

Introducing our Luang Phaw:

Venerable Dattajeevo Bhikku or more frequently referred to as Luang Phaw Dattajeevo is the Acting Abbot of Wat Phra Dhammakaya, the President of Dhammakaya International Society of California, USA and the Vice President of Dhammakaya Foundation. Luang Phaw Dattajeevo has worked selflessly both domestically and internationally for the Buddhist Cause since his ordination in December 1971. Luang Phaw Dattajeevo is an eminent and internationally recognized academic on the Lord Buddha's Teachings. And today, Luang Phaw has kindly come to give us a short presentation on Life's 38 Blessings.

Luang Phaw's Speech:

I'd like to begin the presentation by saying that all of us would like those around us:

- To be good and decent
- To be ready to do good deeds
- To be capable and productive
- To be able to provide a loving and stable home environment for the family
- To be considerate and generous

Anyone with such personal attributes can be sure to meet with happiness and success in life. Therefore, the Lord Buddha has used Life's 38 Blessings as a means of helping us to cultivate these desirable personal attributes. Having spent close to 12 years teaching this Dhamma topic over and over again, it occurs to me that these 38 Blessings can be divided into ten different groups. The first five groups deal with the practical aspects of our daily life whereas the latter five groups deal specifically with the training of our mind from the basic level all the way to the attainment of Arahatsip.

The First Group teaches us to be a good person in that

(Blessing No. 1): we need to stay away from fools,

(Blessing No. 2): we need to associate with wise people, and

(Blessing No. 3): we need to respect those who are worthy of our respect

The Second Group teaches us to be ready to do good deeds in that

(Blessing No. 4): we need to live in a civilized environment,

(Blessing No. 5): we need to be blessed with past merit, and

(Blessing No. 6): we need to have a good life-goal.

The Third Group teaches us to be capable and productive

(Blessing No. 7): by being scholarly,

(Blessing No. 8): by being creative,

(Blessing No. 9): by having self-discipline, and

(Blessing No. 10): by speaking truth.

The Fourth Group teaches us to provide for our loved ones

(Blessing No. 11): by caring for our aging parents,

(Blessing No. 12): by providing for our children,

(Blessing No. 13): by supporting our spouse, and

(Blessing No. 14): by not being a procrastinator.

The Fifth Group teaches us to practice altruism

(Blessing No. 15): by achieving charity,

(Blessing No. 16): by performing wholesome deeds,

(Blessing No. 17): by supporting our relatives and friends in times of need,

(Blessing No. 18): and by doing work which has altruistic value.

The Sixth Group teaches us to begin training our mind

(Blessing No. 19): by abstaining from all unwholesome deeds,

(Blessing No. 20): by abstaining from alcohol drinking, and

(Blessing No. 21): by not being reckless.

The Seventh Group teaches us to pursue fundamental virtues

(Blessing No. 22): by being respectful,

(Blessing No. 23): by practicing humility,

(Blessing No. 24): by practicing moderation,

(Blessing No. 25): by being grateful, and

(Blessing No. 26): by taking the time to listen to Dhamma lectures.

The Eighth Group teaches us to pursue higher virtues

(Blessing No. 27): by cultivating patience,

(Blessing No. 28): by being open to constructive criticism,

(Blessing No. 29): by being acquainted with righteous monks, and

(Blessing No. 30): by learning Dhamma from the righteous monks.

The Ninth Group teaches us to remove all defilements from our nature

(Blessing No. 31): by cultivating austerity,

(Blessing No. 32): by practicing chastity,

(Blessing No. 33): by practicing meditation, and

(Blessing No. 34): by penetrating Nibbana.

The Tenth Group teaches us about the fruits of freedom from defilements which include:

(Blessing No. 35): Equanimity

(Blessing No. 36): Joy

(Blessing No. 37): Purity, and

(Blessing No. 38): Bliss.

I hope that this very short presentation not only gives you an idea about Life's 38 Blessings but also conveys the fact that the Lord Buddha arranges every Dhamma topic so precisely and exactly in the right order that when we practice His Teachings accordingly we can be assured of the expected outcome.

