

FOUR RELIANCES SUTRA

Bhikkhu Santi

June 2006

“catvāri pratiśaraṇāni| tadyathā-arthapraṭiśaraṇatā na vyañjanapraṭiśaraṇatā| jñānapraṭiśaraṇatā na vijñānapraṭiśaraṇatā| nītārthapraṭiśaraṇatā na neyārthapraṭiśaraṇatā| dharmapraṭiśaraṇatā na pudgalapraṭiśaraṇatā ceti||”

[Vaidya, P.L., ed. *Buddhist Sanskrit Texts-No.17 Darbhanga : The Mithila Institute, 1961./ Dharmasangraha - Online Digital Sanskrit Canon (see stanza 53).*]

“Four reliances: that is, reliance on the Dhamma not (merely) reliance on the person; reliance on the meaning not (merely) reliance on the phrasing; reliance on the suttas whose meaning is already drawn out not (merely) reliance on those suttas whose meaning is to be drawn out (interpreted); reliance on extraordinary-knowledge* not (merely) reliance on (intellectual) discrimination.”

The order in the translation has been changed to accord with that in the *Abhidharmakośavyākhyā* (p.704 in U. Wogihara's edition) which Lamotte takes as representative of the eight or so texts in which it is found or quoted. See E. Lamotte's paper “Textual Interpretation in Buddhism” in “Buddhist Hermeneutics” ed. Donald S. Lopez, Jr., ISBN 81-208-0840-1 for an excellent discussion of this Sutra with abundant references.

* “extraordinary-knowledge”: the kind of 'higher-knowledge' (abhiññā) or insight that occurs as a result of samādhi. It probably implies here the meditative realisations resulting in the attainments of the noble paths and fruits.

THE FOUR GREAT CRITERIA IN THE SANSKRIT MAHĀPARINIRVĀNA SŪTRA

(Sarvastivādin recension)

The two interesting differences between this version and the Pāli (stanza 83 in the Sri-Jayanti edition at [GRETIL](#).) are 24.2 “Herein, Ananda, by the bhikkhus the Suttanta is to be relied upon a person is not to be relied upon.” and the last phrase of (e.g.) 24.6 “...and if it does not go against the grain of nature”. I like these two phrases very much.

24.1 tatra bhagavān āyusmantam ā(nandam āmantra)yate ||

24.2 tasmāt ta(r)h(i) ta ānanda bhi(kṣubhiḥ) sūtrāntapraṭiśaraṇair bhavitavyaṃ na pudgala(p)r(atīśaraṇaiḥ) ||

24.3 (kathaṃ) bhikṣuḥ sūtrāntapraṭiśaraṇo bhavati na (pudgalapraṭiśaraṇaḥ) ||

24.4 ihān(a)nda bhikṣur āgacch(et sa evaṃ) vadet ||

24.5 saṃmukhaṃ me bhagavato 'ntikāc chrutaṃ saṃmukh(am udgrhītam ayaṃ dha)rmo 'yaṃ vinaya idaṃ śāstuḥ śāsanam ||

24.6 t(asya) bhikṣavas tan) notsāhayit(a)vyaṃ nāvasādayitavyam || anutsāhayitvānavasādayitvā śrotram avadhā(ya tāni pa)davyaṃjanāny udgrhya sūtre 'vatār(ayitavyaṃ vīna)y(e) saṃdarśayitavyaṃ || yadi sūtr(e) 'vatāryamāṇā vinaye saṃdarśyamāṇāḥ sūtre nāvataran(ti) vinaye) na saṃdrśyante dharmatāṃ ca vilomayanti (sa eva)ṃ syād vacanīyaḥ ||

24.7 addhāyusmann ime dharmā na bhagavatā bhāṣitāḥ || āyusmatā vā ime dharmā du(rgrhītās tathā) hīme dharmāḥ sūtre 'vatāryamāṇā vinaye saṃd(arśyamāṇāḥ) sūtre nāvataranti vinaye na saṃdrśyante dharmatāṃ ca vilomayanti ||

- 24.8 nāyaṃ dharmo nāyaṃ vi(nayo nedam śās)tuḥ śāsanam iti viditvā chorayitavyāḥ ||
- 24.9 puna(r apa)ram (ānanda) bhikṣur āgacchet sa evaṃ vadet ||
- 24.10 amuṣṃinn āvāse mahān bhikṣusaṃgha(ḥ prativasati sathaviraḥ sapramokṣaḥ ||)
- 24.11 (saṃmukhaṃ me tasya mahato bhikṣusaṃghasyāntikāc chrutaṃ saṃmukham udgrhītam ayaṃ dharmo) 'yaṃ vinaya idaṃ śāstuḥ śāsanam ||
- 24.12 tasya (bhikṣavas) ta(n notsāhayitavyaṃ nāvasādayitavyam || anutsāhayitvānavasādayitvā śrotram avadhāya tāni padavyaṃ) nāny udgrhya sūtre 'vatārayitavyaṃ vinaye saṃ(darśayitavyaṃ || yadi sūtre 'vatāryamāṇā vinaye saṃdarśyamānāḥ sūtre nāvataranti vinaye na saṃ)drśyante dharmatāṃ ca vilomayanti sa evaṃ syād va(canīyaḥ ||)
- 24.13 (addhāyuṣmaṃs tena mahatā bhikṣusaṃghena dharmasaṃjñinā ca vinayasaṃjñinā cādharmaś cāvinaya)ś ca bhāṣitaḥ || āyuṣmatā vā ime dharmā durgr(hītās tathā hīme dharmāḥ sūtre 'vatāryamāṇā vinaye saṃdarśyamānāḥ sūtre nāvataranti vinaye na saṃ)drśyante dharmatāṃ ca vilomayanti ||
- 24.14 nāyaṃ dharmo nāyaṃ vinayo (nedam śāstuḥ śāsanam iti viditvā chorayitavyāḥ ||)
- 24.15 (punar aparam ānanda) bhikṣur āgacchet sa evaṃ vadet ||
- 24.16 ()(amuṣṃinn āvāse saṃba)hulā bhikṣavaḥ prativasanti sūtradharā vina(yadharā māṭṛkādharāḥ ||)
- 24.17 (saṃmukhaṃ me teṣāṃ saṃbahulānāṃ bhikṣūṇāṃ antikāc chrutaṃ saṃmukham udgrhītam ayaṃ dharmo) 'yaṃ vinaya idaṃ śāstuḥ śāsanam ||
- 24.18 (tasya bhikṣavas tan notsāhayitavyaṃ pūrvavad yāvat sa) evaṃ syād vacanīyaḥ ||
- 24.19 addhāyuṣmaṃs tair bhikṣubhir dha(rmasaṃjñibhiś ca vinayasaṃjñibhiś cādharmaś cāvinaya)ś ca bhāṣitaḥ || pūrvavad)
- 24.20 (yāvad iti viditvā chorayitavyāḥ ||)
- 24.21 (punar aparam ānanda) bhikṣur āgacchet sa evaṃ vadet ||
- 24.22 amuṣṃinn āvāse (bhikṣuḥ prativasati sthaviraḥ) <= 24.45>
- 24.23 (saṃ)mukhaṃ me tasya bhikṣor antikāc chrutaṃ saṃmukha(m udgrhītam ayaṃ dharmo) 'yaṃ vinaya idaṃ śāstuḥ śāsanam ||
- 24.24 (tasya bhikṣavas tan notsāhayitavyaṃ pūrvavad yāvat sa) evaṃ syād vacanīyaḥ ||
- 24.25 (addhāyuṣmaṃs tena bhi)kṣuṇā dharmasaṃjñinā ca vinayasaṃjñinā cā(dharmaś cāvinaya)ś ca bhāṣitaḥ || pūrvavad)
- 24.26 (yāvad iti viditvā chorayitavyāḥ ||)
- 24.27 (punar aparam āna)nda bhikṣur āgacchet sa evaṃ vadet ||
- 24.28 saṃmukhaṃ me bhagava(to 'ntikāc chrutaṃ saṃmukham udgrhītam ayaṃ dharmo) 'yaṃ vinaya idaṃ śāstuḥ śāsanam ||
- 24.29 (tasya bhikṣavas tan notsāhayitav)y(aṃ) nāvasādayitavyam || anutsāhayitvānavasā(dayitvā śrotram avadhāya tāni padavyaṃ)ñjanāny udgrhya sūtre 'vatārayitavyaṃ vinaye sandarśayi)tavyaṃ || yadi sūtre 'vat(ā)ryamā(ṇā vina)ye sandarśy(amā)nāḥ sūtre '(vataranti vinaye saṃ)drśyante dharmatāṃ ca na vilomayanti sa evaṃ syād vacanīyaḥ ||)
- 24.30 (addhāyuṣmaṃ)n (i)me dharmā bhagavatā bhāṣitaḥ || āyu(ṣmat)ā ceme dh(ar)m(ā)ḥ sugr(hītā)s tathā hīme dharmāḥ sūtre 'vatāryamāṇā vinaye saṃdarśyamānāḥ sūtre 'vataranti vina)ye saṃ)drśyante dharmatāṃ ca na vilomayanti ||
- 24.31 ayaṃ dharmo 'yaṃ vi(naya idaṃ śāstuḥ śāsanam iti viditvā dhārayitavyāḥ ||)
- 24.32 (punar aparam ānanda) bhikṣur āgacchet sa evaṃ vadet ||
- 24.33 amuṣṃinn āvāse mahān bhikṣusaṃghaḥ prati(va)sati sa(sthaviraḥ sapramokṣaḥ ||)
- 24.34 (saṃmukhaṃ me tasya mahato bhikṣusaṃghasyāntikāc chrutaṃ saṃmukham udgrhītam ayaṃ dharmo) 'yaṃ vinaya idaṃ śāstuḥ śāsanam ||
- 24.35(tasya bhikṣavas tan n)otsāha(yitavyaṃ pūrvavad yāvat sa) evaṃ syād vacanīyaḥ ||
- 24.36 (addhāyuṣmaṃs tena mahatā bhikṣusaṃghena dharmasaṃjñinā vinaya)saṃj(ñ)inātra dharmāś ca vinayaś ca (bhāṣitaḥ || āyuṣmatā) ce(me dharmāḥ sugr(hītās tathā hīme dharmāḥ sūtre 'vatāryamāṇā vinaye saṃdarśyamānāḥ sūtre 'vataranti vinaye na saṃ)drśy(ante) dharmatāṃ ca na vi(lomayanti ||)
- 24.37 (ayaṃ dharmo) 'yaṃ vi(naya idaṃ śāstuḥ śāsanam iti viditvā dhārayitavyāḥ ||)
- 24.38 (punar aparam ānanda) bhikṣur āgacchet sa evaṃ vadet ||()

- 24.39 ()(amuṣmin)n āvāse s(aṃ)bahulā bhikṣavaḥ prati(vasanti sūtradharā vi)nayadha(rā māṭṛkādharaḥ ||)
- 24.40 (saṃmukhaṃ me teṣāṃ saṃbahulānāṃ bhikṣūṇāṃ antikāc chrutaṃ saṃmukhaṃ udgrhītam ayaṃ dha)rmo 'yaṃ vinaya idaṃ śāstuh śāsanam ||
- 24.41 (tasya bhikṣavas tan notsāhayitavyaṃ) pūrvava(d) y(ā)vat sa evaṃ (syād vacanīyaḥ ||)
- 24.42 (addhāyuṣmaṃs tair bhikṣubhir dharmasaṃjñibhiś ca vinayasamjñibhiś ca dharmas ca vina)yaś ca bhāṣitaḥ || āyuṣmatā ceme dharmāḥ sugrhitās tathā hī(me dharmāḥ sūtre 'vatāryamānā pūrvavad yāvad)
- 24.43 (ayaṃ dharmo 'yaṃ vinaya idaṃ śāstuh śāsanam iti viditvā dhārayitavyāḥ ||)
- 24.44 punar aparam (ānanda) bhikṣur āgacchet sa e(va)ṃ (vade)t ||
- 24.45 amuṣminn āvāse bhikṣuh prati(vasati sthaviṛaḥ) <= 24.22>
- 24.46 (saṃmukhaṃ me ta)sya bhikṣor antikāc chrutaṃ saṃmukha(m udgrhī)tam ayaṃ (dharmo 'yaṃ vinaya idaṃ śāstuh śāsanam ||)
- 24.47 (tasya bhikṣavas tan no)tsāha(yitavyaṃ pūrvavad yāvat) s(a) evaṃ syād vacan(ī)y(aḥ ||)
- 24.48 (addhāyuṣmaṃs tena bhikṣuṇā dharmasaṃjñinā ca vinayasamjñinā ca dharmas ca vinayaś ca bhāṣitaḥ || pūrvavad)
- 24.49 (yāvad i)t(i) viditvā dhā(rayitavyāḥ ||)
- 24.50 (tatr)ānanda ye te pūrvakāś ca(t)v. (nāyaṃ dharmo nāyaṃ vinayo nedam) śāstuh (śāsanam iti) viditvā chorayitavyāḥ ||
- 24.51 ta(trānanda ye te) (a)yaṃ dharmo ('yaṃ vinaya) idaṃ śāst(uḥ) śāsana(m iti viditvā dhārayitavyāḥ ||)
- 24.52 (evam evānanda bhikṣubhiḥ sūtrāntapratīsarāṇair bhavitavyaṃ na pudgalapratīsarāṇaiḥ ||)

[Mahāparinirvāṇasūtra

Based on the ed. by Ernst Waldschmidt, Das Mahāparinirvāṇasūtra, Teil 1_3, Berlin 1950_1951 (Abhandlungen der Deutschen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, Klasse für Sprachen, Literatur und Kunst [bis Jahrgang 1949: Phil.-Hist. Kl.] 1949.1, 1950.2,3).

Input by Klaus Wille (Göttingen)
(last corrections: 24.10.2005)

MPS 25 (= ST.I) = Ernst Waldschmidt, "Der Buddha preist die Verehrungswürdigkeit seiner Reliquien", NAWG 1961, pp. 375-385 (= CT, pp. 417-427).

MPS 31 (= ST.II) = Ernst Waldschmidt, "Wunderkräfte des Buddha - Eine Episode im Sanskrittext des Mahāparinirvāṇasūtra", NAWG 1948, pp. 48-91 (= CT, pp. 120-163)

MPS 34 (= MSuSū) = Mahāśudarśanasūtra, in: Hisashi Matsumura, The Mahāśudarśanāvadāna and The Mahāśudarśanasūtra, Delhi 1988 (Bibliotheca Indo-Buddhica, 47.)