

## **The Story of Visakha** *Dhammapada — Verse 213*

*Translated by Daw Mya Tin*

While residing at the Jetavana monastery, the Buddha uttered Verse (213) of this book, with reference to Visakha, the renowned donor of the Pubbarama monastery.

One day, a granddaughter of Visakha named Sudatta died and Visakha felt very deeply about her loss and was sorrowing over the child's death. So she went to the Buddha; when the Buddha saw her, he said, "Visakha, don't you realize that many people die in Savatthi every day? If you were to regard all of them as you regard your own grandchild you would have to be endlessly weeping and mourning. Let not the death of a child affect you too much.

Sorrow and fear arise out of endearment."

Then the Buddha spoke in verse as follows:

**Verse 213:** Fondness begets sorrow, fondness begets fear. For him who is free from fondness there is no sorrow; how can there be fear for him?