

Namo

Buddhaya !



The story of Sankichcha samanera

Meritorious children, a lot of people benefit from the association of meritorious ones. They have escaped from the bad, evil friends. They are prevented from hearing wrong things which cause evil actions. They are free from hindrance. They are blessed with prosperity. Not only that, even in very serious situations these meritorious, noble friends intervene and provide the protection to many. Today you are going to learn a marvellous story about such a noble person who protected many from evil.

Thirty devotees got ordained at Supreme Buddha in Savathnuwara. Those monks asked for permission from the Supreme Buddha to go to a faraway forest. At that time Supreme Buddha pronounced, meritorious monks, the area that you wish to go to is a bit troublesome. The reason for this fear is mainly due to the thieves in that area. If Sankichcha samanera is with you, you will be able to escape from any trouble and also your monkhood will be accomplished.

Meritorious children, Sankichcha was a great meritorious child. When he was nearly born his mother passed away but he was fortunate to be alive. He thought to himself, "what an escape from the death! I was right in front of the death though I am still alive. Am I going in such a samsara by being reborn again and again? The best thing is to try to liberate myself from this samsara". He asked his relatives to let him be a monk. These relatives were lay disciples of Arahat Sariputta Thero. Therefore they took the child to Sariputta Maha rahathanwahanse and got his ordain at the age of seven. He was fortunate to become Arahat by removing all the defilements right at his ordination. Sankichcha Samanera lived with Arahat Sariputta.

The thirty monks came to Sariputta thero and told that the supreme Buddha asked them to take a samanera with them. Then sariputta Thero said there was no samanera with me but I have a small monk who was seven years old. Then all the monks looked at each other thought that he was not going to look after us instead we would have to look after him.

Then Sariputta Thero said "do not think that he will be a pest to you but will be a support. That's why the Supreme Buddha sent you all here".

The monks set off with Sankichcha Swaminwahanse. They walked a hundred miles and came to a village. There was a huge forest near the village. The villagers arranged all the necessary requirements for the monks in the forest. The monks decided to be mindful at all times and strive on with heedfulness to escape from the samsara. Therefore only at a need we will gather. Then one will make a sound by hitting the wood.

In the meantime, a poor person going through this forest saw the monks and went near them. At that time, the monks were about to have their alms. He looked so tired. The monks shared food with him. Then he thought if I stayed here helping the monks and keep this place clean, I could live without any troubles. He got the permission from the monks and stayed there. When about two months passed this poor person remembered his daughter and wanted to go to her. He thought that he should not tell to the monks that he was going as



they will not allow him to go. He left the place sneakily. While he was walking in the forest, he was caught by a five hundred group of thieves. They were waiting to full fill a vow. Therefore they took him to a tree and prepared a big fire. As soon as the poor person saw one thief took the sword out of the sheath, he started to cry and say "I am a beggar. I live by eating others left overs therefore the gods will not be happy though you kill me for the gods." Then the thieves asked "are you trying to escape from us? If you are not worthy enough can you find us a meritorious one?" Then he took the thieves to the place where the monks were and hit the wood to gather the monks. When the monks gathered the thieves said we need one of you to pay off a vow. The monks realised that they are going to kill one of them. At that time, Sankichcha swaminwahanse came forward and talked to the monks." Don't you understand that you haven't achieved the enlightenment yet? Therefore you have more to do. That is why our Supreme Buddha sent me with you all here. I will face this problem".

The thieves came to the tree where they wanted to pay the vow. Sankichcha swaminwahanse had no fear, was happy and sitting down very calm. The thief took a very sharp sword and slashed Sankichcha swaminwahanse very hard. The sword was thrown to a side. He tried again, but that time the sword was thrown under the tree. He picked up the sword again and slashed but the sword was shrunk this time. All the thieves got scared about what happened. They looked at each other. The thieves threw the sword away and knelt down in front of the swaminwahanse and started to ask many questions. Who taught you this marvellous skill? Who is your teacher?

In Savathnuwara there is a person who has a powerful wisdom. I have taken refuge Him. He taught me this wonderful skill, how to stay calm and not been shaken in front of eight universal laws. The thieves pleaded Sankichcha swaminwahanse to take them to his Teacher and also promised to leave all evil actions that they had been doing before. And also they asked for monkhood from Sankichcha swaminwahanse. Swaminwahanse gave the instruction to remove hair and mustash. They wore robes and became monks. Sankichcha swaminwahanse went to see Supreme Buddha with the five hundred bikkhus. That time Supreme Buddha pronounced this, monks, now look at the life that you spent before. You killed people, stole others wealth and lived evil. How much more noble is one virtuous day that you spend now, when you compare it with the life that you have spent before, even if you lived a hundred years. After that, Supreme Buddha exhorted this stanza.

**Yo cha vassasathang jeeve – dusseelo asamahitho
eckahung jivithang seiy – seelavantassa dhaino**

Though a person lived hundred years with untamed bodily, verbally and mentally actions, no result or benefit will be gained from that life.

But if a person lived one day virtuously, that day will be the noblest and they will certainly gain the benefit of it.

Dear children, those five hundred thieves become noble by associating noble friends. If it has not happened so they would have even been in the hell today. Those five hundred thieves were fortunate to escape from four bad destinations. Not only that they were fortunate to liberate themselves from samsara. When the Supreme Buddha explained the meaning of the stanza all five hundred monks realised the Dhamma and become Arahat.

Meritorious children, think how fortunate you are to have the association with noble friends. You will have the result and benefit of it definitely.