

## **Piya Supina (a loving dream)**

### **A vassa parable**

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In the middle of the last watch of the night, I woke up with this dream.

It was a sad time. The monks and nuns were only accepting alms from the rich and powerful; they were giving Dhamma teachings only to the wealthy and big-named. The lay followers were not happy, and decided neither to give any alms to the monks and nuns nor to listen to the Dhamma.

The Buddha went to the lay followers and said:

“Give, good people, give to the renunciants. Giving is good. Giving gives health to the sangha. It is easier for them to practise when they are healthy. The giver is beloved.”

### **Be happy**

The Buddha then went to the monks and nuns and said:

“Receive, renunciants, living on alms is good. It reminds you of your task. It benefits the givers, too. When the givers are happy, it is easier for them to keep the precepts and be mindful.”

Then, the lay followers each brought what alms they can to the monks and the nuns. And the renunciants, looking always into their bowls, mindfully received the alms. And then mindfully and happily ate their almsfood.

### **The 4 quarters**

At the end of the alms-meal, the Buddha admonished both the renunciants and the laity:

“You monks, nuns, laymen and laywomen are the 4 quarters of the world. When you are not happy with another, the whole world will not be happy. The world will be torn, dark and blinded.

When you show kindness to one another, mixing with one another like milk and water, looking kindly into one another's eyes, then there is true fellowship. With fellowship, there is spiritual friendship.

It is then easier for all to walk the path of liberation in the light of love this life itself.

### **Divine living**

Show lovingkindness to all alike.  
Forgive and forbear even the unworthy.  
Rejoice in the goodness of others.

Be at peace when the 8 winds blow.  
This is our teaching to you.”

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