

# **The Buddha's Advice to Rahua**

## **Four Discourses of the Buddha**

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### **Introduction**

"A son has been born to thee, O prince!" this was the message that reached Prince Siddhattha when returning from a drive through the city of Kapilavatthu and a day spent at a park near-by.

"A fetter (Rahula) has been born, a bondage has been born!" said the prince upon hearing the news.

And Rahula was the name given later to the babe by Siddhattha's father, the Raja Suddhodana.

These were, indeed, unusual words with which to welcome a first-born; but we shall understand them better when we set them against the background of another experience encountered by Siddhattha on that memorable day.

We are told that it was on this very day that Siddhattha met on his way, the serene figure of an ascetic - or, as some would have it - saw a vision of it.

This encounter showed him a way of life which could help him to find, for himself and mankind, the deliverance from the inflictions of old age, sickness and death which had made such a strong impact on him when he had grasped their full significance not long before during earlier outings.

Now, the sight of a monk was to him as if a door had opened, in the golden cage, for a bird that longed for freedom. But the birth of his child threatened to close that door for him again, and Siddhattha knew

that he had to come to a decision this very day. At the end of those fateful hours which Siddhattha spent in the palace after his return, his mind was firmly set on his quest for the Deathless.

The time of the Great Renunciation had come; it was towards midnight that he went to the chambers of his wife, the Princess Yasodara, to have a last silent glance at her and his son. But the mother's arm and hand enclosed protectively Rahula's little head, and without having seen his child's face, Siddhattha went into the night and started on a road that, after six years, led him to his goal, to full enlightenment - Buddhahood.

It was not yet a full year after His enlightenment that the Buddha visited his paternal home, Kapilavatthu. During his stay there, while one day he was seated in the palace, Princess Yasodara spoke to Rahula:

"This is thy father, Rahula! Go and ask him for thy heritage!" Little Rahula went and stood before the Enlightened One who was still seated, and exclaimed: "How pleasant is thy shadow, o ascetic!"

The Master rose from His seat and when He had left the palace, Rahula followed and, as told by his mother, spoke to Him:

"Give me my heritage, o ascetic!" Thereupon the Master turned to His disciple Sariputta and said: "Ordain him, Sariputta.

Thus, little Rahula became a novice monk (Samanera) at the age of seven. But, henceforth, at the request of Raja Suddhodana, no further ordinations were given without the parents' consent.

The Master took constant interest in Rahula's development and wisely guided him throughout the years, until Rahula, in his 21st year, had attained to Sainthood (arahatta) and needed guidance no longer.

The exhortations collected in these pages, are the greater and the most important part of those handed-down to us in the Sutta Pitaka of the Pali Canon. About those not included here, some information will be given in the following:

The first of the texts translated here, the Exhortation to Rahula given at Ambalallhika (Ambalallhika-Rdhulovdda Sutta), was spoken by the Buddha when Rahula was seven years old.

The discourse has two main subjects, truthfulness and mindfulness, which are indeed the corner-stones for building a character and for developing the faculties of mind.

An education based on the fostering of these two qualities, will, indeed, have secure foundations. It is a counsel, however, which, (in general), adults are as much in need of, as a young child.

For impressing these teachings deeply on Rahula's mind, the Buddha made ample use of similes in that discourse.

According to the commentators, in the same early period of Rahula's novitiate the Master taught and explained to him the ten "Boy's Questions" (kumarapanha) which begin with "What is One? All beings, subsist by nutriment." They are also called the "Novice's Questions" (*samanera-panha*) and

were originally devised for the seven-year-old Arahant, Sopaka Samanera. The text of these Questions can be found in the Khuddakapatha ("Minor Readings") of the Sutta-Pitaka.

Our second text, the Great Discourse of Exhortation to Rahula (Maha-Rahulovvada-Sutta), spoken to him when he was 18 years, chiefly contains instructions on meditation. Those given by the Buddha Himself pertain foremost to Insight-meditation (*vipassana-bhavana*), namely to the not-self nature (*anattata*) of the five categories of clinging (*pancuppdana-kkhandha*), and of the four material elements.

Later, the Buddha elaborated on the Venerable Sariputta's suggestion to Rahula, to practise Mindfulness of Breathing. The master also stressed here the importance of equanimity by giving five similes, of which the first four refer, again, to the four material elements, thus, linking-up with the earlier instruction. In this same discourse, the Master *also hands to Rahula a little armory of meditational*

*weapons: against various unwholesome states of mind.*

In his 21st year, before he had completed a full year after his Higher Ordination, the Venerable Rahula attained to the highest goal of a recluse's life, to Sainthood (arahatta).

This occurred after the enunciation of the third text in our collection, the Shorter Discourse of exhortation (*Rahula-Rahulovada-Sutta*)

This discourse applies the three characteristics of all conditioned existence (impermanency, suffering, and not-self) to the entire realm of six-fold sense perception and all mental processes relating to it.

It was at this moment of Sainthood attained, that the Enlightened One, the incomparable teacher of men, the master of the skilful means of guiding them, gave to His son the full paternal heritage for which Rahula had asked. The most precious legacy, indeed, that a father can bestow!

When the Buddha preached the Discourse on the Heirs of the Dhamma, (Dhamma-dayyda-Sutta, Majjh.3), in which he distinguished between the heirs to worldliness and the heirs to truth, this may well have evoked within Him the memories of little Rahula's request for his heritage.

Our fourth text, the verses from the Sutta-Nipata, called "Rahula-Sutta," circumscribes in brief the life of a monk, and the thoughts and the ideals that should be foremost in a monk's mind. These verses are, as it were, the monk's version of the Maha-Mangala-Sutta ("Blessings"). The concluding sentence expressly states that these were frequently repeated by the Master for Rahula's benefit. Since they contain terse references to meditation they may have originated in the period when our second text, the Maha-Rahulovada-Sutta, was spoken, that is at Rahula's 18th year or after.

The same may hold good for the texts in the Rahula-Sarnyutta of the Samyutta-Nikaya. Those 22 short discourses are all instructions for Insight-meditation,



and are more or less variants of our third text. They are, as the commentary says, meant to promote those "qualities that bring deliverance to maturity" (vimuttipdcantyadhamma) spoken of at the beginning of the Cula-Rahulovada-Sutta (Majjh. 147): To the same category belongs the Rahula-Sutta of the Anguttara-Nikaya (The Fours, No. 117) which deals with the four material elements in a similar way as our second text (Majjh 62).

In the Theragatha, the Verses of the Elders, there are stanzas spoken by the Venerable Rahula himself (vv 295-298); and in the "Questions: of Milinda," there are ascribed to him some more verses which are not found elsewhere. These verses are the only utterances recorded of the Venerable Rahula.

There is also no other account in Pali literature indicating that he was active as a teacher or preacher or in any other way. It is possible that this reticence on the part of the venerable Rahula was intentional because, being the Master's son, he did not wish to come into any prominence.

The venerable Rahula passed away before the Master and, also, before the venerable Sariputta; but we have no information as to the time and circumstances of his death.

Though the venerable Rahula himself always kept modestly in the background, the Master placed him among those disciples who had gained excellence in specific ways of conduct or knowledge (etadagga-savaka; Anguttara-Nikaya,1), praising him as one who was "foremost among those who are keen to learn, eager in following the Training" (sikkha-kama).

The venerable Rahula was always amenable to advice, and to this virtue of his, practised also in former lives, refer two Jatakas (Birth Stories): No. 16: Tipa attha-miga-Jataka, and No. 319: Tittira-Jataka.

As one of the early Chinese pilgrims to India, Hiuen Tsiang, relates (Beal, *Records*, p. 180), King Asoka erected Stupas in memory of many of the great Disciples, and one of these Stupas was dedicated to

the venerable Rahula, as the particular object of pilgrimage and veneration for novices, so that they may remember and emulate his devotion to the Training.

Since our age lacks an Asoka, may the texts presented here serve as a Stupa, an object of recollection, homage and inspiration, for all those who are "keen to learn and eager in following the Training" - because "it is they who shall reach the topmost height" - as the Master gave assurance in the last period of his life.

*"Tamatagge me te Ananda bhikkhu bhavissanti ye keci sikkha-kdmd'.ti.*

*Maha-Parinibbdna-Sutta'*

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Forest Hermitage, Kandy,  
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## **Acknowledgements**

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The third text, the Shorter Exhortation (Majjh. 147); has been translated by Nyanaponika Thera.

The fourth text, the verses from the Sutta-Nipata, is reproduced from Woven Cadences of the Early Buddhist (Sutta-Nipata), translated by E. M. Hare

'Sacred Books of the Buddhists, Vol. XV), London 1925, Pali Text Society. The explanatory notes have been supplied by the editor.

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## **Introduction to the Ambalatthika - Rahulovada Suttanta -**

It is the supreme characteristic of the great World Teachers - and, indeed, of all profound thinkers - that they invariably express themselves in the most natural, simple, and direct way; similarly, the hair-splitting, and quibbling over words, is the mark of puny minds.

The greater the genius of the teacher, the more we become conscious of his desire to be understood by humanity, and of his effort to make his teaching comprehensible even to the dullest intellect. Thus, it is, that we perceive the genius of the Buddha strikingly-revealed in the lucidity of His language,

and in the homely incidents and every-day occurrences with which He illustrates and emphasizes His teaching.

At all times, He adapts His exposition to the capacity of His audience: (i.e.) to children.

His words and illustrations are such as to appeal to and impress a child's mind; to an audience more mature, we find a mode of expression, again, calculated to appeal to its comprehension. To the wise, He elaborates His teaching in such a way that they become conscious of its profound and sublime nature, and dimly perceive, as it deeper grows, that, finally, it leads to those unfathomed depths to be attained only by personal realization-never by mere reasoning.

In the following Suttanta the Buddha is exhorting His son Rahula, a Samanera aged seven. The Blessed One delivers a short, but nevertheless profound, homily on the necessity of that elementary principle of moral conduct - truthfulness.

Continuing, He establishes the moral criterion, by which to determine a good (kusala, lit. skilful) action, and a bad (akusala, unskillful) one. It is from the beneficial or harmful effects of an action upon both the doer and others, that we are to distinguish between good and bad.

In other words, Buddhism judges by results; therefore, its moral words may be said to be utilitarian.

Throughout the Suttanta, the supreme importance of reflection is the constant theme of the Buddha. The three stages He emphasizes being - prior to action, during action and subsequent to action.

Students of philosophy should find this Suttanta of particular interest, as it deals with one of the basic questions of Ethics: the criterion of good and evil.

## **Ambalatthika-Rahulovada Suttanta**

### **The Ambalatthika**

## **Exhortation to Rahula.1**

Thus have I heard:

On one occasion the Blessed One was staying at the Bamboo Grove, in the Squirrels' Sanctuary, near Rajagaha. Now, at that time, the venerable Rahula was residing at Ambalalphika;<sup>2</sup> and in the evening the Blessed One, having risen from meditation, proceeded thither to the venerable Rahula who - seeing Him coming from afar - got ready a seat, and water for washing the feet. And the Blessed One sat on the seat prepared and, being seated, washed His feet. Then, the venerable Rahula, having saluted the Blessed One respectfully sat at one side.

Thereupon, the Blessed One, having left a small quantity of water in the vessel, addressed <sup>3</sup> the venerable Rahula:

"Do you see, Rahula, this small quantity of water left in the vessel?"

"Yes, Lord."



"Similarly, Rahula, insignificant indeed is the samanaship<sup>4</sup> of those who are not ashamed of uttering deliberate lies."

Whereupon the Blessed One threw away that small quantity of water, and addressed the venerable Rahula: "Do you observe, Rahula, that small quantity of water, thrown away?"

"Yes, Lord."

"Similarly, Rahula, discarded<sup>5</sup>, indeed, is the samanaship of those who fare not ashamed of deliberate lying."

Then the Blessed One turned the water-vessel upside down, and addressed the venerable Rahula:

"Do you notice, Rahula, this water-vessel turned upside down?"

"Yes, Lord."

"Similarly, Rahula, overturned<sup>6</sup>, indeed, is the samana-of those who are not ashamed of uttering deliberate lies."

Finally, the Blessed One set the water-vessel upright and addressed the venerable Rahula:

"Do you see, Rahula, this water-vessel, empty and void"?

"Yes, Lord."

"Similarly, Rahula, empty and void, indeed, is the samanaship of those who are not ashamed of deliberate lies."

"Suppose, Rahula, the king's elephant - with tusks like plough-poles, mature, well-bred, whose place is on the battle-field, upon having, thus, gone into the strife, performs doughty deeds<sup>7</sup> with his fore-legs, with his hind-legs, with the fore-part of his body, with the hind-part of his body, and also with his head, ears, tusks and tail, protecting only his trunk; and the mahout thinks that - despite this elephant's prowess and the various feats he has performed - as he has protected his trunk, the life of the royal elephant has not really been risked. But, Rahula, from such time as the king's elephant, having gone into battle and performed feats with various parts of

his body, also performs feats with his trunk; - then the mahout thinks that the life of the king's elephant has really been risked. For now there is nothing that the royal elephant has not risked.<sup>8</sup>

"Similarly, Rahula, I say, of anyone who is not ashamed of uttering deliberate lies, that there is no evil that could not be done by him. Accordingly, Rahula, thus, indeed, should you train yourself: "Not even in play will I ever tell a lie.' "What do you think, Rahula; for what purpose is a mirror?"

"For the purpose of reflecting,<sup>9</sup> Lord":

"Similarly, Rahula, having reflected should bodily action be done; having reflected, having reflected should verbal action be done; having reflected, having reflected, should mental action be done.

"Whatever action you desire to do with the body, Rahula, of that particular bodily action you should reflect: 'Now, this action that I desire to do with the body - would this, my bodily action, be conducive to my own harm, or to the harm of others, or to that of both (myself' and others)? - Then, unskillful is this

bodily action, entailing suffering and productive of pain.

"If, Rahula, when reflecting, you should realize: 'Now, this bodily action of mine, that I am desirous of doing, would be conducive to my own harm, or to the harm of others, or to that of both (myself and others), - hence, unskillful is this bodily action, - entailing suffering and productive of pain' - such-an action with the body, Rahula, you must on no account perform.

"If, on the other hand, Rahula, when reflecting you realize; 'Now, this bodily action that I am desirous of doing, would conduce neither to the harm of myself, nor to that of others, nor to that of both (myself and others), - hence, skilful is this bodily action, entailing pleasure and productive of happiness' - such bodily action, Rahula, you should perform.

"Whilst you are doing an action with the body, Rahula, of that particular bodily action should you reflect: 'Now, is this action that I am doing with my body, conducive to my own harm, or to the harm of

others, - or to that of both? - Then, unskillful is this bodily action, entailing suffering and productive of pain.'

"If, Rahula, when reflecting you realise: `Now, this action that I am doing with my; body is conducive to my own harm, to the harm of others, and to that of both, hence, unskillful is this bodily action, entailing suffering and productive of pain,' - from such a bodily action, Rahula you must desist.

"If, on the other hand, Rahula, when reflecting should you realize: `Now, this action of mine that I am doing with the body is neither conducive to my own harm, nor to the harm of others, nor to that of both - hence, skilful is this bodily action, entailing pleasure and productive of happiness' - such a bodily action, Rahula, you should do again and again.

"Having done an action with your body, Rahula, of that particular bodily action you should reflect: 'Now, is this action that I have done with my body conducive to my own harm, or to the harm of others,

or to that of both? - Then, unskillful is this bodily action, entailing suffering and productive of pain.'

"If, Rahula, when reflecting, you should realize: 'Now, this action that I have done with my body is conducive to my own harm, to the harm of others, and that of both; hence, unskillful is this bodily action; entailing suffering and productive of pain' - such a bodily action of yours, Rahula, should be confessed, revealed, and made manifest to the Teacher, or to the learned, or to your brethren of the Holy Life. Having confessed, revealed, and made it manifest, you should acquire restraint in the future.

"If, on the other hand, Rahula, when through reflection you realize: 'Now, this action that I have done with my body is neither conducive to my own harm, nor to the harm of others, nor to that of both; hence, skilful is this bodily action, entailing pleasure and productive of happiness' - for that very reason, Rahula, should you abide in joy and happiness, training yourself, day and night, in meritorious states:

"Whatever action you desire to do by word, Rahula, of that particular verbal action you should reflect: 'Now, this action that I desire to do by word - would this, my verbal action, be conducive to my own harm or to the harm of others, or to that of both? - Then, unskillful is this verbal action; entailing suffering and productive of pain.'

And he should reflect, similarly, before, during and after, verbal action. 11

"If, on the other hand, Rahula, when reflecting you realize: 'Now, this action that I have done by words is neither conducive to my own harm, nor to the harm of others, nor to, that of both; hence, skillful is this verbal action, entailing pleasure and productive of happiness' - for that very reason, Rahula, should you abide in joy and happiness, training yourself, day and night, in meritorious states.

"Whatever action you desire to do by mind, Rahula, of that particular mental action you should reflect: 'Now, this action that I desire to do by mind - would this, my mental action, be conducive to my own

harm or to the harm of others, or to that of both? - Then, unskillful is this mental action, entailing suffering and productive of pain.'

And he should reflect, similarly before, during, and after, mental action."

"If, Rahula, when reflecting you realize; 'Now this action that I have done by mind is conducive to my own harm, to the harm of others, and to that of both; hence, unskillful is this mental action entailing suffering and productive of pain,' - such mental actions of yours, Rahula, should be loathed, abhorred and despised.<sup>13</sup> Thus, loathing, abhorring and despising, you should acquire restraint in the future.

'If, on the other hand, Rahula, when reflecting, you should realize: 'Now, this action that I have done by mind is neither' conducive to my own harm, nor to the harm of others, nor to that of both; hence, skilful is this mental action, entailing pleasure and productive of happiness' - for this very reason, Rahula, should you abide in joy and happiness,



training" yourself, day and night, in the meritorious states.

"For whosoever, Rahula, in the distant past Samanas or Brahmanas - purified their bodily, verbal and mental actions, - they all did so in exactly the same way - by constantly reflecting. Further, whosoever, Rahula; in the distant future - Samanas or Brahmanas - shall purify their bodily, verbal and mental actions, - they too will all do so in exactly the same way - by constantly reflecting. And further, whosoever, Rahula, at the present time - Samanas or Brahmanas - purify their bodily, verbal and mental actions' - they all do so in exactly the same way-by constantly reflecting:

"Accordingly, Rahula, thus, must you train yourselves: "By constantly reflecting, shall we purify our bodily actions; by constantly reflecting, shall we purify our verbal actions; - by constantly reflecting shall we purify our mental actions."

Thus spoke the Blessed One. Delighted, the venerable Rahula rejoiced at His words.

## **Notes to the Ambalathika-Rahulovada Suttanta**

1. This Suttanta is referred to in the Bhabra Edic of King Asoka.

2. Ambalathika, "The mango sapling." The so-called 'palace' was a retreat for meditation, and for those desiring solitude, erected in the Bamboo Grove. -Comy. In the Brahmajala Suttanta, it is said that the Blessed One took shelter for one night in the royal rest-house at Ambalathika, together with the company of Bhikkhus. Commenting, on this Buddhaghosa says: "Here Ambalathika is the king's park. At the entrance stood a young mango tree called by the people 'Ambalathika.' Consequently, the park itself came to be known as 'Ambalathika.' It was well watered, shady, surrounded by a rampart, securely fastened with gates, and protected like a casket. Within the park was a house ornamented with magnificent paintings, for the king's relaxation. This was known as the royal rest-house."

It would appear from the above that there were two buildings in this park; one, for the king's own use; the other for the use of the religious orders.

3. The Commentator states that the Buddha delivered this discourse to Rahula, whose age was only seven, knowing that boys of tender years, thoughtlessly, often speak falsely.

4. Samannain, the state of a Samana. Generally, rendered "asceticism" or "monasticism", but neither word is a suitable designation for the status of Bhikkhus:

5. In both places the same word is used - chaddita thrown away: abandoned, left, etc.

6. Nikkujjita, overturned, upset.

7. i.e., he destroys everything that comes in his way.  
-Comy.

8. i.e., he has fearlessly exposed every part of his body to the risks of battle, not protecting even his trunk.

9. Paccavekkhanattho; -Comy: for the purpose of looking at, for seeing any blemishes in the face. (Ed.)

10. Paccavekkhitvd paccavekkhitvd. This expresses in simple language what is implied in the doctrinal terms sati, 'mindfulness', and yoniso manasikara, wise consideration or thorough attention. (Ed.)

11. The detailed exposition of "verbal action" is identical with that of bodily action.

12. The detailed exposition of "mental action" is, likewise, identical with that of bodily action, with the exception of the penultimate paragraph. The last two paragraphs are accordingly given in full:

15. Being a mental offence, Rahula is not exhorted (as in the case of bodily, and verbal, action) to confess it to anyone.

14. This refers to self-examination.

The Commentator says that one should reflect whether any evil has been done through word or deed. If so, it should be confessed; if not, one should abide rejoicing in that knowledge. If, whilst

reflecting, one finds that an evil thought has been harbored, then it should be loathed and a firm resolution made not to entertain it again. If no such thought has arisen, one should abide rejoicing in the fact.

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## **Introduction to the Maha-Rahulovada Suttanta**

In the following Suttanta, the Buddha deals with a profound subject -- meditation, or [developing mental] culture of the mind.

Not by servile supplication to any Heavenly Father is the craving and hatred by which the world is rent and torn to be assuaged; but only by the ‘cultivation’ of that sublime equanimity which, having comprehended the true nature of life, amidst delight or misery "... like to a rock, unmoved stands, and shaketh not." According to the commentaries, this exhortation was delivered when the venerable Rahula was in his eighteenth year, an early age, surely, at which to appreciate the ultimate possibilities of mind-culture.

The four great essentials to which the Buddha first directs the attention of Rahula are: pathavi, apo, tejo... and vayo, known as "dhatus" in Pali.

"Dhatu" is defined as "that which bears its own intrinsic nature"; its most appropriate English equivalent being "element." [But it must not be hastily assumed, from this, that we are, here, dealing with the four "elements" of the ancient Greek philosophers, namely: earth, water, fire, and air; since]: In the Abhidhamma sense, the four "dhatus" imply extension or solidity (pathavi), cohesion (apo), heat (tejo), and motion or vibration (vayo).

In the Sutta-Pitaka, however, we find compounds designated by the generic name of the 'dhatu' which predominates in their composition. 'Kesa' hair, for instance, although a compound consisting of the four essentials and the four derived material qualities, is classified under 'pathavi-dhatu,' owing to the predominance in its composition of the element of solidity.

Having explained to Rahula the nature of the 'dhatus' (including, space), the Buddha further exhorts him to be constantly mindful of them, and to cultivate that perfect equanimity of mind which remains undisturbed by likes and dislikes - comparable to the absolute passivity of earth, water, fire, air, and space.

In conclusion, the Buddha, after briefly enumerating certain subjects of meditation, with the specific qualities inhibited by each, then, gives a profound statement as to how the meditation on breathing is to be practised.

And practising, according to these instructions, it is said that, in no long time, Rahula becoming Arahant, achieved Emancipation.

## **Maha Rahulovada Suttanta**

### **The Great Exhortation to Rahula**

Thus have I heard: - 'Once the Blessed One was staying at the monastery of Anathapindika, in the

Jeta Grove, near Savatthi. Then, the Blessed One, having robed Himself in the forenoon, took bowl and robe, and entered Savatthi for alms; and the venerable Rahula also, having robed in the forenoon, took bowl and robe, and followed close behind the Blessed One. Thereupon, the Blessed One looked back and addressed the venerable Rahula:

"Whatsoever form there be, O Rahula, whether past, future or present, personal' or external,\* coarse or fine, mean or noble, far or near, - all form, in accordance with fact and with perfect knowledge<sup>5</sup> should be regarded thus: "This is not mine; this am I not; this is soulless'."

"Verily, form alone,<sup>6</sup> Blessed One; form alone: Exalted One?"

"Form, Rahula, and sensation, Rahula, and perception, Rahula, and the mental concomitants, Rahula, and consciousness,<sup>7</sup> Rahula."

Then, the venerable Rahula (reflected): "What individual, having been edified today with an exhortation from the Blessed One Himself, would



enter the village for alms?<sup>8</sup> Thereupon, he turned back and sat down at the foot of a certain tree, with legs crossed, the body held erect, intent on mindfulness.

Now, the venerable Sariputta <sup>9</sup> saw him seated thus, and addressed him:

"Cultivate, Rahula, the meditation of mindfulness on inhaling and exhaling!"<sup>10</sup> Inhaling and exhaling with mindfulness, Rahula, cultivated, and frequently practised, is productive of much fruit and manifold advantages."

And, at eventide; the venerable Rahula rose from solitary meditation and proceeded to the presence of the Blessed One." Saluting Him respectfully, he sat on one side. Seated thus, the venerable Rahula said to the Blessed One:

"How, Lord, is mindfulness on inhaling and exhaling cultivated; how frequently practised, to produce much fruit and manifold advantages?"<sup>11</sup>

"Whatever,<sup>12</sup> Rahula, pertains to oneself as an individual, is hard, of a solid nature, and a product of grasping - as for example; hair of the head, hair of the body, nails, teeth, skin, flesh, sinews, bones, marrow, kidneys, heart, liver, diaphragm, spleen, lungs, stomach, intestines, mesentery, excrement: or anything else whatsoever pertaining to oneself as an individual, that is hard, of a solid nature, and a product of grasping: this, Rahula, is called the personal 'element of earth'.<sup>13</sup> But even this personal earthy element, as well as the external earthy element, is merely the element of solidity. This, in accordance with fact and with perfect knowledge, should be regarded thus: 'This is not mine; this am I not; this is soulless'. Having seen, with perfect knowledge, that such is the case, one becomes disgusted with the element of earth, and one's mind is detached from the element of solidity.

"What now, Rahula, is the element of water? The element of water may be internal, may be external. "And what, Rahula, is the internal watery element? Whatever pertains to oneself as an individual, is

liquid, of a fluid nature, and a product of grasping - as for example: bile, phlegm, pus, blood, sweat, lymph, tears, serum, saliva, nasal mucus, synovial fluid, urine, or anything else whatsoever pertaining to oneself as an individual, that is liquid, of a fluid nature, and a product of grasping: this, Rahula, is called 'the internal element of water.' But even this internal watery element, as well as the external watery element, is merely the element of fluidity. This, in accordance with fact and with perfect knowledge, should be regarded as thus: 'This is not mine; this am I not; this is soulless.' Having seen with perfect knowledge that such is the case, one becomes disgusted with the element of water, - and one's mind is detached from the element of fluidity.

"What now, Rahula, is the element of fire? The element of fire may be internal, may be external.

"And what, Rahula, is the internal fiery element? Whatever pertains to oneself as an individual, is hot, of a fiery nature, and a product of grasping - as for example: that whereby there is deterioration,"

whereby there is intense burning," whereby what is eaten, drunk, chewed and tasted, is well-digested, or anything else whatsoever pertaining to oneself as an individual, that is hot, of a fiery nature, and a product of grasping: this, Rahula, is called 'the internal element of fire.' But even this internal fiery element, as well as the external fiery element, is merely the element of heat: - This, in accordance with fact and with perfect knowledge, should be regarded thus: 'This is not mine; this am I not; this is soulless.' Having seen with perfect knowledge that such is the case, one becomes disgusted with the element of fire, and one's mind is detached from the element of heat.

"What now, Rahula, is the element of air? The element of air may be internal, may be external.

"And what, Rahula, is the internal gaseous element? Whatever pertains to oneself as an individual, is gaseous, of an airy nature, and a product of grasping - as for example: ascending and descending flatus, the vapors in the abdomen and bowels, the air

passing through the various parts of the body, such as inhalation and exhalation, or anything else whatsoever pertaining to oneself as an individual, that is gaseous, of an airy nature, and a product of grasping: this, Rahula, is called 'the internal element of air.' But even this internal gaseous element, as well as the external gaseous element, is merely the element of air. This, in accordance with fact and with perfect knowledge, should be regarded thus: 'This is not mine; this am I not; this is soulless.' Having seen with perfect knowledge that such is the case one becomes disgusted with the gaseous element, and one's mind is detached from the element of air.

"What now, Rahula, is the element of space? The element of space may be internal, may be external. "And what, Rahula, is the internal element

Whatever pertains to oneself as an individual, is void, of an empty nature, and a product of grasping as for example: the cavities of the ear and nose, the mouth aperture, that whereby one swallows what is

eaten, drunk, chewed and tasted; where such nourishment accumulates, that whereby such nourishment passes from the lower part (of the body), or anything else whatsoever pertaining to oneself as an individual, that is void, of an empty nature, and a product of grasping: this, Rahula, is called 'the internal element of space.' But even this internal void element, as well as the external void element, is merely the element of space. So, this, in accordance with fact and with perfect knowledge, should be regarded thus: 'This is not mine; this am I not; this is soulless.' Having seen with perfect knowledge that such is the case, one becomes disgusted with the void element, and one's mind is detached from the element of space. "Like unto earth,<sup>16</sup> Rahula, practise meditation.

For, O Rahula, by practising meditation like the earth, the contacts that have arisen - agreeable and disagreeable - will not continue to obsess your mind.

Just as pure and impure things, Rahula, - excrement, urine, saliva, pus and blood - are cast upon the earth,

and yet the earth neither abhors, nor loathes, nor dislikes such things; even so, yourself Rahula, earth-wise, practise meditation. For, Rahula, by practising meditation like the earth, the contacts that have arisen - agreeable and disagreeable - will not continue to obsess your mind.

"Like unto water, Rahula, practise meditation. For, O Rahula, by practising meditation water-wise, the contacts that have arisen - agreeable and disagreeable - will not continue to obsess your mind. Just as pure and impure things, Rahula, - excrement, urine, saliva, pus and blood - are washed (away) in water, and yet water neither abhors, nor loathes, nor dislikes such things; even so yourself, Rahula, like water, practise meditation, and the contacts that have arisen will not continue to obsess your mind.

"Like unto fire, Rahula, practise meditation. For, O Rahula, by practising meditation fire-wise, the contacts that have arisen - agreeable and disagreeable - will not continue to obsess your mind. Just as fire, Rahula, burns pure and impure things -

excrement, urine, saliva, pus and blood - and yet fire neither abhors, nor loathes, nor dislikes such things; even so yourself, Rahula, like fire, practise meditation, and the contacts that have arisen will not continue to obsess your mind.

"Like unto air, Rahula, practise meditation. For, O Rahula, by practising meditation air-wise, the contacts that have arisen - agreeable and disagreeable - will not continue to obsess your mind. Just as air, Rahula, blows upon pure and impure things - excrement, urine, saliva, pus and blood - and yet air neither abhors, nor loathes, nor dislikes such things; even so yourself, Rahula, like air, practise meditation, and the contacts that have arisen will not continue to obsess your mind.

"Like unto space, Rahula, practise meditation. For, O Rahula, by practising meditation space-wise, the contacts that have arisen - agreeable and disagreeable - will not continue to obsess your mind. Just as the vault of heaven, Rahula, is not attached to any place; even so yourself, Rahula, like the vault of



heaven, practise meditation. For, Rahula, by practising meditation like space, the contacts that have arisen-agreeable and disagreeable-will not continue to obsess your mind.

"Develop the meditation on Metta,<sup>17</sup> Rahula. For, Rahula, by developing Metta, ill-will is abandoned.

"Develop the meditation on compassion, Rahula. For, Rahula, by developing compassion, cruelty is abandoned.

"Develop the meditation on sympathetic joy, Rahula. For, Rahula, by so developing sympathetic joy, aversion is abandoned.

"Develop the meditation on equanimity, Rahula. For, Rahula, by so developing equanimity, hatred is abandoned.

"Develop the meditation on impurity,<sup>18</sup> Rahula. For, Rahula, by so meditating on impurity, lust is abandoned.

"Develop the meditation on the concept of transiency, Rahula. For, Rahula, by meditating on the concept of transiency, pride of self is abandoned

"Cultivate the concentration of mindfulness on inhaling and exhaling, Rahula. Inhaling and exhaling with mindfulness, Rahula, cultivated and frequently practised, is productive of much fruit and manifold advantages. And how, Rahula, is inhaling and exhaling with mindfulness cultivated; how frequently practised, to produce much fruit and manifold advantages?"

"Here, Rahula, a Bhikkhu having retired to the forest, or to the foot of a tree, or to a lonely place; sits with legs crossed, the body held erect, intent on mindfulness. Consciously he inhales; consciously he exhales. When taking a long inspiration, he knows 'I am taking a long inspiration'; when making a long expiration, he knows 'I am making a long expiration.' When taking a short inspiration, he knows 'I am taking a short inspiration'; when

making a short expiration, he knows 'I am making a short expiration.'

Conscious of the entire process<sup>19</sup> 'I will inhale,' thus he trains himself; 'Conscious of the entire process will I exhale,' thus he trains himself. 'Calming the respiration I will inhale,' thus he trains himself; 'Calming the respiration will I exhale,' thus he trains himself. 'Experiencing pleasure I will inhale,' thus he trains himself; 'Experiencing pleasure will I exhale,' thus he trains himself. 'Experiencing happiness I will inhale,' thus he trains himself; 'Experiencing happiness will I exhale,' thus he trains himself. 'Conscious of the mental flux I will inhale,' thus he trains himself; 'Conscious of the mental flux will I exhale,' thus he trains himself: 'Calming the mental flux I will inhale,' thus he trains himself; 'Calming the mental flux will I exhale,' thus he trains himself. 'Perfectly conscious I will inhale,' thus he trains himself; 'Perfectly conscious will I exhale,' thus he trains himself. 'With enraptured mind I will inhale,' thus he trains himself; 'With enraptured mind will I exhale,' thus he trains

himself. `Thoroughly composing the mind I will inhale,' thus he trains himself; `Thoroughly composing the mind will I exhale,' thus he trains himself. `Emancipating the mind I will inhale,' thus he trains himself; `Emancipating the mind will I exhale,' thus he trains himself. `Reflecting on transiency I will inhale', thus he trains himself; `Reflecting on transiency will I exhale', thus he trains himself. Reflecting on freedom from lust I will inhale,' thus he trains himself; `Reflecting on freedom from lust will I exhale,' thus he trains himself. `Reflecting on Cessation I will inhale,' thus he trains himself. Reflecting on Cessation will I exhale,' thus he trains himself. Reflecting on complete emancipation, I will inhale,' thus he trains himself; `Reflecting on complete emancipation will I exhale,' thus he trains himself.

"Mindfulness on inhaling and exhaling, Rahula, thus cultivated and frequently practised, is productive of much fruit and manifold advantage. When, Rahula, inhaling and exhaling with mindfulness is thus cultivated and frequently-practised, even the last

inspiration and expiration ceases consciously, not unconsciously."

This was spoken by the Blessed One. The venerable Rahula, delighted, rejoiced at His words.

### **Notes to the Maha Rahulovada Suttanta**

1. The Commentator states that the Venerable Rahula, whilst following the Blessed One, noted with admiration, the physical perfection of the Buddha, and reflected with satisfaction that he himself was of similar appearance. Rahula was very handsome. The books say that as the Buddha went along, followed by Rahula, the pair was comparable to an auspicious royal elephant and his noble offspring, a royal swan with its beauteous cygnet, a regal lion with its stately cub, etc. Both were golden in complexion, almost equal in beauty, both were of the warrior caste, both had renounced a throne. So, Rahula, admiring the teacher, thought, - "I too am

handsome like my parent the Blessed One. Beautiful is the Buddha's form, and mine is similar."

"What is the lad, Rahula, considering," thought the Buddha, "as he follows me?" And the Master read Rahula's train of thought. Thereupon the Buddha decided to reprove Rahula at once. A small leak may sink a ship, if neglected by the captain. Rahula's foolish, vain thoughts could lead the lad to states of ill, and such leaks brook no delay.

2. Rupam: According to Abhidamma rupa is that which changes owing to physical conditions, such as heat, moisture, etc. Twenty-eight of these material qualities, (or rupas), are enumerated in the Abhidhammatt'-a-Sangaha. (See Compendium, p. 154). 'Rupa in its generic sense, means `matter,' and in its specific sense, `quality.' But, in popular language, it means `form'." (Shwe Zan. Aung) We believe that Abhidhamma scholars would unanimously agree that `matter' is the best possible rendering for rupa, `Body' would likewise be a suitable equivalent for, rupa, denoting, as in this

Suttanta, the physical form of an individual. We have, however, retained the general term 'form,' despite one great objection to the use of the word 'form' for rupa – namely the contrast in Western philosophy between the impermanency of 'form' and the permanency of 'matter'.

3. Belonging to one's own life-flux; relating to the individual.

4. Bahiddha: outside, without.

5. *Sammappannd is vipassana pannna*: intuitive knowledge. - Comy.

6. Why did he ask this question? In order to learn what his attitude should be with regard to sensations, etc. - Comy.

7. These are the five component parts (khandha) that together constitute an individual. As matter or rupa comprises twenty-eight material qualities, so mind or consciousness comprises fifty-two mental properties. (Compendium, pp. 94, ff). Of these, two - vedana, sensation and sanna, perception - are usually

treated as separate groups. The remaining fifty are collectively designated sankharas," because as concomitants they perform their respective functions in combination as one whole, of act, speech, or thought." See note on sankhara, Compendium of Philosophy, p. 273.

8. Rahula is said to have felt like a thief who has been caught with the stolen goods. He was very wise and understood, in detail, anything concisely stated (a fact that handicaps one who reads this exhortation to him without the help of elucidation of the Commentaries). The Master, having reproved Rahula, proceeded on his begging-round, but the latter decided to forego food that day.

9. If the two chief disciples happen to be residing in the same monastery as the Buddha, not until He has departed on the alms round do they set forth. - Comy. 30

10. The Venerable Sariputta, noting the cross-legged posture of his youthful pupil, - which was the one always adopted for the Meditation on Breathing -



advised this practice, not being aware that Rahula was practising another, on the Buddha's own instruction.

11. Rahula's meditation bore no fruit. He was perplexed. The Buddha had instructed him to meditate on "Form," whereas the Venerable Sariputta, his teacher, advised "Breathing." The Buddha had inculcated the importance of obedience to one's immediate teacher. So Rahula decided to meditate on "Breathing," and to obtain the Buddha's instruction on the subject. But the Blessed One did not immediately satisfy this wish.

Before the ship can be steered safely to the haven, its dangerous leaks must be stopped. The Master proceeded to do this - by expanding on His first brief instruction of meditation on "Form," [rupa] and its constituents. Thus, does a wise physician dispense the needed medicine, ignoring the patient's desires. This done, the Buddha gave Rahula instruction on "Breathing."

12. Instead of giving a direct answer to the question, the Buddha explains to Rahula the nature of the four essentials (mahabhuta) to which all bodies may be reduced, in order to dissipate his illusion regarding 'self.'

13. According to Buddhism there are four essentials or primaries which are inter-related, viz: parhavi, solidity; apo, cohesion; tejo, temperature; and vdyo, motion.

14. Jiriyati: to be old, worn out, decrepit. Also "oxidation."

15. Paridayhati: to be scorched. As, for instance, if a person were to say, 'I am burning! I am burning!' and were to long for something cool. Cf. Sammoha Vinodani, p. 69.

16. Why did he commence thus? - in order to show the reasons for acquiring balance of mind (tadi - bhava, imperturbability). - Comy.

17. The Buddhist technical term Metta (Sanskrit: Maitriya) is here rendered "Benevolence" - (bene: well and volens, wishing or willing) which is exactly what Metta signifies. The only drawback is that

benevolence' is, as generally understood today, too flaccid a word to convey the rapture of Buddhist Metta. We ourselves were driven to the use of 'Loving-kindness' for Metta. 'Love,' alone, is corrupted with the idea of the sexual: 'Kindness,' alone, is too tame. In the combination 'Loving-kindness', -'loving' intensifies 'kindness,' modifies the possible taint of 'loving.' Thus the reader will now appreciate something of the import of the Pali word Metta, which we intend to retain in future, in view of its deep significance, and the difficulty of offering a graceful English equivalent.

18. Asubham. The ten 'asubhas' are the ten stages of increasing putrefaction of corpses, viz.: 1. Bloated. 2. Discoloured. 3. Festering. 4. Fissured. 6. Dismembered. 7. Cut and dismembered. 8. Bloody. 9. Wormy. 10. Bony. (See Expositor, Pt. I, p. 264).

19. Sabba-kaya. Literally -"the whole body." According to the Visuddhi-Magga (Transl. by Bhikkhu Nanamoli; p 294), *kaya* used in this

connection, does not mean the physical body, but the whole mass of inhalation and exhalation.<sup>32</sup>

20. *Kaya-sankhara*, literally "body-process." This Prof. Rhys Davids renders as "bodily organism," (Dialogues, Pt. II, p. 328). According to the *Visuddhi-Magga*, it means "inhalation and exhalation." We find this word used in a similar sense in the *Cula-Vedalla Suttanta* (M. N. 44, p. 301). "*Assasa-passasa kho avuso Visakha kayika ete dhamma kayapatibaddha, tasma assasa-passasa kaya-sankhara.*" - Inhalation and exhalation, friend Visakha, are indeed physical. These conditions are dependent on the body; therefore, inhalation and exhalation are (called) *kaya-sankhara*. (See *Visuddhi-Magga*, p. 229).

21. This description of the meditation on Breathing is, we fear, too condensed for the general reader, to whom we are unable to offer a detailed exposition here. But it must be stated that each injunction of the Blessed One, in this connection, has a specific meaning and the practice proceeds, up and up,

starting with merely noting the breaths, through the 'Ecstasies,' and ending with Nibbana attainment. The student is referred to the Visuddhi-Magga, pp. 285-317-292, for further particulars. Cula-Rihulovada Suttanta

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## **The Shorter Exhortation to Rahula**

Thus have I heard:

On one occasion the Blessed One was staying in the monastery of Anathapindika, in the Jeta Grove, near Savatthi. There, the following thought arose in the mind of the Blessed One whilst meditating in solitude:

"Mature are in Rahula those qualities that bring deliverance to maturity.' Should I not now give further guidance to Rahula for the extinction of the corruptions?" 2

Having robed himself in the forenoon, the Blessed One took bowl and robe, and entered Savatthi for

alms. Having gone His round for alms in Savatthi, he returned; and after the meal he addressed the venerable Rahula thus: "Take your mat, Rahula. We shall go to the Andha Grove, and spend the day there." - "Yes, Lord," replied the venerable Rahula, took his mat and followed close behind the Blessed One.

On that occasion, many thousands of deities followed the Blessed One, thinking: "Today the Blessed One will give further guidance to the venerable Rahula, for the extinction of the corruptions."

And the Blessed One, having entered the Andha Grove, sat down at the foot of a certain tree on a seat prepared for him. Then, also, the venerable Rahula, having saluted the Blessed One respectfully, sat at one side. Thereupon, the Blessed One addressed him as follows:

"What do you think, Rahula, is the *eye* permanent or impermanent?"

"Impermanent, Lord."

"Is that which is impermanent, painful or pleasant"?

"It is painful\* Lord."

"Is it justifiable, then, to think, of that which is impermanent, pain-laden and subject to change -  
`This is mine;" this I am;4 this is my self "'?6

"Certainly not, Lord."

"What do you think, Rahula, are forms (visual objects) permanent or impermanent ?"

"Impermanent, Lord."

"Is that which is impermanent, painful or pleasant?"

"It is painful, Lord."

"Is it justifiable, then, to think, of that which is impermanent, pain-laden and subject to change -  
`This is mine; this I am; this is my self '? "

"Certainly not, Lord."

"What do you think, Rahula: are *eye-consciousness*6 .... *visual contact*" permanent or impermanent?" "*Impermanent*, Lord."

"Is that which is impermanent, painful or pleasant"?

"It is painful Lord."

"Is it justifiable, then, to think, of that which is impermanent, pain-laden and subject to change -  
`This is mine; this I am; this is my self'?"

"Certainly not, Lord."

"What do you think, Rahula: *that which arises conditioned by visual contact, namely all that belongs to feeling, perception, mental formations and consciousness,*<sup>8</sup> *is that permanent or impermanent?"*

"*Impermanent, Lord.*"

"Is that which is impermanent, painful or pleasant"?

"It is painful, Lord."

"Is it justifiable, then, to think, of that which is impermanent, pain-laden and subject to change -  
`This is mine; this I am; this is my self'?"

"Certainly not, Lord."



"What do you think; Rahula; *ear and sounds, nose and smells, tongue and tastes, body and tangibles,* mind and ideas: the (corresponding types of) consciousness and contact; and the feelings, perceptions, mental formations and consciousness which arise conditioned by that contact - are all these permanent or impermanent"?

"*Impermanent, Lord.*"

"Is that which is impermanent, painful or pleasant?"

"It is painful, Lord."

"Is it justifiable, then, to think, of that which is impermanent, pain-laden and subject to change - `This is mine; this I am; this is my self?'"

"Certainly not, Lord."

"The learned noble disciple, Rahula, who sees, thus, gets, a *disgust,*" *for the eye, gets a disgust for forms, for visual consciousness, visual contact, and for that which arises conditioned by visual contact, namely all feelings, perceptions, mental formations and consciousness.*

"He gets a disgust for ear and sounds, nose and smells, tongue and tastes, body and tangibles, mind and ideas, gets a disgust for the (corresponding types of) consciousness and contact, and for that which arises conditioned by that contact, namely all that belongs to feeling, perception, mental formations and consciousness."

"In him who gets *disgusted; passion fades* out.<sup>10</sup> With the *fading out of passion*" he is liberated. Thus liberated, the knowledge arises in him: 'Liberated am I, birth is exhausted, fulfilled is the Holy Life, done what should be done, and nothing further remains after this': Thus he knows."

Thus spoke the Blessed One. Glad at heart, the venerable Rahula rejoiced in the words of the Blessed One.

Now during that utterance the mind of the venerable Rahula was freed from the corruptions through clinging no more. And also in those many thousand deities, there arose the stainless, immaculate Eye of

Trulha: 12 "Whatever is subject to origination is subject to cessation."

Notes:

1. *Vimutti-paripacaniya* dhammic. The Commentary mentions two sets of fifteen 'things conducive to the ripening of deliverance (i.e., of Arahatta or Saintship)'.  
I. Three purifying factors for each of the five Controlling Faculties (*indriya*), Faith, Energy, Mindfulness, Concentration and Wisdom. Briefly stated, these three purifying factors are: avoiding the company of those possessing qualities opposed to the respective Faculty; associating with those who possess these Faculties to a high degree; reflection on those parts of the Teaching that are helpful to a development of the respective Faculty.

II. The five Controlling Faculties; five contemplations: of impermanence, of the suffering in the impermanent, of not-self in suffering of giving up, of dispassion; noble friendship, moral restraint,

talk on the austere life, application of energy and penetrative wisdom.

2. *Asavanam khaye*. - *Asava*, 'corruption,' elsewhere rendered by 'taints' or 'cankers,' means literally 'flux' or 'outflow.' There are three kinds of 'corruptions': by sense-desire (*kam'asava*), by (desire for continued) existence (*bhav'asava*) and by ignorance (*avijj'asava*); often a fourth kind is added: the corruption by wrong views (*ditth'asava*). - The Arahant, or Saint, is often called 'one in whom the corruptions have become exhausted' or 'the extirpator of corruptions' (*khinasavo*): and Arahatta, Saintship, is the extinction, or exhaustion, of the Corruptions (*asavakkhaya*).

3. 'This is mine' - as motivated by craving (*tanha*) or possessiveness.

4. 'This I am' - as motivated by pride (*mana*).

5. 'This my self (or soul)' - as motivated by wrong views (*ditthi*).

6. *Cakkhu-vinnana*.

7. *Cakkhu-samphasso*.

8. *Vedanagatam sannagatam sankharagatam vinnana-gatam*. This refers to the last four of the five Aggregates (khandha), comprising the mental part (nama) of the individual.

9. "Gets a disgust for": *nibbindati* ("disgust": *nibbida*). - Here where a high stage of penetrative Insight (*vipassana*) is reached, 'disgust' should not be understood to mean a strong emotional revulsion, or loathing (which generally is linked with feelings of resentment or antagonism); it is rather an estrangement, a spontaneous recoiling or turning away.

10. *Virajjati*.

11. *Viraga*, 'through dispassion.'

12. *Dhamma-cakkha*, the Vision of Dhamma, refers here (according to -Comy.) to the attainment of Arahatta, Saintship; while elsewhere it applies only to Stream-entry (*sotdpatti*).

## **The Rahula Sutta (Sutta-Nipata, Verses 335-342)**

### **The Prologue**

The Master: "From living constant, say,

‘Dost thou the wise man scorn?

The torch-bearer to men? Is he revered by thee?"

Rahula: "From living constant, nay,

The wise man scorn I not;

The torch-bearer to men is aye revered by me."

### **The Teaching**

The Master: "Loosed from the pleasure-strands,

Dear forms that charm the mind,

In faith renounce thy home,

End of ill become!

Seek thou for lovely friends!

Seek bed and seat remote,

Lone and of little noise.  
Frugal in fare become!  
Robes, alms and requisites,  
Thy bed and seat: for these  
Beget no craving, nor  
Turn to the world again!  
Curbed by observance-rule,  
Curbed in the senses five,  
Mark thou thy body's ways'  
And be awearied o't!  
Shun thou the things of sign,'  
Attractive and passion-fraught:  
On foul things<sup>3</sup> quicken mind,  
One-pointed and intent !  
Quicken what has no sign,"  
Be rid of warping pride.'

Then mastering the pride,<sup>6</sup>

Thou shalt wayfare in calm."

In this wise the Master constantly instructs the venerable Rahula.

### **Notes to the Rahula Sutta of the Sutta-Nipata**

1. Literally: Have `mindfulness directed to the body. (*sati kdyagatdy-atthu*).

2. "Sign" (*nimittam*), that is the sign or notion of greed. But *nimittain* is here better to be linked with *subham* in the next line, and rendered by "attractive object" or "the idea of attractiveness."

3. "On foul things" (*asubhdya*), i.e., the unattractive or repulsive aspect of the inanimate body as considered in the Cemetery Meditations; and of the animate body, in the meditation of the 32 parts of the body.

4. "No sign" (*animittam*), i.e., without a sign of greed, hatred or delusion, nor any notion of



permanency. According to the -Comy.: Cultivate insight (*vipassana*)!"

5. Literally: "of any proclivity to pride" (*mananusayam*)

6. 'Mana, pride' has here also the wider meaning of self-conceit (*asmi-mana*) or ego-illusion.

7. This refers to the highest tranquillity of Sainthood.

**Thus ends this text.**