

Seven Supportive Conditions for Vijjians' Success

As instructed by the king, the Brahmin conveyed the king's regards, wishes, and important message to the Buddha. At that time, Venerable Ānanda was standing behind the Buddha, and fanning him. [He was doing so just out of respect to the Buddha, but not because the Buddha really felt hot. The Buddha's body was very healthy, and not afflicted by cold or heat because of the merit he had accumulated throughout saṃsāra¹ (Dī-ṭh-2, 107).] Then, instead of making a direct comment on King Ajātasattu's tentative war against Vijjians, the Buddha turned to Ven. Ānanda and made a conversation with him about how Vijjian Kingdom became successful:

Analyze the English translations against the original Pāḷi—

1. “Kinti te Ānanda sutam, Vajjī abhiṇham sannipātā sannipāta-bahulā?”ti.
“Sutam metam bhante ‘Vajjī abhiṇham sannipātā sannipāta-bahulā’”ti.
“Yāvakīvañca Ānanda Vajjī abhiṇham sannipātā sannipāta-bahulā bhavissanti, vuddhiyeva, Ānanda, Vajjīnam pāṭikaṃkhā, no parihāni.”

“Ānanda, have you heard that the Vajjians hold regular and frequent assemblies?”

“Yes, sir, I have heard that they do.”

“Ānanda, as long as the Vajjians hold regular and frequent assemblies, they can be expected to progress and not to regress.”

2. “Kinti te Ānanda sutam, Vajjī samaggā sannipatanti, samaggā vuṭṭhahanti, samaggā Vajjī-karaṇīyāni karontī?”ti.
“Sutam metam bhante, ‘Vajjī samaggā sannipatanti, samaggā vuṭṭhahanti, samaggā Vajjīkaraṇīyāni karontī’”ti.
“Yāvakīvañca Ānanda Vajjī samaggā sannipatissanti, samaggā vuṭṭhahissanti, samaggā Vajjīkaraṇīyāni karissanti, vuddhiyeva Ānanda Vajjīnam pāṭikaṃkhā, no parihāni.”

‘Ānanda, have you heard that the Vajjians meet in harmony, break up in harmony, and carry on their business in harmony?’

¹ Puññānubhāvena buddhānam sabba-kalam sama-sītuṇhāva. (Dī-ṭī-2, ...)

3. “Kinti te Ānanda sutam, Vajjī a-paññattam na paññapenti, paññattam na samucchindanti, yathāpaññatte porāṇe Vajji-dhamme samādāya vattantī?”ti.

“Sutam metaṃ bhante ‘Vajjī apaññattam na paññapenti, paññattam na samucchindanti, yathāpaññatte porāṇe Vajjidhamme samādāya vattantī’”ti.

“Yāvakīvaṅca Ānanda Vajjī apaññattam na paññapessanti, paññattam na samucchindissanti, yathāpaññatte porāṇe Vajjidhamme samādāya vattissanti, vuddhiyeva Ānanda Vajjīnam pāṭikamkhā, no parihāni.”

“Ānanda, have you heard that the Vajjians do not authorize what has been unauthorized, and do not abolish what has been authorized, but proceed according to what has been authorized by their ancient Vajjian tradition?”

4. “Kinti te Ānanda sutam, Vajjī ye te Vajjīnam Vajji-mahallakā, te sakkaronti garuṃ karonti mānenti pūjenti, tesaṅca sotabbaṃ maññantī?”ti.

“Sutam metaṃ bhante, ‘Vajjī ye te Vajjīnam Vajji-mahallakā, te sakkaronti garuṃ karonti mānenti pūjenti, tesaṅca sotabbaṃ maññantī’”ti.

“Yāvakīvaṅca, Ānanda, Vajjī ye te Vajjīnam Vajji-mahallakā, te sakkarissanti garuṃ karissanti mānessanti pūjessanti, tesaṅca sotabbaṃ maññissanti, vuddhiyeva Ānanda Vajjīnam pāṭikamkhā, no parihāni.”

“Ānanda, have you heard that they honor, respect, revere and salute the elders among them, and consider them worth listening to?”

5. “Kinti te Ānanda sutam, Vajjī yā tā kulitthiyo kulakumāriyo, tā na okkassa pasayha vāsentī?”ti.

“Sutam metaṃ bhante, ‘Vajjī yā tā kulitthiyo kulakumāriyo, tā na okkassa pasayha vāsentī’”ti.

“Yāvakīvañca Ānanda Vajjī yā tā kulitthiyo kulakumāriyo, tā na okkassa pasayha vāsessanti, vuddhiyeva Ānanda Vajjīnaṃ pāṭikaṃkhā, no parihāni.”

“Ānanda, have you heard that they do not forcibly abduct women and girls; they never compel them to live with them?”

6. *“Kinti te Ānanda sutam, Vajjī yāni tāni Vajjīnaṃ Vajji-cetiyaṇi abhantarāni ceva bāhirāni ca, tāni sakkaronti garuṃ karonti mānenti pūjenti, tesañca dinna-pubbaṃ kata-pubbaṃ dhammikaṃ baliṃ no parihāpentī?”*ti.

*“Sutam metaṃ bhante, ‘Vajjī yāni tāni Vajjīnaṃ Vajjicetiyaṇi abhantarāni ceva bāhirāni ca, tāni sakkaronti garuṃ karonti mānenti pūjenti, tesañca dinnapubbaṃ katapubbaṃ dhammikaṃ baliṃ no parihāpentī’”*ti.

“Yāvakīvañca Ānanda Vajjī yāni tāni Vajjīnaṃ Vajjicetiyaṇi abhantarāni ceva bāhirāni ca, tāni sakkarissanti garuṃ karissanti mānessanti pūjessanti, tesañca dinnapubbaṃ katapubbaṃ dhammikaṃ baliṃ no parihāpessanti, vuddhiyeva Ānanda Vajjīnaṃ pāṭikaṃkhā, no parihāni.”

“Ānanda, have you heard that they honor, respect, revere and salute the Vajjian shrines at home and abroad, not withdrawing the proper support made and given before?”

7. *“Kinti te Ānanda sutam, Vajjīnaṃ Arahantesu dhammikā rakkhā-varaṇagutti susaṃvihitā ‘Kinti anāgatā ca Arahanto Vijitaṃ āgaccheyyūṃ, āgatā ca Arahanto Vijite phāsu vihareyyun’”*ti.

*“Sutam metaṃ bhante ‘Vajjīnaṃ Arahantesu dhammikā rakkhāvaraṇagutti susaṃvihitā ‘Kinti anāgatā ca Arahanto Vijitaṃ āgaccheyyūṃ, āgatā ca Arahanto Vijite phāsu vihareyyun’*ti.”

*“Yāvakīvañca Ānanda Vajjīnaṃ Arahantesu dhammikā rakkhā-varaṇagutti susaṃvihitā bhavissati. ‘Kinti anāgatā ca Arahanto Vijitaṃ āgaccheyyūṃ, āgatā ca Arahanto Vijite phāsu vihareyyun’*ti, vuddhiyeva Ānanda Vajjīnaṃ pāṭikaṃkhā, no parihāni”ti.

'Ānanda, have you heard that they made proper provision for the safety of Arahants, so that such Arahants may come in future to live there, and those already there may dwell in comfort?' 'Ananda, so long as they do so, ...the Vajjians can be expected progress and not to regress.'