

Metta Sutta

Sutta Nipata 1.8 The Buddha's Words on Loving-Kindness

This is what should be done
 By one who is skilled in goodness,
 And who seeks¹ the path of peace:
 Let them be able and upright,
 Straightforward and gentle in speech.
 Humble and not conceited,
 Contented and easily satisfied.
 Unburdened with duties and frugal in their ways.
 Peaceful and calm, and wise and skillful,
 Not proud and demanding in nature.
 Let them not do the slightest thing
 That the wise would later reprove.
 Wishing: In gladness and in safety,
 May all beings be at ease.
 Whatever living beings there may be;
 Whether they are weak or strong, omitting none,
 The great or the mighty, medium, short or small,
 The seen and the unseen,
 Those living near and far away,
 Those born and to-be-born,
 May all beings be at ease!

Let none deceive another,
 Or despise any being in any state.
 Let none through anger or ill-will
 Wish harm upon another.
 Even as a mother protects with her life
 Her child, her only child,
 So with a boundless heart
 Should one cherish all living beings:
 Radiating kindness over the entire world
 Spreading upwards to the skies,
 And downwards to the depths;
 Outwards and unbounded,
 Freed from hatred and ill-will.
 Whether standing or walking, seated or lying down
 Free from drowsiness,
 One should sustain this mindfulness.²
 This is said to be the sublime abiding.
 By not holding to fixed views,
 The pure-hearted one, having clarity of vision,
 Being freed from all sense desires,
 Is not born again into this world.

Translation by the Sangha of Amaravati

1. The original reads 'knows' - which is a mistranslation.
2. The original reads 'recollection' - which is a mistranslation.