

NAMO BUDDHAYA!!!
HOMAGE TO THE WORTHY ONE,
THE ENLIGHTENED ONE!!!



Puttigatta Tissa Thero

My dear children today we are going to learn a story about a monk who was so sick in the Lord Buddha's time. He was suffering from a terrible physical and mental agony due to a disease. Small boils appeared all over his body and these developed into big sores. When the boils burst, his robes became sticky and stained with pus and blood, and his whole body began to stink. Because of this he was known as Puttigatta Tissa, the monk with a stinking body.

Tissa thero preferred to be left alone and didn't participate in any activities with other monks. He didn't help other monks, neither did he show any interest in taking care of sick monks. As he was so solitary, no one noticed his sickness.

One day the Lord Buddha happened to see the sorrowful state of the monk, who had been abandoned by his fellow monks on the account of his stinking body. At the same time, He also knew that Tissa thero would soon attain Arahamthood.

When the Lord Buddha entered his kutiya, Tissa monk who was in terrible pain, started crying and said, "My Lord Buddha, this is my own fault. After I became a monk, I wanted to be alone and did not want to associate with fellow monks. I didn't even tend to sick monks. Therefore, no one knew that I was sick."

The Lord Buddha then took this sick monk out of his kutiya. He personally boiled some water, went to the place where the sick monk was lying down. He soaked the robe which was stuck to the body, using warm water and removed it very gently. After that he gave him a thorough bath. At the mean time Anada thero washed the dirty robe in warm water and dried it.

After the bath, the monk became fresh in body and mind. He felt that his agony had eased. Therefore he was comfortable and developed concentration in his mind.

The Lord Buddha then told this gathawa, to explain the reality of the body.

***Achirang wathayang kayo -patawing addhisessathi
Chuddho apethawingano -niratthang'wa kalinggarang***

"Before long, alas! This body, deprived of life, would be as useless as a log".

At the end of this sermon, Tissa thero attained Arahamthood. Then the Buddha said, "**whoever tends a sick person tends to me, as it were**".

Therefore my dear children, always be kind and take care of the sick whenever you can. It will always and definitely be for your long time good and happiness.