

Honesty

the Conversation between the Buddha and Rahula

Hi everyone, welcome to my channel, Rising of Bodhisattvas! This is Nancy. Today is Jan 1st, 2021, Happy New Year to all of you! New year new start. This channel this year will focus on the life of the Buddha and stories related to the Buddha, so we can all know the Buddha better and we can learn better. Of course, you can always read the Biography of the Buddha yourself and make connection yourself. Every time, when I read the Biography of the Buddha, I feel like returning to myself. I can be very quiet and enjoy that reading time very much. Today, I am going to share with you the Conversation between the Buddha and his only son Rahula.

Rahula was the only child of Prince Siddhartha and Princess Yaśodharā. History is full of uncertainties. Some said that Prince Siddhartha renounced his Royal family before Rahula was born; and some said that the Prince renounced his family several months after Rahula was born. But anyway, after the Buddha was enlightened, he first mainly preached in the ancient kingdom of Magadha, which is far away from his own country Kapilvastu until one day he was invited to go back. When he stayed in Kapilvastu, he preached to the people there. During that time, many people including some princes of the royal families joined the Sangha. And also, his son Rahula became a novice in the Sangha. Rahula followed Shariputra who was one of the great disciples of the Buddha. At that time, Rahula was only about 7 years old.

When Rahula was about 11 years old, there was a period he liked to lie to people. For example, if someone asked him if the Buddha was in the Vihara, Rahula would lie to them and say that the Buddha is in the Vihara while the Buddha was not. He thought it was fun to do that. Also, he may find some excuses if he wanted to play outside. After the Buddha knew this, he came to find Rahula, and so here is the conversation between them.

The Buddha sit on a bamboo bench. Rahula brought a basin of water for the Buddha to wash his hands and feet. After the Buddha was finished, he poured most of the water out. Looking at Rahula, the Buddha asked, "Rahula, how much water left in the basin?"

Rahula answered, "much less left."

The Buddha said, "Rahula, you know, integrity of a lying person is just like the water in this basin, not much left."

Rahula lowed his head and was silent. The Buddha poured all the water in the basin out, and then he asked, "Rahula, do you know how I emptied the basin?"

Rahula said, "Yes, I saw it."

The Buddha said, "You know, Rahula, if people continue to lie, their integrity, will be just like the water in the basin, will be completely lost."

The Buddha turned the basin over, and then asked Rahula, "Rahula, Did you see how the basin was turned over?"

Rahula said, "Yes, I saw it."

The Buddha said, "If we don't practice right speech, we will be like this basin become upside down. We cannot lie even when we try to make a joke."



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The Buddha then asked Rahula, “Rahula, why do you use mirror?”
Rahula said, “To see our reflection.”

The Buddha said, “Rahula, you should be like a mirror to reflect on your own actions, thoughts and words.” This is the conversation between the Buddha and Rahula. After this, Rahula abandoned his mischievous habit.

Words are tools. Words could be either well-used or misused. Honest and kindly spoken words could help people to understand each other and strengthen the connections, while dishonest words, like fire seeds, could lead to long term contradictions, friction, and even conflicts. Some people might speak honest words, but in an annoying, rude and disrespectful way, so their words cannot be taken. On the other hand, some people might speak very nice words, but not honest. We all can learn from the Buddha. Speak the truth in an acceptable way. With compassion and wisdom in our heart, we can all practice right speech.

Amitabha! This is today’s Dharma talk. Be mindful of the way we talk and be honest. Thank you everyone for being here watching this video. I wish you all a peaceful and prosperous new year! I will see you next time. Bye.