, he was reborn as a divine prince in the heavenly world of Thavatinsa. Chaththa was born in heaven simply because he took refuge in the triple gem and observed the five precepts for a very short time.

One day, Divine Prince Chaththa came to worship the Supreme Buddha and said: " Oh the Blessed one, I got the opportunity to go for refuge to the Triple Gem and observe the precepts for a very short time, I obtained all these divine pleasures because of following the Dhamma for a short time. Those who protect the precepts for their whole lifetime are very lucky."

Dear children, it is so beneficial to have a pleasant mind about the triple gem and to follow the precepts. If you can follow the Five Precepts and be virtuous at your little age you will never have to regret later in your life, your life will be valuable and meritorious and will be filled with happiness.