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(Pañcaka) It̥ṭha Sutta

The (Fives) Discourse on the Desirable | A 5.43

Ce Pañca It̥ṭha Dhamma Sutta, The Discourse on the 5 Desirable States

Theme: Pray for only what we are willing to work for

Translated & annotated by Piya Tan ©2008, 2014

1 Sutta highlights

1.1 SUTTA THEME

1.1.1 Although **Anātha,piṇḍika** is known to visit the Buddha a few times daily, he does not, as a rule, question the Buddha for fear of troubling or stressing him. This sentiment clearly comes from his loving faith in the Buddha.¹ Hence, the (Pañcaka) It̥ṭha Sutta starts off with the Buddha addressing Anātha,piṇḍika *unprompted* [§§1-2].

1.1.2 Essentially, in the Sutta, the Buddha first lists the 5 desirable things that are difficult to obtain in the world, that is, *long life, beauty, happiness, fame and heavenly birth* [§2]. Such things cannot be obtained merely through prayer or wishing [§§3-4]. They are properly obtained by our living a life that conduces to the arising of the respective desirable thing [§§5-9].

1.1.3 The Sutta closes with the “diligence verses” which summarize the Sutta teaching [§§10-12]. The verses are well known and appear in full or in part elsewhere [see notes in the Sutta translation]. For explanations of the terms, see (2.2).

“**Diligence**” (*appamāda*) here refers to the 3 trainings, that is, those in moral virtue, in mental concentration, and in wisdom.² Training in moral virtue prepares and conditions our body and speech for the mind (mental concentration) and wisdom to win and enjoy our wholesome goals in life. Furthermore, such a lifestyle leads us on to spiritual happiness. If we accept all these qualities that we desire as being *impermanent*, and reflect on this universal truth, then we will gain at least streamwinning in this life itself, too.

1.2 RELATED TEACHINGS

1.2.1 One of the most fascinating teachings on meditation is that of its being “**needless of intention**” (*cetanā’karaṇīya*). In other words, we need to suspend all deliberating, which is, after all, thinking. Letting go of all thinking, our mind begins to settle ever more fully and deeply so that it can directly *feel* or experience true reality.

However, such a spontaneous process does not occur if we lack moral virtue. Lacking moral virtue, we are likely to be filled and riddled with thoughts of restlessness and worry so that we are unable to focus on any meditation object. The practice of moral virtue, and being habitually morally virtuous helps us let go of all negative thoughts about our past and ourselves.³

¹ DhA 1:5; SD 23.9 (1.2.2). For details on Anātha,piṇḍika’s silence, see SD 44.1 (2.7).

² On the 3 trainings, see *Sīla samādhi paññā*, SD 21.6.

³ This does not mean that all our wholesome acts should be spontaneous (like those of an arhat). As we are unawakened, we still need to refrain from unwholesome actions, cultivate wholesome ones, and see the wisdom of all this: all this need wholesome deliberation (*kusala,kamma*): see **Karma**, SD 18.1. On meditation as renunciation, see **Hālidakāni S 1** (S 22.3/3:9-12), SD 10.12; **Bhāvanā**, SD 15.1 (14.7); **Sexuality**, SD 31.7 (1.6.2).

Proper meditation is the cultivating of mindfulness and letting go of distractions and defilements in a natural way by simply allowing the proper wholesome states to arise, and then even letting go of these, too, in due course. This important teaching is found in the following Suttas:

(Dasaka) Cetanā’karaṇīya Sutta	A 10.2,1/5:2-4	SD 41.6
(Ekādasaka) Cetanā’karaṇīya Sutta	A 11.2,1-10	SD 33.3b

1.2.2 This famous **parable of the brooding hen** illustrating the spontaneous nature of meditation in letting go of thoughts is found in a number of places in the Pali Canon:

Suppose, bhikshus, there were a hen with 8 or 10 or 12 eggs, which she has properly sat on, properly brooded, properly incubated. Even though she may not wish,⁴ ‘Oh that my chicks would pierce their shells with the points of their claws or with their beaks, and hatch out safely!’ yet the chicks are capable of piercing their shells with the points of their claws or with their beaks, and hatching out safely.

This parable of the brooding hen, given in connection with the practitioner’s breaking out of ignorance (the egg-shell) into the 3 true knowledges (*te, vijja*), is found in the following texts:

Ceto, khila Sutta ⁵	M 16,27/1:104 f = A 10.14	SD 32.14
(Dasaka) Ceto, khila Sutta	A 10.14/5:17 = M 16	SD 32.14
Sekha Sutta ⁶	M 53,19-22/1:357 f	SD 21.14
Vāsijāta Sutta	S 22.101/3:153	SD 15.2
Pārājika 1.1.4	V 3:3 f	

2 Related texts

2.0 PARALLEL VERSES. The Sutta’s closing verses [§§17-12] are well known, and recur elsewhere in full or in part, thus:

(Pañcaka) Iṭṭha Sutta	(this Sutta)	A 5.43,10-12	SD 47.1
(Ubho Attha) Appamāda Sutta	all the verses	S 3.17/1:87	SD 42.22(3.2)
(Catukka) Iṭṭha Sutta	all the verses	A 4.43/3:48 f	SD 47.2
Ubhay’attha Sutta	last two stanzas [§11-12]	It 23/16 f	SD 47.2(2.1)
Kalyāṇa, mitta Appamāda Sutta	last two stanzas [§11-12]	S 3.18,17c-18/1:89	SD 34.3
Dīgha Commentary	the last stanza [§12]	DA 1:32	

The Dīgha Commentary quotes the last verse [§12] to illustrate one meaning of **abhisamaya** as meaning “obtaining” (*paṭilābha*) (DA 1:32).

⁴ Cf **(Pañcaka) Iṭṭha S** (A 5.43), where the Buddha declares that he does not teach that long life, beauty, happiness, fame and rebirth are to be obtained through prayer or wishing, but through right living and effort. (A 5.43/3:-47-49), SD 47.2.

⁵ In **Ceto, khila S** (M 16), this parable illustrates the 15 qualities of a disciple “who is capable of breaking out, capable of self-awakening, capable of attaining the supreme security from bondage” (M 16,15-27), SD 32.14. See MA 2:69 f.

⁶ In **Sekha S** (M 53), the same parable illustrates a set of 15 qualities of such a disciple breaking through into awakening (a set different from that of M 16) (M 53,19.2/1:357), SD 21.14. See MA 2:69 f.

2.1 SUTTAS ON DILIGENCE

In the (Pañcaka) It̥ṭha Sutta, the Buddha declares that whatever wholesome state that we desire, instead of merely praying or wishing for them, it is best that we conduct ourselves in a manner that is conducive to the arising of our wholesome object of desire. This is, in fact, a teaching on **diligence** (*appamāda*), which includes such wholesome qualities as self-effort (*āradḍha*, *virīya*), and, when properly done, encompasses the 3 trainings [2.1.4]. Indeed, diligence is declared in the **Ubhay’attha Sutta** (It 23) as the one quality that has the twin benefits, that is, here and now and in the hereafter.

SD 47.2(2.1)

Ubhay’attha Sutta

The Discourse on the Twin Benefits | It 23/1.3.3/15 f

Traditional: It 1.3.3 = (Khuddaka Nikāya 4,) Iti,vuttaka 1, Ekaka Nipāta 3, Tatiya Vagga 3

Theme: The twin benefits of diligence in good

- 1 This was indeed spoken by the Blessed One, heard by me spoken by the Arhat.⁷
- 2 “One thing, bhikshus, when cultivated, often done, keeps on fulfilling twin benefits [spiritual goals],⁸ that is, here and now and in the hereafter.
What is the one thing?
- 3 **Diligence** in wholesome states. *Appamādo kusalesu dhammesu*
- 4 This one thing, bhikshus, when cultivated, grown, keeps on fulfilling the twin benefits, that is, here and now and in the hereafter.”
- 5 This is the matter [meaning]⁹ of what the Blessed One said, concerning which he said thus:¹⁰
 - 6 *Appamādaṃ pasamsanti
puñña,kiriyāsu paṇḍitā
appamatto ubho atthe
adhigaṇhāti paṇḍito*

The wise praise diligence
in the making of merit.¹¹
On account of diligence,
the wise gains benefit both ways:
 - 7 ¹²*Diṭṭhe dhamme ca yo attho
yo c’attho samparāyiko
atthābhisamayo¹³ dhīro¹⁴
paṇḍitōti pavuccatīti*

there is the benefit here and now,
and the benefit in the hereafter, too.
The steadfast who attains the goal¹⁵
is said to be wise.

⁷ *Vuttam h’etaṃ bhagavata, vuttam arahatā’ti me sutam.* This is said to be spoken by the laywoman **Khujj’uttarā**. See SD 57.26 (1.2.2.3); SD 16.14 (1).

⁸ *Attha* can mean either (1) benefit, or (2) goal. A third sense, (3) meaning or import does not directly apply here.

⁹ *Attha* is polysemic: we can take “matter” as referring to the preceding, and “meaning” as given in the foll.

¹⁰ *Etam attham bhagavā avoca, tatth’etaṃ iti vuccati.* This may be seen thus: the former phrase refers to the teaching in meaning (*attha*) (true reality), reflecting the 1st 2 noble truths; the latter is its purpose (*attha*), ie, the last 2 truths.

¹¹ See eg **Puñña.kiriya,vatthu S** (A 8.36/4:241-243), SD 22.17.

¹² Dīgha Comy qu this last verse [§12] as illustrating one meaning of *abhisamaya* as “obtaining” (*paṭilābha*) (DA 1:32).

¹³ Comy on A 5.43: “*atthābhisamayā* means by going to the goal (*attha*), that is to say by way of obtaining the goal (or the good)” (*atthābhisamayā’ti atthassa abhisamāgamena, attha,paṭilābhenāti vuttam hoti*, AA 3:252).

¹⁴ On *dhīra* see **Pañcaka It̥ṭha S** (A 5.43) below [§12c] n.

¹⁵ From the context here, it is helpful to render *attha* as “goal” rather or “good, benefit, etc”: see n on *atthābhisamaya* [§12] in main Sutta below.

8 This matter [meaning] too was spoken by the Blessed One. Thus I have heard.¹⁶

— evaṃ —

2.1.1 The native Commentary explains **diligence** (*appamāda*) at length, and is here paraphrased. In this connection, it is the opposite of negligence (*pamāda*); but what is **negligence**?¹⁷ This is the habit of being heedless (*pamajjan'ākāra*). It quotes **the Vibhaṅga** as defining it as follows:

“Hence, what is negligence?

The relinquishment, the repeated relinquishment of the mind by way of misconduct of body, speech and mind, or of the 5 cords of sense-pleasures;

or, careless activity, non-persevering activity, non-completing of a task, the habit of being sluggish [holding back],¹⁸ lacking enthusiasm [will-power],¹⁹ setting aside the burden, non-pursuit, not cultivating, not putting in much work [effort], lacking determination, lacking devotion towards, neglecting, the cultivating of wholesome states;

whatever that is of the form of negligence, neglecting, being neglected.”²⁰

(Vbh 350,21-29; ItA 1:80)

2.1.2 Diligence (*appamāda*, literally, “non-heedlessness”), in terms of meaning, is the name for the non-absence of mindfulness, the regular [permanent] setting up of mindfulness.²¹ Others say that **diligence** refers to the 4 formless aggregates (feeling, perception, formations and consciousness) arising as a consequence of mindfulness and circumspection.²² (ItA 1:80)

2.1.3 The Commentary continues. The Sutta says that diligence should be “cultivated, often done” (*bhāvita bahulī.kata*). But how is this to be done when there is no specific practice known as “the cultivation of diligence” (*appamāda, bhāvanā*)? Whatever action that generates **merit** (*puñña*), that is, to say, any kind of meritorious action (an action that is against bad, *pāpa*), or whatever that generates **the wholesome** (*kusala*)²³ is simply the arising of diligence.²⁴

2.1.4 More specifically, however, the arising of diligence is to be understood as the cultivation of the wholesome (*kusala*) that is blameless. This is the cultivation of all that is moral virtue, all that is mental

¹⁶ *Ayam pi attho vutto bhagavatā. Iti me sutan ti.* The foll verse is quoted at Kvu 477 (Kvu:SR 273); cf V 2:205.

¹⁷ On what follows, cf AA 1:74.

¹⁸ *Olīna, vuttitā: olīna* (cf Skt *ava* + √LI, to cling), lit “clinging or holding back”; DP: “hangs down; sinks down, cowers; hangs back; falls behind.” **Vuttitā** = *vutti* + *-tā* (abstract noun tag, similar to “-ness” as in “goodness” in English). Translators have trouble with this cod: ItA:M 1:203 n11, which suggests that it most likely means “dragging one’s feet.”

¹⁹ *Nikkhitta, chandatā.*

²⁰ *Tattha katamo pamādo? Kāya, duccharite vā vacī, duccharite vā mano, duccharite vā pañcasu vā kāma, guṇesu cītassa vossaggo vossaggānuppadāna kusalānaṃ vā dhammānaṃ bhāvanāya asakkacca, kiriyatā asātacca, kiriyatā anaṭṭhita, kiriyatā olīna, vuttitā nikkhitta, chandatā nikkhitta, dhuratā anāsevanā abhāvanā abahulī, kammaṃ anaḍḍhānaṃ ananuyogo pamādo, yo eva, rūpo pamādo pamajjanā pamajjitattarṃ—ayam vuccati pamādo* (Vbh 350,21-29).

²¹ *Atthato hi so satiyā avippavāso, niccaṃ upaṭṭhitassatīyā etaṃ nāmaṃ.* (ItA 1:80)

²² *Apare pana sati, sampajañña, yogena pavattā cattāro arūpino khandhā appamādo’ti vadanti.* (ItA 1:80)

²³ On merit (*puñña*) and the wholesome (*kusala*), see **Beyond good and evil**, SD 18.7 esp (6).

²⁴ Eg, “Do good, avoid bad, purify the mind—this is the teaching of all the buddhas” (*sabba, pāpassa akaraṇaṃ | kusalass’upasampadā | sacitta, pariyoḍapanarṃ | etaṃ buddhāna sāsanaṃ*, Dh 183) refers to the cultivation of diligence.

training, and all that is wisdom—that is, the 3 trainings.²⁵ This begins with refuge-going as the foundation for the non-existence of cyclic life (*vivaṭṭa*), that is, the end of rebirth, and bodily and verbal restraint (that is, moral virtue). [2.1.7]

2.1.5 For, diligence is the “great import” (*mahanta attha*) that over-arches all teachings. When a Dharma-speaker truly speaks the entire Buddha-word, he is speaking of the great nature of diligence. The Buddha’s own last words, for example, are “Strive on diligently!” (*appamādena sampādetha*) (D 16).²⁶

2.1.6 Furthermore, the Buddha declares, in **the (Hatthi) Pada Sutta** (S 45.140) and **the (Dasaka) Appamāda Sutta** (A 10.15), as follows:²⁷

SD 47.2(2.1.6)

(Hatthi) Pada Sutta

The Discourse on the (Elephant) Hoofprint | S 45.140/5:43

Theme: Diligence is the foremost of all wholesome states

- 1 At Sāvattṭhī.
- 2 Bhikkhus, just as the footprints of any living being that walks can be placed within **an elephant’s hoofprint**,²⁸ so that the elephant’s hoofprint is declared to be the foremost of them because of its great size;²⁹ even so, bhikkhus, whatever wholesome states there are,³⁰ all of them are rooted in diligence, converge on diligence, diligence is declared the foremost amongst them.
- 3 When a monk is diligent, bhikkhus, it is to be expected that he will cultivate the noble eightfold path, he will make much of the noble eightfold path.

— evaṃ —

2.1.7 The Dhammapada diligence verses

The cycle (that is, rebirth) and the “absence of the cycle” [2.1.5] are exemplified in these verses:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 <i>Appamādo amata, padam
pamādo maccuno padam
appamattā na mīyanti
ye pamattā yathā matā</i></p> | <p>Diligence is the path to the death-free,
negligence [Heedlessness] is the path to death.
The diligent [The heedful] do not die;
the negligent [the heedless] are as though already dead. Dh 21</p> |
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²⁵ See *Sīla samādhi pañña*, SD 21.6.

²⁶ **Mahā, parinibbāna S** (D 16,3.51+6.7), SD 9.

²⁷ S 45.140 @ SD 47.2(2.1.6) = A 10.15,3-4 (SD 42.23).

²⁸ This parable appears in **(Ubho Attha) Appamāda S** (S 3.17/1:86), SD 42.22(3.2), & **(Chakka) Appamāda S** (A 6.53/3:364 f), SD 42.22. In both cases, the Buddha says that diligence (*appamāda*) is beneficial both here and hereafter.

²⁹ *Seyyathā’pi mahā,rāja yāni kānici jaṅgalānaṃ* pāṇānaṃ pada,jātāni, sabbāni tāni hatthi,pade samo dhānaṃ gacchanti, hatthi,padam tesam aggam akkhāyati yad idam mahantattena. *Be Se jaṅgalānaṃ; Ce Ee jaṅgamānaṃ* (cf SA 1:98, 99; CA 334). This passage recurs in **Mahā Hatthi, padōpama S** (M 28), where it is the key parable for the 4 noble truths being inclusive of “all wholesome states” (M 28,2/1:184), SD 6.16; also in **(Chakka) Appamāda S** (A 6.53,5.3/1:86),SD 42.22.

³⁰ These 3 lines: *evam eva kho bhikkhave ye keci kusalā dhammā sabbe te appamāda,mūlakā appamāda,samosaraṇā, appamādo tesam dhammānaṃ aggam akkhāyati.*

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|--|---|---------------------|
| <p>2 <i>Evaṃ visesato ñatvā
appamādamhi paṇḍitā
appamāde pamodanti
ariyānaṃ gocare ratā</i></p> | <p>Thus knowing this distinction,
the wise in respect to diligence,
rejoice in diligence—
they delight in the resort of the noble ones.</p> | <p>Dh 22</p> |
| <p>3 <i>Te jhāyino sātatikā
niccaṃ daḷha,parakkamā
phusanti dhīrā nibbānaṃ
yoga-k,khemam anuttaran'ti</i></p> | <p>Those persevering meditators,
constantly exerting firm effort,
wise, they touch nirvana,
the supreme security from the yoke.</p> | <p>Dh 23</p> |

2.2 THE VERSES³¹

2.2.1 “The wise praise diligence” [§11a]

The wise and those with insight, that is, the Buddha and so on, praise and extol diligence in the performance of such meritorious acts as generosity and so on. Why? Because “**on account of diligence, the wise benefit both ways**” [§11cd]. “Benefit both ways” refers to benefit or goal of this life itself, and those of the next [2.2.2]. (ItA 1:81)

2.2.2 “There is the benefit here and now” [§12a]

The “benefit here and now” includes the benefits of the householders, indulging in such blameless deeds³² and conflict-free work,³³ such as agriculture, pastoral farming, benefit from their work here and now. As for the renunciants, their benefit here and now refers to the lack of remorse, and so on. The “benefit hereafter” refers to that of the lives of Dharmafaring in the case of both the householders and the renunciants. (ItA 1:81)

2.2.3 “Who attain the goal” [§12c]

The phrase *atthābhisamaya* is resolved as *attha* and *abhisamaya*. Of the two elements, *attha* here means the benefit (*hita*) that is gained. *Abhisamaya* is the coming together (*samiti*), collocation, union of what is to be attained, when the time (*samaya*)³⁴ comes: *samaya* is indeed *abhisamaya* itself. Or, it refers to act of facing up to or confronting (*abhimukha, bhāva*) the task.

“The steadfast” (*dhīra*) is one who is fully possessed of resolve. It also refers to one who has realized the ultimate truth, that is, nirvana. The Dhammapada verses (Dh 21-23) [2.1.7] refer to this. Hence, “the goal” (*attha*) that is attained (*abhisamaya*) here also refers to the supramundane (*lok'uttara*). (ItA 1:81)

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³¹ On the commentary here, cf SA 1:156 & AA 3:253.

³² Khp 6,12 (*anavajjāni kammāni*).

³³ Khp 6,10 (*anākulā ca kammantā*).

³⁴ Dhamma,saṅgaṇī Comy gives a detailed explanation of *samaya*, as follows: (1) *samavāya* (“harmony in antecedents”), (2) *khaṇa* (moment, opportunity), (3) *kāla* (time, season), (4) *samūha* (crowd, assembly), (5) *hetu* (condition), (6) *diṭṭhi* (view, opinion). (7) *paṭilābha* (gain, acquisition), (8) *pahāna* (abandoning, elimination), (9) *paṭivedha* (realization, penetration). (DhsA 57 f)

(Pañcaka) It̥ṭha Sutta

The (Fives) Discourse on the Desirable

A 5.43

[Section numbering not fully following PTS]

Originating in Sāvattṭhī.

The 5 desirable things that are difficult to obtain

1 Then, the houselord **Anātha,piṇḍika** approached the Blessed One. Having approached the Blessed One, he saluted him and then sat down at one side.

To the houselord Anātha,piṇḍika sitting thus at one side, the Blessed One said this:

2 “Houselord, there are **these 5 things that are desirable, beloved and agreeable** but difficult to obtain in the world. What are the five? Houselord,

(1) <u>long life</u>	is desirable, beloved and agreeable but	difficult to obtain in the world;
(2) <u>beauty</u>	<i>is desirable, beloved and agreeable but</i>	<i>difficult to obtain in the world;</i>
(3) <u>happiness</u>	<i>is desirable, beloved and agreeable but</i>	<i>difficult to obtain in the world;</i>
(4) <u>fame</u>	<i>is desirable, beloved and agreeable but</i>	<i>difficult to obtain in the world;</i>
(5) <u>heavenly birth</u>	<i>is desirable, beloved and agreeable but</i>	<i>difficult to obtain in the world.</i>

These, houselord, are the 5 things that are desirable, beloved and agreeable, but difficult to obtain in the world.

Not to be obtained through prayer

3 Of these 5 things, houselord, *that are desirable, beloved and agreeable, but difficult to obtain in the world,*

they are *not* to be obtained through prayer (*āyācana,hetu*) or through wishing (*patthanā,hetu*),³⁵ I say.

4 If these 5 things, houselord, that are desirable, beloved and agreeable, but difficult to obtain in the world,

could be obtained through prayer **[48]** or through wishing, who would lack anything here?³⁶

³⁵ “Wishing,” *patthanā*, also “desire, request, aspiration, request, prayer, vow.”

³⁶ *Imesaṃ kho gahapati pañcannaṃ dhammānaṃ it̥ṭhānaṃ kantānaṃ manāpānaṃ dullabhānaṃ lokasmim āyācana,hetu vā patthanā,hetu vā paṭilābho abhavissa, ko idha kena hāyetha. Hayetha* is mid opt 3 sg of *hāyati* (pass of *jāhati*, “to abandon”), to diminish, dwindle, waste away, languish. *Ko idha kena hāyetha*, lit, “who would languish here?” See K Anuruddha, *Dictionary of Pali Idioms*, Hong Kong, 2004: 336, sv Kena hāyetha.

How to obtain what we desire

5 (1) For a noble disciple, houselord, who wishes to have **long life**, it is not proper that he should pray for *long life* or take delight in doing so.

He should rather follow a way of life that is conducive to long life.³⁷

By following such a path, he would obtain long life, be it divine or human.

6 (2) For a noble disciple, houselord, who wishes to have **beauty**, it is not proper that he should pray for *beauty* or take delight in doing so.

He should rather *follow a way of life that is conducive to beauty*.

By following such a path, he would obtain beauty, be it divine or human.

7 (3) For a noble disciple, houselord, who wishes to have **happiness**, it is not proper that he should pray for *happiness* or take delight in doing so.

He should rather *follow a way of life that is conducive to happiness*.

By following such a path, he would obtain happiness, be it divine or human.

8 (4) For a noble disciple, houselord, who wishes to have **fame**, it is not proper that he should pray for fame or take delight in doing so.

He should rather *follow a way of life that is conducive to fame*.

By following such a path, he would obtain fame, be it divine or human.

9 (5) For a noble disciple, houselord, who wishes to have **heavenly birth**, it is not proper that he should pray for *heavenly birth* or take delight in doing so.

He should rather *follow a way of life that is conducive to heavenly birth*.

By following such a path, he would obtain heavenly birth."

The diligence verses³⁸

10	<i>āyurm̐ arogiyam̐ vaṇṇam̐ saggam̐ uccā,kulīnatam̐ ratiyo patthayantena uḷārā aparāparā</i>	Long life, good health, beauty, heaven, high birth— for those who hope [pray] for delights so great, ever and again—
11	<i>appamādam̐ pasamsanti puñña,kiriyāsu paṇḍitā appamatto ubho atthe adhiggaṇhāti paṇḍito</i>	the wise praise diligence in the making of merit. ³⁹ On account of diligence, the wise benefit both ways:

³⁷ Comy suggests these wishes can be fulfilled through wholesome actions, "such as the merit-generating practice of giving, moral virtue, and so on", *dāna,sīl'ādikā puñña,paṭipadā* (AA 3:252).

³⁸ These verses are in **(Ubho Attha) Appamāda S** (S 3.17/1:87), SD 42.22(3.2); §§11-12 recur in **Kalyāṇa,mitta Appamāda S** (S 3.18,17c-18*/1:89), SD 34.3. In DA, the last verse [§12] illustrates one meaning of *abhisamaya* as "obtaining" (*paṭilābha*) (DA 1:32). See (2.1).

³⁹ See eg **Puñña.kiriya,vatthu S** (A 8.36/4:241-243), SD 22.17.

12 ⁴⁰*diṭṭhe dhamme ca yo attho*
yo c'attho samparāyiko
atthābhisamayā⁴¹ dhīro⁴²
paṇḍito ti pavuccatīti

there is the benefit here and now,
 and the benefit in the hereafter, too.
 The steadfast who attains the goal⁴³
 is said to be wise.

— evaṃ —

140925 140926 141218 150907 160707 171226 181222 190603 201129 211025 231106

⁴⁰ DA qu this last verse [§12] as illustrating one meaning of *abhisamaya* as “obtaining” (*paṭilābha*) (DA 1:32).

⁴¹ **Atthābhisamaya**: Comy on A 5.43: “*atthābhisamayā* means by reaching the goal (*attha*), which is said to be by way of obtaining the goal (or the good)” (**atthābhisamayā'ti atthassa abhisamāgamena, attha,paṭilābhenāti vuttam hoti**, AA 3:252).

⁴² **Dhīra** is a pregnant Pali word with at least 2 senses, based on the foll: (1) Skt *dhīra*, “firm,” from *dhārayati* (to hold out), prob from √DHĀ or DADH. to put; (2) Ved *dhīra*, “wise,” from *dīdhite* (to think, perceive, reflect, wish, desire), from √DHĪ or DĪDHĪ, “to think” (see PED: dhī²). Often these 2 senses apply, or the better sense can be teased out from the context; often as syn of *paṇḍita*, “wise,” and epithet of an arhat: D 2:128; S 1:24, 87 (411*), 89 (413*), 121 (493*), 122 (495*), 221; Sn 45, 235, 913, 1052; It 68, 122; Tha 4 (ThaA: “firm”), 500 (ThaA *sa,paññā*), 665 (ThaA *paṇḍita*); Thī 7; J 3:396, 5:116; Pv 2.1.6, 2.9.45; Nm 44, 55, 482; Nc 324 (= *jutimā*); Miln 342; KhpA 194, 224, 230; DhA 3:189 (= *paṇḍita*). As a pregnant word, we can tr it as “the steadfastly wise, the wisely steadfast” or the like.

⁴³ Contextually, *attha* should be rendered as “goal” rather or “good, benefit, etc”: see n on *atthābhisamaya* above.