

A study on Lokadhamma, Worldly Vicissitudes
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Abstract

According to Mahasi Sayardaw, eight manifestations of *lokadhamma* always follow all human beings. Likewise, all beings always chase *lokadhamma*. It is impossible for any human beings to exist without facing these eight manifestations of *lokadhamma* but how we can face them is questionable. This research attempts to explore the manner in which people face the vicissitudes in life and overcome challenges. This is a document research which will explore a number of publications on the vicissitudes faced by human beings – high and low, rich and poor. A collection of references, interviews and Tedtalks describing the lives of persons, famous as well as less well-known, rich as well as poor, have been chosen for study, their paths in life traced, and the manners in which they face the vicissitudes chronicled. This research will investigate who can face the adversities with more success and equanimity - Buddhists or non-Buddhists. The analysis of the personal events will be based on the Buddhist Canon and related Jataka stories which outline fateful events and vicissitudes experienced by famous characters, e.g. Patacari Arahant. The findings highlight the need to be resilient and equanimous in facing Lokadhamma (adversities and vicissitudes). The findings will also identify individuals in the current world who experience vicissitudes in life and how they handle them, to identify individuals during the Buddha's time and how they handle them. This research provides Buddhist perspectives to facing Lokadhamma and possible solutions to the vicissitudes faced by people in the modern world.

Key words: lokadhamma, vicissitudes, adversities, equanimity, perspectives

¹ Ven. Revata, an MA student of Global Peace University, Mandalay