

Father and Mother Sutra

Translated from Tibetan to Chinese by Khenpo Sodargye

Translated from Chinese to English by Khenpo's translation team

In Sanskrit: Pitṛmātr̥sūtra

In Tibetan: བཤམ་མཁོ་མདོ། /pha ma'i mdo/

Homage to all Buddhas and Bodhisattvas!

Thus have I heard. Once the Buddha was dwelling at Anathapindika's park in the city of Shravasti, together with an assembly of Shravaka bhikkhus. The Blessed One expounded,

“Bhikkhus: those laypersons who hold both parents in reverence, worship them, and serve them meticulously are endowed with the merit of Brahma. How so? Bhikkhus, the parents of a noble son are like Brahma in principle.

“Bhikkhus: those laypersons who hold both parents in reverence, worship them, and serve them meticulously are endowed with the merit of an acharya. How so? Bhikkhus, the parents of a noble son are like acharyas in principle.

“Bhikkhus: those laypersons who hold both parents in reverence, worship them, and serve them meticulously are endowed with the merit of a subject worthy of offering. How so? Bhikkhus, the parents of a noble son are like subjects worthy of offering in principle.

“Bhikkhus: those laypersons who hold both parents in reverence, worship them, and serve them meticulously are endowed with the merit of the lord of men. How so? Bhikkhus, the parents of a noble son are like the lord of men in principle.

“Bhikkhus: those laypersons who hold both parents in reverence, worship them and serve them meticulously are endowed with the merit of a god. How so? Bhikkhus, the parents of a noble son are like gods in principle.”

Summing up in verse, the Buddha said:

Parents are Brahma,
Foremost acharya-like,
Subjects worthy of offering,
Both the lord of men and gods,
And thus objects of veneration.

Massaging, bathing,

And rubbing parents' feet with oil
Providing nourishment,
Garments and bed-clothes,
Wise ones should attend parents accordingly.

Thus, being wise,
One should serve parents with respect.
Then one is not denigrated in this life,
And will take rebirth in the higher realms after death.

When the Blessed One had said this, the whole assembly of bhikkhus rejoiced and praised the words of the Blessed One.

This is the completion of the sutra.