## BUDDHACARITA Book III: Saṃvegotpattiḥ - The Prince's Perturbation

http://www.ancient-buddhist-texts.net/Texts-and-Translations/Buddhacarita/03-Book-III.htm
tataḥ kadācinmṛduśādvalāni puṃskokilonnāditapādapāni
śuśrāva padmākaramaṇḍitāni gītair nibaddhāni sa kānanāni    3.1
1. On a certain day he heard of the forests carpeted with tender grass, with their trees resounding with the kokilas, adorned with lotus-ponds, and which had been all bound up in the cold season.
śrutvā tataḥ strījanavallabhānāṃ manojñabhāvaṃ purakānanānām
bahiḥprayāṇāya cakāra buddhimantargṛhe nāga ivāvaruddhaḥ    3.2
2. Having heard of the delightful appearance of the city groves beloved by the women, he resolved to go out of doors, like an elephant long shut up in a house.

tato nṛpastasya niśamya bhāvaṃ putrābhidhānasya manorathasya
snehasya lakṣmyā vayasaśca yogyāmājñāpayāmāsa vihārayātrām    3.3
3. The king, having learned the character of the wish thus expressed by his son, ordered a pleasure-party to be prepared, worthy of his own affection and his son's beauty and youth.
nivartayāmāsa ca rājamārge saṃpātamārtasya pṛthagjanasya
mā bhūtkumāraḥ sukumāracittaḥ saṃvignacetā iva manyamānaḥ    3.4
4. He prohibited the encounter of any afflicted common person in the highroad; 'heaven forbid that the prince with his tender nature should even imagine himself to be distressed.'
pratyangahīnān vikalendriyāmsca jīrnāturādīn kṛpaṇāmsca bhikṣūn

tataḥ samutsārya pareṇa sāmnā śobhām parā rājapathasya cakruḥ    3.5
5. Then having removed out of the way with the greatest gentleness all those who had mutilated limbs or maimed senses, the decrepit and the sick and all squalid beggars, they made the highway assume its perfect beauty.
tataḥ kṛte śrīmati rājamārge śrīmān vinītānucaraḥ kumāraḥ
prāsādapṛṣṭhādavatīrya kāle kṛtābhyanujño nṛpamabhyagacchat    3.6
6. Along this road thus made beautiful, the fortunate prince with his well-trained attendants came down one day at a proper time from the roof of the palace and went to visit the king by his leave.
atho narendrah sutamāgatāśruh śirasyupāghrāya ciram nirīkṣya
gaccheti cājñāpayati sma vācā snehānna cainaṃ manasā mumoca    3.7

7. Then the king, with tears rising to his eyes, having smelt his son's head and long gazed upon him, gave him his permission, saying, 'Go;' but in his heart through affection he could not let him depart.
tataḥ sa jāmbūnadabhāṇḍabhṛdbhiryuktaṃ caturbhirnibhṛtaisturaṅgaiḥ
aklīvavidhyucchuciraśmidhārāṃ hiraṇmayaṃ syandanamāruroha    3.8
aktivavidnyueendenasiindhatatii ilitaiimayatii syandahamaturoha    5.8
8. He then mounted a golden chariot, adorned with reins bright like flashing lightning, and yoked with four gentle horses, all wearing golden trappings.
tataḥ prakīrṇojjvalapuṣpajālaṃ viṣaktamālyaṃ pracalatpatākam
mārgam prapede sadṛśānuyātraścandraḥ sanakṣatra ivāntarīkṣam    3.9
margarit prapada addisanaj addata addisanaj maratingana il anteriore i
9. With a worthy retinue he entered the road which was strewn with heaps of gleaming flowers, with garlands suspended and banners waving, like the moon with its asterism entering the sky.

kautūhalātsphītataraiśca netrairnīlotpalābhairiva kīryamāṇaḥ
śanaiḥ śanai rājapatham jagāhe pauraiḥ samantādabhivīkṣyamāṇaḥ    3.10
10. Slowly, slowly he passed along the highway, watched on every side by the citizens, and beshowered by their eyes opened wide with curiosity like blue lotuses.
tam tuştuvuh saumyagunena kecidvavandire diptatayā tathānye
11
saumukhyatastu śriyamasya kecidvaipulyamāśaṃsiṣurāyuṣaśca    3.11
11. Some praised him for his gentle disposition, others hailed him for his glorious appearance, others eulogised his beauty from his fine countenance and desired for him length of days.
niḥsṛtya kubjāśca mahākulebhyo vyūhāśca kairātakavāmanānām

bewildered as just awakened from sleep, and with their ornaments hastily put on in the stir of the news, and filled with curiosity, they crowded round;
prāsādasopānatalapraņādaiḥ kāñcīravairnūpuranisvanaiśca
•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
vibhrāmayantyo gṛhapakṣisaṅghānanyonyavegāṃśca samākṣipantyaḥ    3.15
15. Frightening the flocks of birds which lived in the houses, with the noise of their girdles and the jingling of their anklets which resounded on the staircases and roofs of the mansions, and mutually reproaching one another for their hurry.
kāsāṃcidāsāṃ tu varāṅganānāṃ jātatvarāṇāmapi sotsukānām
gatim gurutvājjagṛhurviśālāḥ śroṇīrathāḥ pīnapayodharāśca    3.16
16. Some of these women, even in their haste as they rushed longing to see, were delayed in their going by the weight of their hips and full bosoms.

14. Hindered by the strings of their girdles which had slipped down, with their eyes

śīghram samarthāpi tu gantumanyā gatim nijagrāha yayau na tūrnam
hriyā pragalbhāni nigūhamānā rahaḥ prayuktāni vibhūṣaṇāni    3.17
17. Another, though well able to go herself, checked her pace and forbore to run, hiding with shame her ornaments hitherto worn only in seclusion, and now too boldly displayed.
parasparotpīḍanapiṇḍitānāṃ saṃmardasaṃśobhitakuṇḍalānām
tāsāṃ tadā sasvanabhūṣaṇānāṃ vātāyaneṣvapraśamo babhūva    3.18
18. There they were restlessly swaying about in the windows, crowded together in the mutual press, with their earrings polished by the continual collision and their ornaments all jingling.
vātāyanebhyastu viniķsṛtāni parasparopāsitakuṇḍalāni

strīṇāṃ virejurmukhapaṅkajāni saktāni harmyeṣviva paṅkajāni    3.19
19. The lotus-like faces of the women gleamed while they looked out from the windows with their earrings coming into mutual proximity, as if they were real lotuses fastened upon the houses.
tato vimānairyuvatīkalāpaiḥ kautūhalodghāṭitavātayānaiḥ
śrīmatsamantānnagaram babhāse viyadvimānairiva sāpsarobhiḥ    3.20
20. With the palaces all alive with crowds of damsels, every aperture thrown open in eager curiosity, the magnificent city appeared on every side like heaven with its divine chariots thronged with celestial nymphs.
vātāyanānāmaviśālabhāvādanyonyagaṇḍārpitakuṇḍalāni
mukhāni rejuḥ pramadottamānāṃ baddhāḥ kalāpa iva paṅkajānām    3.21

21. The faces of the beautiful women shone like lotuses wreathed in garlands, while through the narrowness of the windows their earrings were transferred to each other's cheeks.
taṃ tāḥ kumāraṃ pathi vīkṣamāṇāḥ striyo babhurgāmiva gantukāmāḥ
ūrdhvonmukhāścainamudīkṣamāṇā narā babhurdyāmiva gantukāmāḥ    3.22
22. Gazing down upon the prince in the road, the women appeared as if longing to fall to the earth; gazing up to him with upturned faces, the men seemed as if longing to rise to heaven.
dṛṣṭvā ca taṃ rājasutaṃ striyastā jājvalyamānaṃ vapuṣā śriyā ca
dhanyāsya bhāryeti śanairavocañśuddhairmanobhiḥ khalu nānyabhāvāt    3.23
23. Beholding the king's son thus radiant in his beauty and glory, those women softly whispered, 'happy is his wife,' with pure minds and from no baser feeling.

ayam kila vyāyatapīnabāhū rūpeņa sākṣādiva puṣpaketuḥ
tyaktvā śriyam dharmamupeṣyatīti tasmin hitā gauravameva cakruḥ    3.24
24. 'He with the long sturdy arms, who stands in his beauty like the flower-armed god visibly present, will leave his royal pomp and devote himself to religion,' thus thinking, full of kindly feelings towards him, they all offered reverence.
kīrņam tathā rājapatham kumārah paurairvinītaih śucidhīraveṣaih
tatpūrvamālokya jaharṣa kiṃcinmene punarbhāvamivātmanaśca    3.25
25. Beholding for the first time that high-road thus crowded with respectful citizens, all dressed in white sedate garments, the prince for a while did feel a little pleasure and thought that it seemed to promise a revival of his youth.
puram tu tatsvargamiva prahṛṣṭam śuddhādhivāsāḥ samavekṣya devāḥ

jīrņam naram nirmamire prayātum samcodanārtham kşitipātmajasya    3.26
26. But then the gods, dwelling in pure abodes, having beheld that city thus rejoicing like heaven itself, created an old man to walk along on purpose to stir the heart of the king's son.
tataḥ kumāro jarayābhibhūtaṃ dṛṣṭvā narebhyaḥ pṛthagākṛtiṃ tam
uvāca saṃgrāhakamāgatāsthastatraiva niṣkampaniviṣṭadṛṣṭiḥ    3.27
27. The prince having beheld him thus overcome with decrepitude and different in form from other men, with his gaze intently fixed on him, thus addressed his driver with simple confidence:
ka eṣa bhoḥ sūta naro 'bhyupetaḥ keśaiḥ sitairyaṣṭiviṣaktahastaḥ
bhrūsaṃvṛtākṣaḥ śithilānatāṅgaḥ kiṃ vikriyaiṣā prakṛtiryadṛcchā    3.28

28. 'Who is this man that has come here, O charioteer, with white hair and his hand resting on a staff, his eyes hidden beneath his brows, his limbs bent down and hanging loose, — is this a change produced in him or his natural state or an accident?'
ityevamuktaḥ sa rathapraṇetā nivedayāmāsa nṛpātmajāya
saṃrakṣyamapyarthamadoṣadarśī taireva devaiḥ kṛtabuddhimohaḥ    3.29
29. Thus addressed, the charioteer revealed to the king's son the secret that should have been kept so carefully, thinking no harm in his simplicity, for those same gods had bewildered his mind:
rūpasya hartrī vyasanam balasya śokasya yonirnidhanam ratīnām
nāśaḥ smṛtīnāṃ ripurindriyāṇāmeṣā jarā nāma yayaiṣa bhagnaḥ    3.30
30. 'That is old age by which he is broken down, — the ravisher of beauty, the ruin of vigour, the cause of sorrow, the destruction of delights, the bane of memories, the enemy of the senses.

pītam hyanenāpi payaḥ śiśutve kālena bhūyaḥ parisṛptamurvyām
krameṇa bhūtvā ca yuvā vapuṣmān krameṇa tenaiva jarāmupetaḥ    3.31
31. 'He too once drank milk in his childhood, and in course of time he learned to grope on the ground; having step by step become a vigorous youth, he has step by step in the same way reached old age.'
ityevamukte calitaḥ sa kiṃcidrājātmajaḥ sūtamidaṃ babhāṣe
kimeşa doşo bhavitā mamāpītyasmai tataḥ sārathirabhyuvāca    3.32
32. Being thus addressed, the prince, starting a little, spoke these words to the charioteer, 'What! will this evil come to me also?' and to him again spoke the charioteer:
āyuṣmato 'pyeṣa vayaḥprakarṣo niḥsaṃśayaṃ kālavaśena bhāvī

evam jarām rūpavināśayitrīm jānāti caivecchati caiṣa lokaḥ    3.33
33. 'It will come without doubt by the force of time through multitude of years even to my long-lived lord; all the world knows thus that old age will destroy their comeliness and they are content to have it so.'
tataḥ sa pūrvāśayaśuddhabuddhirvistīrṇakalpācitapuṇyakarmā
śrutvā jarām saṃvivije mahātmā mahāśanerghoṣamivāntike gauḥ    3.34
34. Then he, the great-souled one, who had his mind purified by the impressions of former good actions, who possessed a store of merits accumulated through many preceding aeons, was deeply agitated when he heard of old age, like a bull who has heard the crash of a thunderbolt close by.
niḥśvasya dīrgham svaśiraḥ prakampya tasmimśca jīrne viniveśya cakṣuḥ
tām caiva dṛṣṭvā janatām saharṣām vākyam sa saṃvigna idam jagāda    3.35

35. Drawing a long sigh and shaking his head, and fixing his eyes on that decrepit old man, and looking round on that exultant multitude he then uttered these distressed words:
evam jarā hanti ca nirviśeṣam smṛtim ca rūpam ca parākramam ca
na caiva saṃvegamupaiti lokaḥ pratyakṣato 'pīdṛśamīkṣamāṇaḥ    3.36
36. 'Old age thus strikes down all alike, our memory, comeliness, and valour; and yet the world is not disturbed, even when it sees such a fate visibly impending.
evam gate sūta nivartayāśvān śīghram gṛhāṇyeva bhavānprayātu
udyānabhūmau hi kuto ratirme jarābhave cetasi vartamāne    3.37
37. 'Since such is our condition, O charioteer, turn back the horses, — go quickly home; how can I rejoice in the pleasure-garden, when the thoughts arising from old age overpower me?'

athājñayā bhartṛsutasya tasya nivartayāmāsa ratham niyantā
tataḥ kumāro bhavanaṃ tadeva cintāvaśaḥ śūnyamiva prapede    3.38
38. Then the charioteer at the command of the king's son turned the chariot back, and the prince lost in thought entered even that royal palace as if it were empty.
yadā tu tatraiva na śarma lebhe jarā jareti praparīkṣamāṇaḥ
tato narendrānumataḥ sa bhūyaḥ krameṇa tenaiva bahirjagāma    3.39
39. But when he found no happiness even there, as he continually kept reflecting, 'old age, old age,' then once more, with the permission of the king, he went out with the same arrangement as before.
athāparam vyādhiparītadeham ta eva devāḥ sasṛjurmanuṣyam

dṛṣṭvā ca taṃ sārathimābabhāṣe śauddhodanistadgatadṛṣṭireva    3.40
40. Then the same deities created another man with his body all afflicted by disease; and on seeing him the son of Śuddhodana addressed the charioteer, having his gaze fixed on the man:
sthūlodaraḥ śvāsacalaccharīraḥ srastāṃsabāhuḥ kṛśapāṇdugātraḥ
ambeti vācam karuņam bruvāņah param samāśliṣya narah ka eṣaḥ    3.41
41. 'Yonder man with a swollen belly, his whole frame shaking as he pants, his arms and shoulders hanging loose, his body all pale and thin, uttering plaintively the word "mother," when he embraces a stranger, — who, pray, is this?'
tato 'bravītsārathirasya saumya dhātuprakopaprabhavaḥ pravṛddhaḥ
rogābhidhānaḥ sumahānanarthaḥ śakro 'pi yenaiṣa kṛto 'svatantraḥ    3.42

42. Then his charioteer answered, 'Gentle Sir, it is a very great affliction called sickness, that has grown up, caused by the inflammation of the (three) humours, which has made even this strong man no longer master of himself.'
ityūcivān rājasutaḥ sa bhūyastaṃ sānukampo naramīkṣamāṇaḥ
asyaiva jātaḥ pṛthageṣa doṣaḥ sāmānyato rogabhayaṃ prajānām    3.43
43. Then the prince again addressed him, looking upon the man compassionately, 'Is this evil peculiar to him or are all beings alike threatened by sickness?'
tato babhāṣe sa rathapraṇetā kumāra sādhāraṇa eṣa doṣaḥ
evam hi rogaih paripīḍyamāno rujāturo harṣamupaiti lokaḥ    3.44
44. Then the charioteer answered, 'O prince, this evil is common to all; thus pressed round by diseases men run to pleasure, though racked with pain.'

iti śrutārthaḥ sa viṣaṇṇacetāḥ prāvepatāmbūrmigataḥ śaśīva
idam ca vākyam karuņāyamānah provāca kimcinmrdunā svareņa    3.45
45. Having heard this account, his mind deeply distressed, he trembled like the moon reflected in the waves of water; and full of sorrow he uttered these words in a low voice:
idam ca rogavyasanam prajānām paśyamśca viśrambhamupaiti lokaḥ
vistīrņavijñānamaho narāṇāṃ hasanti ye rogabhayairamuktāḥ    3.46
46. 'Even while they see all this calamity of diseases mankind can yet feel tranquillity; alas for the scattered intelligence of men who can smile when still not free from the terrors of disease!
nivartyatām sūta bahiḥprayāṇānnarendrasadmaiva rathaḥ prayātu

śrutvā ca me rogabhayam ratibhyah pratyāhatam samkucatīva cetah    3.47
47. 'Let the chariot, O charioteer, be turned back from going outside, let it return straight to the king's palace; having heard this alarm of disease, my mind shrinks into itself, repelled from pleasures.'
tato nivṛttaḥ sa nivṛttaharṣaḥ pradhyānayuktaḥ praviveśa veśma
tam dvistathā prekṣya ca samnivṛttam paryeṣaṇam bhūmipatiścakāra    3.48
48. Then having turned back, with all joy departed, he entered his home, absorbed in thought; and having seen him thus return a second time, the king himself entered the city.
śrutvā nimittam tu nivartanasya samtyaktamātmānamanena mene
mārgasya śaucādhikṛtāya caiva cukrośa ruṣṭo 'pi ca nogradaṇḍaḥ    3.49

49. Having heard the occasion of the prince's return he felt himself as deserted by him, and, although unused to severe punishment, even when displeased, he rebuked him whose duty it was to see that the road was clear.
bhūyaśca tasmai vidadhe sutāya viśeṣayuktam viṣayapracāram
calendriyatvādapi nāma śakto nāsmānvijahyāditi nāthamānaḥ    3.50
50. And once more he arranged for his son all kinds of worldly enjoyments to their highest point; imploring in his heart, 'Would that he might not be able to forsake us, even though rendered unable only through the restlessness of his senses.'
yadā ca śabdādibhirindriyārthairantaḥpure naiva suto 'sya reme
yada ca sabdadibili indiriyartilanantanpure narva suto sya reme
tato vahirvyādiśati sma yātrām rasāntaram syāditi manyamānaḥ    3.51
51. But when in the women's apartments his son found no pleasure in the several objects of the senses, sweet sounds and the rest, he gave orders for another progress outside, thinking to himself, 'It may create a diversion of sentiment.'

snehācca bhāvam tanayasya buddhvā sa rāgadoṣānavicintya kāmścit
yogyāḥ samājñāpayati sma tatra kalāsvabhijña iti vāramukhyāḥ    3.52
52. And in his affection pondering on the condition of his son, never thinking of any ills that might come from his haste, he ordered the best singing-women to be in attendance, as well-skilled in all the soft arts that can please.
tato viśesena narendramārge svalamkṛte caiva parīkṣite ca
vyatyāsya sūtam ca ratham ca rājā prasthāpayāmāsa bahih kumāram $\parallel 3.53$
53. Then the royal road being specially adorned and guarded, the king once more made the prince go out, having ordered the charioteer and chariot to proceed in a contrary direction (to the previous one).
tatastathā gacchati rājaputre taireva devairvihito gatāsuḥ

tam caiva mārge mṛtamuhyamānam sūtaḥ kumāraśca dadarśa nānyaḥ    3.54
54. But as the king's son was thus going on his way, the very same deities created a dead man, and only the charioteer and the prince, and none else, beheld him as he was carried dead along the road.
athābravīdrājasutaḥ sa sūtaṃ naraiścaturbhirhriyate ka eṣaḥ
dīnairmanuşyairanugamyamāno bhūṣitaścāpyavarudyate ca    3.55
55. Then spoke the prince to the charioteer, 'Who is this borne by four men, followed by mournful companions, who is bewailed, adorned but no longer breathing?'
tataḥ sa śuddhātmabhireva devaiḥ śuddhādhivāsairabhibhūtacetāḥ
avācyamapyarthamimam niyantā pravyājahārārthavadīśvarāya    3.56

56. Then the driver, — having his mind overpowered by the gods who possess pure minds and pure dwellings, — himself knowing the truth, uttered to his lord this truth also which wa not to be told:
buddhīndriyaprāṇaguṇairviyuktaḥ supto visaṃjñastṛṇakāṣṭhabhūtaḥ
samvardhya samraksya ca yatnavadbhih priya priyaistyajyata esa ko 'pi $\parallel 3.57$
57. 'This is some poor man who, bereft of his intellect, senses, vital airs and qualities, lying asleep and unconscious, like mere wood or straw, is abandoned alike by friends and enemies after they have carefully swathed and guarded him.'
iti praņetuḥ sa niśamya vākyaṃ saṃcukṣubhe kiṃciduvāca cainam
kim kevalo 'syaiva janasya dharmah sarvaprajānāmayamīdṛśo 'ntah $\parallel 3.58$
58. Having heard these words of the charioteer he was somewhat startled and said to him, 'Is this an accident peculiar to him alone, or is such the end of all living creatures?'

tataḥ praṇetā vadati sma tasmai sarvaprajānāmidamantakarma
hīnasya madhyasya mahātmano vā sarvasya loke niyato vināśaḥ    3.59
59. Then the charioteer replied to him, 'This is the final end of all living creatures; be it a mean man, a man of middle state, or a noble, destruction is fixed to all in this world.'
tataḥ sa dhīro 'pi narendrasūnuḥ śrutvaiva mṛtyuṃ viṣasāda sadyaḥ
aṃsena saṃśliṣya ca kūbarāgraṃ provāca nihrādavatā svareṇa    3.60
60. Then the king's son, sedate though he was, as soon as he heard of death, immediately sank down overwhelmed, and pressing the end of the chariotpole with his shoulder spoke with a loud voice,
iyam ca niṣṭhā niyatā prajānām pramādyati tyaktabhayaśca lokaḥ

manāṃsi śaṅke kaṭhināni nṛṇāṃ svasthāstathā hyadhvani vartamānāḥ    3.61
61. 'Is this end appointed to all creatures, and yet the world throws off all fear and is infatuated! Hard indeed, I think, must the hearts of men be, who can be self-composed in such a road.
tasmādrathaḥ sūta nivartyatāṃ no vihārabhūmerna hi deśakālaḥ
jānanvināśaṃ kathamārtikāle sacetanaḥ syādiha hi pramattaḥ    3.62
62. 'Therefore, O charioteer, turn back our chariot, this is no time or place for a pleasure-excursion; how can a rational being, who knows what destruction is, stay heedless here, in the hour of calamity?'
iti bruvāņe 'pi narādhipātmaje nivartayāmāsa sa naiva tam ratham
viśeṣayuktaṃ tu narendraśāsanātsa padmaṣaṇḍaṃ vanameva niryayau    3.63

63. Even when the prince thus spoke to him, the charioteer did not turn the chariot back; but at his peremptorily reiterated command he retired to the forest Padmakhanda.
tataḥ śivaṃ kusumitabālapādapaṃ paribhramatpramuditamattakokilam
vimānavatsa kamalacārudīrghikam dadarśa tadvanamiva nandanam vanam    3.64
64. There he beheld that lovely forest like Nandana itself, full of young trees in flower with intoxicated kokilas wandering joyously about, and with its bright lakes gay with lotuses and well-furnished with watering-places.
varānganāgaṇakalilam nṛpātmajastato balādvanamabhinīyate sma tat
varāpsarovṛtamalakādhipālayam navavrato muniriva vighnakātaraḥ    3.65
65. The king's son was perforce carried away to that wood filled with troops of beautiful women, just as if some devotee who had newly taken his vow were carried off, feeling weak to withstand temptation, to the palace of the monarch of Alakā, gay with the dancing of the loveliest heavenly nymphs.
iti buddhacarite mahākāvye saṃvegautpattirnāma tṛtīyaḥ sargaḥ $\parallel 3 \parallel$