

I AM MERCHANT

- ⊙ Born in the “Bhanich” (commerce) family, my ancestors practiced trade and so have I. Now, I have become a spiritual merchant under the name “Buddhadāsa,” am the son-in-law of the Lord Buddha, and am married with Wanee (Wealth)¹ through a ceremony more than enormous although only a few people know.
- ⊙ Have practiced the commerce of life according to the Buddha's way rather than the traditional —material or worldly — way. Am receiving appropriately increasing profits, although not yet to the fullest, and am able to produce satisfying benefits for myself and others such that I can sleep much more happily than ordinary folks.
- ⊙ Have a local store named Suan Mokkhabalārāma superior to any department store, selling goods without charging. Have a product called “Dhammaghosāṇa” (Dhamma Proclamation)² for every class, kind, and gender of person.
- ⊙ Still, there are people who show no interest, then claim that my goods are fake. They accuse, defame, conspire against, make plans to destroy, and more, but our store hasn't failed yet. In fact, the free advertising draws even more people.
- ⊙ Now, am more than eighty years old, yet the time to stop selling hasn't arrived. Rather, we will do better, more skillfully and agilely than before. Further, have trained certain interested persons to understand and be able to follow in my steps.
- ⊙ Hope you will know me more in line with the truth in order that I and my store can serve you better than ever before — *tathatā*.

Translated June 1998 by Santikaro Bhikkhu.

¹ Explanation of what “Wanee” means. A reference to Buddhaghosacariya. [I discussed this with Tan Ajarn once, but must look up the details.]

² The name given to his major work, now a series of about sixty volumes published.