



The story of Ajagara ghost

Never be hateful ever.

Meritorious children, there are fools in this world. They cannot tolerate even a single word that offends them and they get tied with hatred. After that their only aim is to take revenge. No matter how much revenge they take, they won't be satisfied just as the thirst that will never be quenched. Today we are going to learn a story of a life of such an evil being.

One day Arahant Maha Moggallana and Arahant Lakhana were walking down the Gijjakuta rock. Then Arahant Moggallana saw a huge ghost python which was very long and had flames appearing out from its head and spreading very quickly through its whole body all the way to the end of its tail. And again the flames would appear from its tail and burn through the whole body all the way up to the head. This ghost python was in terrible pain and screaming for help. Arahant Maha Moggallana was watching this terrible situation of the ghost python with lots of compassion but did not say anything. A slight smile came to Arahant Maha Moggallana Thero. But Arahant Lakhana Thero did not see the ghost python. So Arahant Lakhana Thero asked, meritorious bhante, why did you smile after watching over that side? That cannot be told right now Lakhana. Let's go to the Weluwana temple and in the presence of our Supreme Buddha just ask from me.

Arahant Maha Moggallana Thero and Arahant Lakhana Thero worshipped the Supreme Buddha and stood up aside. Then Arahant Lakhana Thero put forward the question. Arahant Maha Moggallana thero told the description about the ghost python. Then the Supreme Buddha pronounced this.

Meritorious monks, sometimes disciples who have the Divine eye are able to see such things. I also have met that ghost. That was when I was at the Bo tree near the Neranjana river. But I did not tell anybody about the ghost. Now there is a witness as Moggallana has also seen it. Therefore now I will tell the story. That ghost was a human at the time of the Kashapa Buddha. There was a rich man called Sumangala at that time. He had a temple built with golden bricks. He went to the Supreme Buddha every day. One day when he was going to see the Supreme Buddha, a thief was sleeping in the hall near the entrance of the city. He saw mud on both of the feet of the person who was sleeping while being covered up to the head. The rich person, Sumangala looked at him and said it seemed that he must walk in the night and sleep in day time. Then the thief raised his head and looked to see who said so. He saw the rich person and was hateful to what he heard. He took revenge whenever he could. Seven times he set fire to this rich person's paddy fields which were about to be harvested. He was still not satisfied.

He did various things to upset the rich person. Seven times he sneakily entered the farm and cut the legs of the innocent cows. Seven times he burnt down the house of the rich person. But he could not see that the rich person was upset. One day he asked one of the rich person's servants, your master is an amazing person, I heard that he had to face a lot of troubles but still he does not care about all those things. Doesn't he care about all those things?

Friend, our master is having a great pleasant mind towards the Supreme Buddha. The perfumed kuti which is made for the Supreme Buddha is the dearest thing to my master not any other thing. Then the thief fell into a deep thought. That's why he could not be upset. I know what to do now. See what I will do to the kuti.

One day the thief set fire to the kuti. The rich person heard about the fire and came quickly to the scene. He started to clap happily while watching at the burning kuti. The people were astonished to see this.

Why are you so happy even such a horrible thing happened? I deposit my money in the Buddha dispensation not in the earth. I am clapping because I got a chance to build a more beautiful kuti than the burnt one.

The rich person built a very beautiful perfumed kuti again for Supreme Buddha. The thief got angrier. I have no any other solution than killing him. He decided to kill the rich person. He tied a knife on his waist and waited. The rich person offered the kuti to the Supreme Buddha and offered arms to the Sangha for seven days. On the seventh day among the crowd he worshipped the Buddha and said like this.

Some one set fire to my paddy fields seven times. My house was burnt seven times. Innocent cows' legs were cut seven times. I think it is him who set fire to the kuti too. I felt so compassionate towards this person. I shared the merits that I collected from offering the kuti and offering arms to the sangha with that person.

In that moment the thief's hatefulness was quenched. Oh! Have I got hatred towards a person like this? If I did not apologise to him the god will punish me. Then he came from the crowd and fell on his knees in front of the rich person. He told about everything that he did.

What did I do to you, to hate me so much? One day I was sleeping in the hall near the city entrance. You told looking at me; he seemed to walk in the night and sleep during the day. Therefore I got angry about it and did all these evil deeds to take revenge from you.

Meritorious child, yes, I have told something that is not related to me. That is a mistake done by me. Please forgive me. And I forgive you for everything that you did.

After that the thief wanted to become servants to the rich man with all his family. The rich man was not happy to do so. He forgives him and let go. That thief died and was reborn in the hell. He suffered a lot. Still he suffers the rest of the consequences of those evil deeds. Person who has lack of wisdom does not think about the danger of doing wrong. Without being satisfied he continues his revenge. At last like a bush fire destroys everything he destroys himself with unsatisfied revenge.

After that the Supreme Buddha exhorted this gatha .

**Atha papani kammani- karam balo na bujjhathi
Sehi kammehi dummedho- aggidaddo'va thappathi.**

This means,

A fool while doing evil deeds he does not know them as being evil but that fool suffers for his evil deeds like one who is burnt by fire.

Meritorious children, see how bad is being evil. He could not forget about the word that he heard. He thought about it again and again and took revenge in various ways. Because of that he could not escape from the evil consequences. Who knows how long more he would suffer. Therefore we will practise to be patient in front of humiliation. Then the problem will be over right there.