

## **One Story of Ananda and the Buddha**

Hi everyone, this is Nancy. Today is Feb. 26th, 2022. How are you doing? As you may know, most of the Buddha's teachings were written down according to the superb memory of his disciple Ananda, and Ananda was probably the Buddha's closest disciple and attendant. Have you wondered why? Why would Ananda be able to remember all Buddha's teachings and be so close to the Buddha? Today, I would like to share with you a story of the Buddha and Ananda in one of their previous lives. Of course, they had been together in countless lives. This story was once told by the Buddha to answer the same query from his disciples.

Countless kalpas ago, there were a bhikkhu and a novice. As you may know, a novice is new and in his beginning stage of practice. The bhikkhu was very strict to this novice. He demanded him to recite sutras and finish daily compulsory courses. If the novice was able to finish what he was required to do, the bhikkhu would be happy, and if the novice was not able to finish his courses, the bhikkhu would scold him.

So the novice was often annoyed by the bhikkhu's strictness. Sometimes, he could easily get enough food, then he would have enough time to finish his daily courses; sometimes, it was difficult to get food, and he did not have enough time to finish the daily courses. When that happened, the bhikkhu would reprimand him. So the novice was often sad and depressed, crying when walking.

One day, the novice was crying again. An elder came to him and asked him why. The novice told him the reason behind. The elder said to the novice, "Don't worry, from now on, you come to my home. I will offer you food. Then you would have enough time to recite sutras." After that, the novice was able to finish his daily courses every day, and both he and his teacher were happy.

The Buddha told his disciples, "The bhikkhu teacher at that time was the Sadamitsu Buddha; the novice at that time was me; the elder who gave me food everyday was Ananda. Because of what he did at that time, he is able to remember all my teachings and never forget."

Hearing the Buddha's words, the disciples were joyful.

Amitabha! This is today's dharma share. There are good affinity and bad affinity between sentient beings. Often, affinity is not effect of one life, but accumulated from many lives. In Buddhism, there is a well known saying: Widely build good affinity with sentient beings. This is helpful for us to become a Buddha. Helping others is indeed helping ourselves. Do you agree? Thank you everyone for being here. I will see you next time. Bye.