Even if a highly evolved sadhak who has attained the state of Sotapanna, does an unwholesome act by the body, speech or mind, he cannot hide it. It has been said (by the Buddha) that it is (impossible to hide a negative act done) by (the one) who has realized nibbana. Truly! This too is a sterling jewel in the Arya sangha. With these words of truth, may all be happy.

Ya s o d h a r a

The Buddha was not oblivious of the virtues of Yasodhara. Therefore, he himself went to her residence. King Suddhodana accompanied the Buddha, holding his alms-bowl. Sariputta and Mogallana also joined them. The Buddha instructed his chief disciples that they should not stop Yasodhara from whatever way she chose to pay her respects to the Buddha.

It is not allowed for any female to touch the body of a bhikkhu, not even the feet. Here, he was not just an ordinary bhikkhu, but an arahat, the Fully Enlightened One. No female, even if she were his wife in the past, should touch him. But infinite metta arose in the mind of the Compassionate One. Yasodhara came and seated herself before the Buddha and paid respects in the manner she wished by holding his feet. No one stopped her. Then, King Suddhodana described the virtues of Yasodhara in brief—

1. When you renounced household life and there was no hope of your return, many royal princes wanted to marry this young lady. But my daughter did not even raise an eye to look at them.

2. When my daughter heard that having become a samana you had shaved your head, she also got her head shaved.

3. When she learnt that you had taken to ochre-coloured robes, she also gave up her fine royal attire and accessories, and took to coarse ochre robes.

4. When she heard that you were having only one meal a day, she also restricted herself to just one meal a day.

5. When she heard that you had given up sleeping on high luxurious beds, she also started sleeping on a low platform.

6. When she heard that you had given up adornments, perfumes and other bodily decorations, she also refrained from using them.

7. When she heard that you had given up enjoying dance, music and all kinds of other entertainments, she also kept herself away from them.

This was bound to happen.

Countless aeons ago, when Siddhartha Gotama was the ascetic Sumedha in one of his past births, he had obtained blessings from the then Buddha, Dipankara Buddha, that he would become a Buddha named Gotama. At that time, Yasodhara, who was then a brahmin girl, had obtained blessings that she would be his life partner and would support him through his future lives.

Now, this was their last birth. Being his wife, how could...
it be possible that she would not support Siddhartha Gotama to become the Fully Enlightened One?

If Yasodhara were not thus mentally prepared, she would have grieved like an ordinary householder when her husband went forth. She would have cursed her husband for deserting her. She would not have given up her adornments, but being extremely beautiful and attractive young princess, she would have chosen to marry some handsome prince and enjoy the luxury of a happy married life.

However, Yasodhara was the life-partner of a Bodhisattwa (future Buddha) for many past lives. How could she act thus? She understood the high aim with which her husband had left home. Instead of grieving, she kept wishing him success in his great mission.

Later, Yasodhara, along with Mahapajapati Gotami, helped in establishing the Bhikkhuni Sangha. She helped many women. She herself not only became an arahat freeing herself from the misery of the cycle of birth and death, but also inspired others to walk on this Noble Path.

Such was Rahula’s mother, Yasodhara, a pure-hearted Dhamma being.

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**Rahula**

Standing together with Rahula, on the verandah of the palace, Rahula’s mother Yasodhara acquainted Rahula with his father the Buddha as they watched him walking down the royal path along with his Order.

*Esa hi tuyha pitā narastro*  
Look! The one who is like a lion amongst men, he is your father.

*Āyatayuttasusaṇṭhitaṁāsō*  
Look! How long and shapely his nose is.

*Gopakhumō abhinīlasunētto*  
The sclera of his eyes is a lovely blue and his eyelashes are like those of a calf.

*Indadhanū abhinīlabhamākō*  
His blue-black eyebrows are rainbow shaped.

*Vattasuvaṭṭasusaṇṭhitagivo*  
His neck is round and well-formed.

*Sīhahamū migarājāsarūto*  
His jaw is like that of a lion; indeed, his entire body has the grace of a lion.

*Kaṇcanasucchavattumāvanno*  
He has a magnificent golden complexion.

*Aṇījanavāṇnasunīlāsukesō*  
His hair is jet black like the colour of kajol.

*Kaṇcanapaṭṭavisuddhanālāto*;  
His forehead is like a band of pure gold.

*Osaṭhipañḍarasuddhasu-ūnño,*  
The hair between his eyebrows is light yellow like the osadhi star.

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**Rahula’s Ordination**

Introducing his father to Rahula, his affectionate mother Yasodhara said to him—‘Go to your father and ask for your inheritance. He has four pots filled with jewels.’

What were the four pots filled with jewels? The four Noble Truths, which are more valuable than jewels. These are truly invaluable.

Therefore, it is said—

*Yaṃ kiñci vittaṁ idha vā huraṁ vā, sagesu vā yaṁ rataṇaṁ paṇītaṁ; na no samaṁ athi tathāgatena, idampi buddhe rataṇaṁ paṇītaṁ;*  
(From Khuddakapāṭhāpāli 6, Ratanasutta- 3)  

Whatever precious jewel is in this world or beyond, whatever precious jewel is in the heavens;
there is none equal to the Tathāgata.

In the Buddha is this precious jewel.

The precious jewels of the four Noble Truths are in the Buddha, which he has experienced himself and which he is sharing with others. You have a right to it. You are the heir. This is your inheritance. Go, ask him for it!

Yashodhara thought to herself, ‘I shall also obtain the inheritance of this invaluable jewel. But, due to various reasons, the Buddha has not yet established the order of nuns. Whenever he establishes the order of nuns, I shall get ordained and walking in his footsteps, I shall follow his teachings and after attaining liberation, I shall dedicate myself to show this path to others for their benefit. What will my beloved son gain by the sensual pleasures in the palace? If he grows up under the guidance of his father, he will earn the invaluable treasure of Dhamma. His life will be truly successful.’

Thinking thus, she bade goodbye to her son saying, ‘Go, my son, ask your father for your inheritance.’

Rahula happily went to the Buddha. As he approached, he experienced great peace and said, ‘Sukhā te, samañña, chāyā’ti.’

O recluse, even your shadow is pleasing to me. It is natural to feel joy on seeing the Enlightened One. In his presence, all evil states disappear. Rahula obtained the benevolent protection of his father. The Buddha gave the invaluable treasure of the Dhamma to Rahula as his inheritance. He called Sariputta and instructed him to ordain Rahula.

Growing up in a Dhamma environment, Rahula learnt Vipassana, and practising it, he became an arahat. Rahula was fortunate. His inheritance was infinitely beneficial.

*From: The Great Buddha’s Noble Teaching, The Orign & Spread of Vipassana. (The book on Buddha’s Life History.)*

Kalyanamitta, Satya Narayan Goenka

Question and Answer During STP Course

Q. From where do kalāpas (smallest indivisible units of matter) arise and to what do they pass away? Something cannot come from nothing?

Goenkaji: Whence did the universe start, and how was it created? This is speculation, how all philosophies start. The Buddha called them all irrelevant questions. They have nothing to do with misery, its arising, its eradication, and the way to its eradication. Creation is going on every moment: kalāpas are created, they arise and pass, and ignorance of this arising and passing results in misery. Anything else is meaningless. Human life is short and you have such a big job to change the habit pattern of the mind at the deepest level and reach full liberation. Don’t waste your time: work, and the reality of your experience will later on reveal everything.

Q. What is the cause behind the existence of this world of mind and matter?

Goenkaji: Ignorance generates saṅkhāras (mental reaction, mental conditioning), and saṅkhāras multiply ignorance. The entire universe is created by this mutual support, nothing else.

Q. How did ignorance begin? It could not co-exist with love, wisdom, and knowledge?

Goenkaji: Certainly, but it is more important to see the ignorance of this moment and let purity come. Otherwise it becomes a philosophical question, which doesn't help.

*(Discourses on the Satipaṭṭhāna Sutta Day Seven by S.N. Goenka)*

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Information on future Courses is available on the internet. All types of bookings are currently available online only as per the Government’s new rules due to Covid-19. Applications will not be accepted on paper. Therefore, you are requested to check the following link and apply online directly for your appropriate course or for dhamma service at Dhammagiri:

https://www.dhamma.org/en/schedules/schgiri

Please apply similarly as per the schedule of other centres. Here is the link for all Indian centres:

https://www.dhamma.org/en-US/locations/directory#IN

New VRI website for applying for courses:

https://schedule.vridhamma.org/ and for worldwise courses: www.dhamma.org

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DHAMMA DOHA

Buddha ratana-sā jagata meṁ, anya ratana nā koy;  
Satya vacana ke teja se, dharama prakāśita hoya.  

There is no other jewel like the Buddha in the world;  
May dhamma radiate with the power of the words of truth.

Dharama ratana-sā jagata meṁ, anya ratana nā koy;  
Satya vacana ke teja se, dharama prasārita hoya.  

There is no other jewel like jewel of dhamma in the world;  
May dhamma spread with the power of the words of truth.

Saṅgha ratana-sā jagata meṁ, anya ratana nā koy;  
Satya vacana ke teja se, dharama pratiṣṭhita hoya.  

There is no other jewel like the Sangha in the world;  
May dhamma get established with the power of the words of truth.

There is no other jewel like the Buddha in the world;  
May dhamma radiate with the power of the words of truth.

There is no other jewel like jewel of dhamma in the world;  
May dhamma spread with the power of the words of truth.

There is no other jewel like the Sangha in the world;  
May dhamma get established with the power of the words of truth.

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(2) Sunday— 07th May, 2023 Buddha Purnima,

(3) Sunday— 02nd July, 2023 Ashadha-Pūrṇimā (Dhammacakkappavattana day)

(4) Sunday— 1st October, 2023 Sharada-Pūrṇimā  
plus Pujya Goenkaji’s Death Anniversary.

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