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## Bhaṇḍana,kāraka Sutta

The Discourse on the Strife-bringer | A 5.212  
Theme: Social strife hinders spiritual development  
Translated & annotated by Piya Tan ©2014

### 1 Introduction

**1.1 The Bhaṇḍana.kāraka Sutta**<sup>1</sup> (A 5.212) lists 5 kinds of disadvantages (*ādīnava*) or dangers to the sangha [§2], and hence to the Dharma, which inevitably affects the personal and spiritual training of monastics. Such warnings recorded in the suttas are clearly the trends or bases for the composition of rules and regulations that in due course (by Asoka’s time, that is, 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE) became systematized as the Vinaya.

#### 1.2 RELATED TEXTS

**1.2.1 The Vinaya.** These same 5 terms are mentioned at the opening of the **Culla,vagga** of the Vinaya as being stirred up by the monks Paṇḍuka and Lohitaka and their followers (Cv 1.1 @ V 2:1). The **Mahā,vagga** lists “dissension” (*mithu,bheda*), that is, breaking of alliance, enmity, and strife, is listed as one of the 3 dangers threatening Pāṭali,putta (capital of Magadha, near modern Patna), the other two being fire and water (Mv 6.28.8 @ V 1:229).

**1.2.2 Expanded parallels.** The Bhaṇḍana,kāraka Sutta should be studied with the **Akkosaka Sutta** (A 10.88), which is, in turn, expanded in the **Vyasana Sutta** (A 11.6). The Akkosaka Sutta expands the 5 disadvantages of a strife-bringer to 10,<sup>2</sup> while the Vyasana Sutta gives a list of 11 disadvantages.<sup>3</sup>

**1.2.3 Monastic themes.** The closing sections of the **Book of Fives** (*pañcaka nipāta*) of the Aṅguttara (A 5.201-1152)—beginning with the “fifth fifties” (*pañcama paṇṇāsaka*)—deal exclusively with the conduct of monks in terms of the 3 doors of actions (body, speech and mind). Many of the themes of these suttas, even the suttas themselves, are expanded in the **Book of Tens** (*dasaka nipāta*), which are then further expanded in the **Book of Elevens** (*ekā,dasaka nipāta*). Some others are parallels, repetitions or combinations found in other Nikāyas. Here are some of the related suttas:

		<u>Expanded parallels</u> <sup>4</sup>	
<b>Mora Nivāpa Sutta 1</b>	A 3.143	} combined as A 11.10	the 3 trainings
<b>Mora Nivāpa Sutta 2</b>	A 3.144		the 3 higher knowledges
<b>Mora Nivāpa Sutta 3</b>	A 3.145		the 3 qualities for liberation
<b>Kesi Sutta</b>	A 4.111	A 5.201. 6.40, 7.59	how the true Dharma lasts or not
<b>Dussīla Sutta</b>	A 5.24	A 6.50, 7.65, 8.81, 10.3, 11.3	morally virtuous conduct
<b>Vaḍḍhi Suttas 1+2</b>	A 5.63-64	A 10.74	spiritual growth
<b>(Pañcaka) Ceto,khila Sutta</b>	A 5.203	= M 16,2-7	mental barrenness
<b>Vinibandha Sutta</b>	A 5.206	= M 16,8-12	mental bondages
<b>(Agata,phala) Mahānāma Sutta</b>	A 6.10	A 11.11	spiritual faculties & 6 meditations
<b>Miga,sālā Sutta</b>	A 6.44	[A 10.75]	measure not others
<b>(Aṭṭha) Mettānisaṃsa Sutta</b>	A 8.1	A 11.15	benefits of lovingkindness
<b>Bala Sutta 2</b>	A 8.28	A 10.90	spiritual powers

<sup>1</sup> The word *bhaṇḍana* (nt) [from √BHAND; cf BHS ts, *bhāṇḍana* Divy 164] quarrel, quarrelling, strife (It 11,4; J 3:149; Nm 196; DhA 1:55, 64).

<sup>2</sup> A 10.88/5:169 @ SD 46.20.

<sup>3</sup> A 11.6/5:317 @ SD 46.21.

<sup>4</sup> Part parallels are given within [square brackets]. The symbol || means “parallel(s).” For a list of suttas and their expanded parallels in Aṅguttara, see A:B 2865 f.

<b>Saddhā Sutta 1</b>	A 8.71	A 10.8, [A 9.4]	faith and dhyana
<b>Saddhā Sutta 2</b>	A 8.72	A 10.9	qualities that inspire faith
<b>(Aṭṭhaka) Puṇṇiya Sutta</b>	A 8.82	A 10.83	when the Buddha teaches or not
<b>(Navaka) Āhuneyya Sutta</b>	A 9.10	A 10.16	those worthy of offerings
<b>Vera Sutta 1</b>	A 9.27	A 10.92; S 12.41 <sup>5</sup>	the 4 limbs of streamwinning
<b>(Navaka) Āghāta Vatthu Sutta</b>	A 9.29	A 10.79	grounds for resentment
<b>Āghātā Paṭivinaya Sutta</b>	A 9.30	A 10.80	ways of overcoming resentment
<b>Kim Atthiya Sutta</b>	A 10.1	A 11.1	purpose of moral virtue; liberation
<b>(Dasaka) Cetanā'karaṇīya Sutta</b>	A 10.2	A 11.2	no volition needed in meditation
<b>Upanisa Sutta 1</b>	A 10.3	A 11.3	[see under A 5.24 above]
<b>Samādhi Sutta</b>	A 10.6	A 11.7	the higher meditations & awakening
<b>Ākaṅkha Sutta</b>	A 10.71	abridgement of M 6	arhats have no lustful wishes
<b>Akkosaka (Paribhāsa) Sutta</b>	A 10.88	A 11.6	a monk who causes strife
<b>Kāma,bhogī Sutta</b>	A 10.91	[S 42.12]	those who enjoy sense-pleasures
<b>Adhamma Sutta 1</b> (briefly)	A 10.113	A 10.171	what is Dharma and not Dharma
<b>Adhamma Sutta 2</b> (detailed)	A 10.114	A 10.173	what is Dharma and not Dharma
<b>Adhamma Sutta 3</b> (Ānanda)	A 10.115	A 10.172	what is Dharma and not Dharma
<b>Saṅgārava Sutta</b>	A 10.117	A 10.169	moral conduct compared to shores
<b>Orima,tīra Sutta</b>	A 10.118	A 10.170	moral conduct compared to shores
<b>Paccorohaṇī Sutta 1</b>	A 10.119	A 10.167	rituals versus the noble discipline
<b>Paccorohaṇī Sutta 2</b>	A 10.120	A 10.168	the highest ritual
<b>Vyasana Sutta</b>	A 11.6	M 33	factors limiting/promoting growth
<b>Dasama Gaha,pati Sutta</b>	A 11.17	= M 52	11 ways to awaken

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## The Discourse on the Strife-bringer

A 5.212

Originating in Sāvattihī.

**1** Bhikshus, a monk who is a source of strife, a source of quarrels, a source of disputes, a source of legal [ecclesiastical] cases for the sangha,<sup>6</sup> can expect to have **5 disadvantages**.<sup>7</sup>

What are the five?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>2</b> (1) He does not attain what has not been attained. <sup>8</sup>  | <i>anadhigataṃ nādhigacchati</i>  |
| (2) He falls away from what he has attained.  | <i>adhigataṃ parihāyati</i>   |
| (3) His bad reputation is spread about.   | <i>pāpako kitti,saddo abbhuggacchati</i>  |
| (4) He dies confused.   | <i>sammūlho kālaṃ karoti</i>  |
| (5) With the break-up of the body after death,<br>he is reborn in a plane of misery, a bad<br>destination, a lower realm, hell. | <i>kāyassa bhedaṃ param,marañā<br/>apāyaṃ duggatiṃ vinipātāṃ<br/>nirayaṃ upapajjati</i> |

**3** Bhikshus, a monk who is a source of strife, a source of quarrels, a source of disputes, a source of legal [ecclesiastical] cases for the sangha, can expect to have these 5 disadvantages.

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<sup>5</sup> The section on dependent arising.

<sup>6</sup> On these 5 kinds of disadvantages, see (1.1).

<sup>7</sup> *Yo so bhikkhave bhikkhu bhaṇḍana,kārako kalaha,kārako vivāda,kārako bhassa,kārako saṅghe adhikaraṇa,kārako, tassa pañca ādīnavā pāṭikaṅkhā.*

<sup>8</sup> That is, he has not attained those that spiritual states that needs to be attained.