



Rare Persons - Category 2/4

Nimittam sadhurūpānam kataññūkataveditā.

[Pronunciation: ni-mid-tang, sa-dhu-roo-paa-nang, ka-tan-yoo-ka-ta-ve-di-taa]

“Gratitude is a sign of a good person.”

Understanding Gratitude

Gratitude is the recognition and appreciation of the kindness others have shown to us. It involves remembering the good deeds done for us and seeking the right time to return that goodness. Whether it's offering help when they are in need or simply honoring them with respect, gratitude reflects a noble heart.

To be grateful is to possess a good conscience—one that continually remembers those who have helped and stands ready to support them in return. Gratitude creates a foundation for mutual support and compassionate living.

Broader Meaning of Gratitude

Gratitude also extends to reverence for what is sacred and noble. This includes deep respect and joy for the Triple Gem (Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha), as well as for teachers, mentors, and ancestors. In this way, gratitude becomes a core aspect of both culture and religion.

It manifests in polite behavior, respect for elders, and warm reception toward those who have contributed meaningfully to society. It aligns with principles of social harmony, success, and strong relationships.

The Rarity of Gratitude

Gratitude is rare among those who are selfish or unwholesome. But for virtuous people, it comes naturally. A good person is never ungrateful—they recognize the kindness they've received and feel moved to reciprocate. That is why it is said: **"Gratitude is the mark of a good person."**

Let us, therefore, train ourselves to be grateful. Whether to our benefactors or even to strangers, if we have the chance to help, we should. Doing so allows us to accumulate merit and build a kinder world.

Summary: Two Kinds of Rare Persons

1. **Pubbakārī** – The one who first performs a good deed; a ready and selfless benefactor.
2. **Kataññūkatavedī** – The one who is grateful and repays the favor; a truly grateful person.