

*Name Buddhaya!*

## **Childrens' Dhamma Programme**



### **The story of Mahadhana merchant**

**Should you avoid knowing the danger?  
Meritorious children,**

**The troubles can be arisen to us unexpectedly. Sometimes the danger can be known in advance. Then the wise should act to avoid that danger. Shouldn't they? Today we are going to talk about a story like that.**

**There was a merchant called Mahadhana in Savathnuwara. A group of five hundred thieves have been plotting to steal his wealth. But they did not get a chance to do so. One day the thieves got to know that Mahadhana merchant was going far for business with five hundred carts full of goods.**

**Mahadhana merchant was a devoted person. He invited the monks too. Meritorious swaminwahanse, I am leaving some area for my business. Five hundred carts are ready for the journey. If swaminwahanse are walking on tour please do so with me. I will be the attendant and will take care of alms and other necessities. Then the journey will be a comfortable one.**

**Five hundred monks agreed with Mahadhana merchant and left for the journey. Mahadhana stayed two, three days in a village which was situated near to a forest. He prepared the food and drinks for the bulls and arranged his goods. He offered alms and arranged dwelling for all the monks.**

**The group of thieves hid in the forest in early part. They were waiting to rob the goods of Mahadhana merchant. One of the thieves was asked to go to the village to find out when the merchant starts his journey. So the thief met one of his friends in the village.**

**When does Mahadhana merchant leave his journey through the forest?**

**I think in two three days' time would be leaving. But why are you asking again and again?**

**This is the reason, my friend. There is a group of five hundred thieves hiding in the forest now. Their aim is to rob all the goods in five hundred carts.**

**Okay, you may go now. We are coming in two three days' time.**

**This person started to think alone. Which side am I going to take thieves' side or the merchant's side? There is no use of taking thieves' side. Five hundred monks walk on tour with the merchant and all these monks are very virtuous. They spend most of the time on meditation. They live on alms given by the merchant. If this merchant is being attacked by the thieves, these innocent monks will be in trouble. Therefore I should take the merchant's side.**

**After his decision he went to the merchant and asked, meritorious merchant, should you leave in another two three days' time through the forest?**

**Why do you ask like that? Asked merchant.**

**Believe me, a very dangerous group of five hundred thieves has been hiding in the forest. Their aim is to rob all the carts. Therefore do not go just yet.**

**How do you know it? There is a friend of mine in that group of thieves. I got to know this information from him. Very good, then I should not leave right now, said the merchant.**

Therefore he stayed in the same village another few days. What the group of thieves expected has not yet happened. Therefore, the same thief was sent to the village to find out the reason for the delay and he got to know that the merchant had postponed his journey.

When Mahadhana merchant was ready to continue his journey in another route, again he got to know that the same groups of thieves were waiting for him. Therefore he did not leave.

Meritorious swaminvahanse, this time also we won't be able to make our journey. I tried several time to continue the journey but a group of thieves were waiting to rob my goods. Sales are good in this area too. Therefore I am going to stay in this village for some time. Swaminvahanse, you may dwell here or if you like may walk on tour.

Meritorious merchant, we will go back to Savathnuwara. The monks came to Savathnuwara, Jethawana monastery and worshipped the Supreme Buddha. The supreme Buddha asked, meritorious monks, you all went walk on tour. What happened? Had the journey been interrupted?

Yes Venerable Sir, Mahadhana merchant tried to continue his journey in two routes. But he got to know a group of five hundred thieves were waiting in those routes to rob all his goods. Therefore he decided to stay in the same village. Then we came back.

See, meritorious monks, having known the danger from the thieves in advance, Mahadhana merchant abandoned those dangerous routes. The one who likes to live, will not eat the poisonous food though it has lots of good smell or the taste. He would discard the food. Likewise meritorious monks, you too should see Kamabhava (the level of sensuous existence), Rupabhava (the level of fine-material existence and Arupabhava (the level of non-material existence) like the routes which are captured by the dangerous thieves. Considering like that should abandon doing all evil.

After that the Supreme Buddha pronounced this Gatha to the monks.

**“Vanijova bhayam maggam  
appasattho mahaddhano  
visam jivitukamova  
papani parivajjaye.”**

Which means,

**I Just as a wealthy merchant avoid the dangerous route, and just as one who desires to live discard the poisonous food, so also one should abandon all evil.**

Meritorious children, when the danger is seen, and avoiding it, is a thing done by the wise. One who consider the beneficial of oneself should know the danger of evil friends. They should be abandoned. Should not go in the dangerous places. And also, should see the danger of evil and restrain from them.

