

No Kāmesu



Dear Phom Phom,

Hope you are well and happy.

For you, I have a question that I doubt and mentioned below. I humbly request you to give me an understandable answer.

Is a woman who legally divorced her husband and was no longer associated with him at all, but living under financial support of her parents, still considered 'a girl under guardian or protection' though she got already married and had a child before? If she chose a new lover and had close relationships with him (like husband and wife) without her parents' consent, can she be of *Kāmesu* or *Akusala*?

Best wishes and paying respect,

John Aung

Source

Here is a story: Once, Sakka, king of the gods, tried to test a courtesan's precepts. He took a shape of a young man and gave her a thousand pieces, saying, "I will visit you." Then he disappeared for three years. But she kept waiting for his visit without ever accepting new costumers. As a courtesan, she became so poor and difficult to keep her promise that she finally went to the Chief Justices and tell him how she should do. Then the Justices said "Because he does not come for three years, now you are free. Earn your wage as before." As soon as she left the court, she met a new man who offered her a thousand for a visit.

As she was about to take it, the former young man (Skka) showed himself. And so she refused the new one, saying "Here is the man who gave me a thousand pieces three years ago. I must go with him." Then Sakka taking his form as Deva king praised her goodness in the midst of the crowd assembled. (*Jātaka-tha II*, p. 341.)

To think

In Buddha's time, Ambapālī of Vesali, as a good and prestige Buddhist courtesan, served Buddha and his disciples until she entered the order as a Theri (female monk).

My Point

According to above mentioned stories, a courtesan (= a prostitute) can observe 'no adultery', the 3rd precept very well, if she does not brake her promise to the scheduled man until the end of her duty. From this Buddhist point of view, we can say women are free and independent when her guardians (i.e., mother, father, or both, etc.) agree or let her free and her age is legal. Here, 'independent' means that she is not considered that she is under anyone's protection at that situation and she should have her right and freedom to be on her own choice.

No Kamesu

You said 'she divorced her husband legally', so she is free to deal with her marriage regardless of financial support of her parents. I don't think that she should need her parents' approval for that to maintain her precept, because she got already married, having a child. So, if she chooses a free man as her new lover and has relationship with him, she gets no Akusala or no Kāmesu. I think, however, it is better if she could consult her parents while living in same house and under their financial support just because of respect, but not because of precept. ☐