# Q29. A case of Pali Solution

- Structure of problem:

    - 6 sentences in Pali with their translations

    - Notice that some repeated words have different endings

- Challenge:

    - Work out which words correspond

    - and why the endings differ

Sets of similar words e.g. *mahāmatto*, *mahāmattam, mahāmattassa* all mean 'minister' but in different roles. Case endings and verbal agreement.

a. *rājo nisīdati*                          The king sits down
b. *rājo gāmassa devo hoti*                 The {village's king | king of the village} is (a) god

a. The minister asks the philosophers.      mahāmatto samane pucchati
b. The philosopher sits down.               samano nisīdati
c. They sit down.                           nisīdanti
d. The minister asks the kings.             mahāmatto rāje pucchati
e. The disciple's village.                  gāmo upāsakassa
f. The meaning of the world is god.         attho lokassa devo hoti

This question is about case endings, typical of Indo-European languages. The nominative or subject case marker is -o, the accusative or object marker is -am, the dative or indirect object plural -e, and the genitive or possessive -asa. In addition, the verb agrees in number with the subject: -ti for singular, -nti for plural. Note also the word order: the verb comes at the end of the sentence, and the genitive follows the noun it applies to. So rājo gāmasa is 'king of the village', not 'village of the king'.