

## *Dhammapada, 'The Flowers'*

1. Who will conquer this world of illusion and the kingdom of Yama<sup>1</sup> and the world of the gods? Who will discover the path of the Law as the skilled gardener discovers the rarest of flowers?

**Ko imampathavim vijessati, Yamalokancha imam sadevakam |  
Ko Dhammapadam sudesitam kusalo, pupphamiva ppachessati ||**

2. The disciple on the right path will conquer this world of illusion and the kingdom of Yama and the world of the gods. He will discover the path of the Law as the skilled gardener discovers the rarest of flowers.

**Sekho pathavim vijessati, Yamalokancha idam sadevakam |  
Sekho Dhammapadam sudesitam, kusalo pupphamiva ppachessati. ||**

3. Knowing his body to be as impermanent as foam and as illusory as a mirage, the disciple on the right path will shatter the flowery arrow of Mara<sup>2</sup> and will rise beyond the reach of the King of Death.

**Phenoopamam kaayamimam vidittvaa, mareechidhammam abhisambudhaano |  
Chhettvaana Maarassa papupphakaani, adassanam machuraajassa gachchhe ||**

4. Death carries away the man who seeks only the flowers of sensual pleasure just as the torrential floods carry away a sleeping village.

**Pupphaani heva pachinantama, vyaasattamanasam naram |  
Suttam gaamam mahoghovaa, machchu aadaaya gachchhati ||**

5. Death, the destroyer, overcomes the man who seeks only the flowers of sensual pleasure before he can satisfy himself.

**Pupphaani heva pachinantama, vyaasattamanasam naram |  
Atittam yeva kaamesu, antako kurute vasam ||**

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<sup>1</sup> The God of Death

<sup>2</sup> the forces that lead one away from enlightenment

6. The sage should go from door to door in his village, as the bee gathers honey from the flowers without bringing harm to their colours or their fragrance.

**Yathaapi bhamaro puphpham, vanna-gandham ahethayam |  
Paleti rasamaadaaya, evam gaame muneechare ||**

7. Do not criticize others for what they do or have not done, but be aware of what, yourself, you do or have not done.

**Na paresam vilomaani, na paresam kataakatam |  
Attano'vaa avekkheyyaa, kataani akataani cha ||**

8. Just as a beautiful flower which is radiant yet lacks fragrance, so are the beautiful words of one who does not act accordingly.

**Yathaapi ruchiram puphpham, vannaavantam agandhakam |  
Evam subhaasitaa vaachaa, aphalaa hoti akubbato ||**

9. Just as a beautiful flower which is both radiant and sweetly scented, so are the beautiful words of one who acts accordingly.

**Yathaapi ruchiram puppham, vannaavantam sugandhakam |  
Evam subhaasitaa bhashaa saphalaa hoti akubbato ||**

10. Just as many garlands can be made from a heap of flowers, so a mortal can accumulate much merit by good deeds.

**Yathaapi ghuppharaasimhaa, kayiraa maalaagune bahoom |  
Evam jaatena machchena, kattabbam kusalam bahoom ||**

11. The fragrance of flowers, even that of sandalwood or incense, even that of jasmine, cannot go against the wind; but the sweet fragrance of intelligence goes against the wind.

**Na pupphagandho pativaatameti, na chandanam tagara mallikaa vaa |  
Satancha gandho pativaatameti, subbaa disaa sappuriso pavaati ||**

12. All around the man of intelligence spreads the fragrance of his virtue.

**Chandanam tagaram vaapi, uppalam atha vassikee |  
Etesam gandhajaatanam, seelagandho anuttaro ||**

13. No fragrance, not even that of sandalwood or incense, nor of the lotus nor of jasmine, can be compared with the fragrance of intelligence.

**Appamatto ayam gandho, yaayam tagarachandanee |  
Yaa cha seelavatam cha gandho, vaati devesu uttamo ||**

14. Weak is the fragrance of incense or sandalwood compared to that of a virtuous man which reached up to the highest divinities.

**Tesam sampanna seelaanam, appamaadavihaarinaam |  
sammadanyaa, vimuttaanam, maaro maggam na vindati ||**

15. Mara cannot discover the way that those beings follow who lead a life of perfect purity and who are liberated by their total knowledge.

**Yathaa sankaaradhaarnasmim, ujjhitasmim mahaapathe |  
padumam tattha jaayetha, suchigandham manoramam ||**

16. As the beautiful scented lily rises by the wayside, even so the disciple of the Perfectly Enlightened One, radiant with intelligence, rises from the blind and ignorant multitude.

**Evam samkaarabhootesu, andhabhote puthujjane |  
Atirochati panyaaya sammaasambuddha saavako ||**

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