

Vyagghapajja* Sutta: Conditions of Welfare

*Vyagghapajj
was the
family name
of Dīghājānu

Vyagghapajj
means
Tigers' Path
– his
ancestors
were born on
a forest path
infested with
tigers

- The Buddha expounded Vyagghapajja sutta amongst **Koliyans** (rivals of Sakyans) in a market town, **Kakkarapatta** to **Dīghājānu** (meaning: long-knee)
- In this sutta, the Buddha instructs rich householder how to preserve and increase their prosperity, and how to avoid loss of wealth
- Wealth does not make a complete person or a harmonious society. Excessive wealth often *multiplies a person's desires* and *unrestrained craving* leaves him dissatisfied and stifles his inner growth
- *Conflict* and *disharmony* in society results from the *resentment of underprivileged* who feel themselves being exploited by effects of unrestrained craving
- The Buddha's advice **on material welfare** with **4 essential conditions** for **spiritual welfare** – confidence (in the Buddha's teachings based on knowledge NOT blind faith), virtue, generosity and wisdom to instil sense of higher values
- The layperson not only pursue his own material concern by aware of his duty towards society

Moral & material progress	Spiritual progress
<p>1. Accomplishment of persistent effort (utthāna-sampadā)</p> <p>With right livelihood, one becomes skilful and not lazy. Endowed with reasoning to ways and means, he is able to do and manage his job.</p>	<p>1. Accomplishment of faith (saddha-sampadā)</p> <p>Believes in the enlightenment of the Perfect one: he is the pure one, fully enlightened, endowed with knowledge and conduct, well-gone, the knower of worlds, the incomparable leader in the training of individuals, teacher of gods & men, enlightened & holy → Buddha's 9 attributes</p>
<p>2. Accomplishment of watchfulness (arakkha-sampadā)</p> <p>Having accumulated wealth through rightful means, he guards it against being seize by kings, thieves, being destroyed by fire and water & squandered by heirs.</p>	<p>2. Accomplishment of virtue (sīla-sampadā)</p> <p>Keeps to the 5 precepts (enumerate in exam)</p>
<p>3. Good friendship (kalyānamittatā)</p> <p>Associates, converses, engages in discussion with highly cultured friends, old and young who have full of faith (saddhā), virtue (sīla), charity (cāga) and wisdom (paññā). He acts in accordance with these friends.</p>	<p>3. Accomplishment of charity (cāga-sampadā)</p> <p>Dwells at home with heart free from greed, devoted to charity, delight in generosity & distributing alms, & attending to the needy.</p>
<p>4. Balanced livelihood (sama-jivaikata)</p> <p>Spends in accordance to his earning abilities, not too lavishly or miserly. His expenses not exceed his income but rather income to exceed expenses (refer to Sigalovada sutta for wealth allocation).</p>	<p>4. Accomplishment of wisdom (pañña-sampadā)</p> <p>Endowed with wisdom that understands the 5 aggregates of existences (5 khandhas) & possessed the noble penetrating insight that leads to destruction of suffering.</p>