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## Danta,bhūmi Sutta

The Discourse on the Taming Grounds | M 125

Theme: How the Buddha transforms his disciples

Translated & annotated by Piya Tan ©2014

### 1 The Sutta background

#### 1.1 THE SUTTA TITLE

**1.1.1 Meaning of *danta,bhūmi*.** The phrase *danta,bhūmi* in the Sutta title can be translated either as “the ground of the tamed” or “the grounds of (the) taming.” The former title is more grammatically correct but narrow, as it refers only to the condition of the “tamed” (*danta*), that is, the arhat [§30], the ideal individual, or to nirvana, the ideal goal of the training and of life itself, the ultimately safe place.<sup>1</sup>

However, the latter translation is more descriptive of Sutta as a whole, as the stages of “taming” (*dama*),<sup>2</sup> or the stages of those “to be tamed” or “the tamed” (*damma*).<sup>3</sup> This translation is helpful in at least two ways: (1) it reflects one of the Sutta themes—that of the gradual training, and (2) the fact that the Buddha is said to be the “peerless guide of persons to be tamed” (*anuttara purisa,damma,sārathī*).<sup>4</sup> In other words, we have the training that leads to our becoming a streamwinner, a once-returner, a non-returner or an arhat. Hence, we have settled for its translation as “the discourse on the taming grounds.”

**1.1.2 Parallel versions.** The Danta,bhūmi Sutta (M 125) has a Chinese parallel in the Madhyama Āgama.<sup>5</sup> A sutta quotation is found in Samatha,deva’s commentary on the Abhidharma,kośa,bhāṣyā, preserved in Tibetan.<sup>6</sup> A helpful comparative study of the Danta,bhūmi Sutta has been done by Analayo Bhikkhu (2011).

#### 1.2 THE SUTTA MAIN INTERLOCUTORS

##### 1.2.1 Prince Jaya,sena

1.2.1.1 Buddhaghosa says that he is the royal son of king Bimbi,sāra.<sup>7</sup> Jaya,sena, according to the Danta,bhūmi Sutta, visits the novice Acira,vata at his meditation cell in the Bamboo Grove, and asks him for Dharma teaching. When Acira,vata reluctantly teaches him, he disagrees with Acira,vara and leaves. When Acira,vata reports the matter to the Buddha, he says that Jayasena, being indulgent in sensual pleasures, is unable to appreciate the teaching of renunciation [§7].

1.2.1.2 Jayasena is further recorded as learning the Dharma from his uncle, the elder Bhūjita, as recorded in **the (Jaya,sena) Bhūmija Sutta** (M 126). In this case, Jayasena is recorded as being pleased with the teaching, and he makes an offering of his own dish of rice to Bhūmija.<sup>8</sup>

**1.2.2 Novice Acira,vata.** Aviravata is presented to us in **the Danta,bhūmi Sutta** (M 125) as a “novice” (*samaṇ’uddesa*) [§2], probably a term referring to adult novice, that is, one who is full 20 years or older.<sup>9</sup> This conjecture is supported by the fact (1) that Aciravata lives, probably alone, in a forest cell in a

<sup>1</sup> S 3:84; Nc 475 (in continuation of Dh 323); DhA 4:6.

<sup>2</sup> Adj & n of *dameti*, “he trains,” D 1:53 (explained at It 15 & DA 1:160), 3:147, 229; M 3:269; S 1:4, 29, 168 = Sn 463; S 4:349; A 1:151, 2:152 f; Sn 189m 542, 655; Dh 9, 25, 159, 261.

<sup>3</sup> M 1:225 (of animals); A 2:112 (horses); It 80;

<sup>4</sup> D 1:62 (misspelt as *~dhamma*) = 2:93 = 3:5; M 2:38; A 2:112; Vv 17.13; VvA 86. For details of it as a virtue of the Buddha, see SD 15.7 (3.6).

<sup>5</sup> The parallel is MĀ 198 @ T1.757a-759a, which agrees with M 125 on location and title (調御地經 *Tiáo yù dì jīng*). A tr of MĀ 198, together with extracts from Analayo 2011, can be found in Analayo 2006c.

<sup>6</sup> Abhk:S at D (4094) mngon pa, nyu 40b3-41b1 or Q (5595) thu 79a5-80a7, which corresponds to M 125/3:135,-20-136,19; cf also Abhk 6:70 in Pradhan 1967: 384,22, paralleling M 125/3:136,15, with its Chinese counterparts in T1558 @ T29.133a5 and T1559 @ T29.284b2.

<sup>7</sup> *Bimbi,sārassa putto orasako*, MA 3:197.

<sup>8</sup> M 126/3:138-144 @ SD 95.3.

<sup>9</sup> *Samaṇ’uddesa* (D 1:151; M 3:128; S 5:161; A 2:78, 3:343; BHS *śramaṇoddeśa*, Divy 160). Defined as “novice” (*sāmaṇera*) at V 4:139+140. While the term *samaṇera*, also tr as “novice,” refers to one under 20 years, *samaṇ’ud-*

secluded part of the Bamboo Grove, outside Rājagaha, in an area used by monks in their solitary practice, striving for awakening (MA 2:97) [§2]; and (2) that prince Jaya,sena insists that Acira,vata teaches him the Dharma [§§3-4].

The Danta,bhūmi Sutta records how prince Jaya,sena approaches Acira,vata at his forest cell, and asks him if it is true that the diligent practitioner would attain mental stillness [§3]. However, when Jaya,sena requests Acira,vata to teach him Dharma, Acira,vata is reluctant to do so. Upon Jaya,sena's insistence, Acira,vata complies. True enough, Jaya,sena rejects his teaching and leaves.

Acira,vata then consults the Buddha on the incident, and he responds with the teachings of the Danta,bhūmi Sutta [2.2]. Both Jaya,sena and the Buddha addresses Acira,vata as “Aggi,vessana,” showing that he is of brahmin birth [1.2.3]. Apparently, we only know of Acira,vata from the Danta,bhūmi Sutta.

**1.2.3 Aggi,vessana** was an ancient brahmin clan (P *gotta*; Skt *gotra*), the Āgni,veśyāyana (descendants of Agni,veśa, an ancient rishi, in post-Buddha times regarded as one of the earliest authors of Āyurveda or traditional Indian medicine), and the kshatriyas so styled who adopted the name from their brahmin purohitas (DPPN). Those addressed by the Buddha as Aggi,vessana include the following:

Nigaṇṭha Nāta,putta	<b>Sāmañña,phala Sutta</b>	M 2,26	SD 8.10
Saccaka Nigaṇṭha,putta	<b>Dīgha,nakha Sutta</b>	M 74 passim	SD 16.1
the wanderer Dīgha,nākha	<b>Danta,bhūmi Sutta</b>	M 125 passim	SD 46.3

The novice Aciravata is so referred to both by prince Jaya,sena [§2.3 etc] and the Buddha [§7 etc]. A gandharva (celestial minstrel) is named Aggi,vessa (A 4.187/2:180 f).

## 2 Sutta analysis

### 2.1 SUTTA THEMES

**2.1.1 Two key themes.** The Danta,bhūmi Sutta, the “discourse on the taming grounds,” compares the gradual training of a monk to the gradual taming and training of a wild elephant, transforming it into a royal elephant. The allusions significantly point to at least two important themes in early Buddhism.

2.1.1.1 Firstly, the gradual path or the progressive growth leading to sainthood and awakening, as shown, for example, in **the Pahārada Sutta** (A 8.19)<sup>10</sup> and **the Mahā,vagga** of the Vinaya, where it is said,

Pahārāda, just as the great ocean slopes gradually, slides gradually, inclines gradually, not abruptly like a precipice,

so, too, Pahārāda, in this Dharma-Vinaya, the training is gradual, the task is gradual, the way is gradual—there is no sudden penetration of final knowledge at all.<sup>11</sup>

(Cv 9.1.3 = V 2:237 f @ SD 59.2c)

This theme is clearly illustrated by the parable of the hill view [§9].

2.1.1.2 Secondly, the Sutta defines the purpose of the Buddhist life, that is, the attaining of sainthood, especially of arhathood [§30]. Here we see the theme of renunciation (*nekkhamma*) of two important levels, that is, on the worldly or conventional level and the Dharma or spiritual level.

On a worldly level, renunciation is the “going-forth” (*pabbajjā*)<sup>12</sup> from the lay or household life to that of the life of a renunciant. Traditionally, this is the monastic life-style of celibacy and simplicity (including complete abstention from the use of money or indulging in any economic activity). The purpose

*desa* (lit “one marked as a recluse, samaṇa) prob refers to a novice who is at least 20 years, the age at which one is eligible to be ordained as a monk (*bhikkhu*) (Mv 1.49 @ V 1:77 f; Pāc 65 @ V 4:130,15 ff; Mv 1.76.1 @ V 1:93).

<sup>10</sup> A 8.19.2 & SD 45.18 (2.1).

<sup>11</sup> *Anupubba,sikkhā anupubba,kiriya anupubba,paṭipadā na āyatakeneva aññā,paṭivedho*. Comy: There is no penetrating into arhathood all at one (*ādito va*) like a frog's hopping, without first duly (*paṭipāṭiyā*) fulfilling moral virtue, mental concentration and wisdom (AA 4:111). See **Kīṭā,giri S** (M 70,22/1:479), SD 11.1.

<sup>12</sup> On the various forms of going-forth (*pabbajjā*), see **Pabbajjā, a very short history**, SD 45.16.

of the monastic life is that awakening in this life itself, that is, at least the attaining of streamwinning, if not arhathood itself.

On a Dharma or spiritual level, renunciation refers to the actual dynamics of Buddhist practice or Dharma training, especially the proper practice of meditation. The door to spiritual liberation is opened by the key of wisdom, which is obtained through the gradual stilling and freeing of the mind. This mental training is effected through mindfulness and meditation.<sup>13</sup>

Mindfulness here refers to the constant reflection on the true nature of reality, that is, as being impermanent, unsatisfactory and non-self, that is, the 3 universal characteristics.<sup>14</sup> The best approach to such a practice is to constantly and properly reflect on impermanent, the first characteristic. This practice is guaranteed to bring us streamwinning in this life itself.<sup>15</sup> With the diminishing of the 3 unwholesome roots, we will attain once-return.<sup>16</sup> This path to awakening is that of the lay practitioner, but also applies to monastics who are unable to meditate effectively.

A higher training is that of meditation leading to dhyana, so that we are able to transcend sense-pleasures. This can only be effectively done through overcoming the 5 mental hindrances,<sup>17</sup> and then attaining the dhyanas. As dhyana-attainers, we are able to reach a state where our mind is profoundly calm and clear. Emerging from such a state, we would be able to see true reality more fully, so that we will go on to attain non-return or even arhathood.<sup>18</sup>

### 2.1.2 Parables

2.1.2.0 The Danta,bhūmi Sutta has 3 parables—that of the pairs of tamable animals [§8]; that of the hill view [§9] and that of the domestication of a wild elephant [§12]—each highlighting a key theme of the Sutta [2.1]. The Sutta records the Buddha as telling Aciravata that, if he had used the first two parables [§11], Jaya,sena would have responded more positively to his teaching.

Acira,vata replies that he has never heard these similes before, so that he was unable to use them. This exchange is not found in the Chinese version. The Buddha then elaborated on the first parable, detailing how a wild elephant is caught, tamed and made a royal mount [§12].

2.1.2.1 THE PAIRS OF TAMABLE ANIMALS. The first parable [§8] is a reminder that just as **tamable animals** can and should be trained, even so human who have the capacity for training should be properly trained.<sup>19</sup> In this case, Dharma training or the 3 trainings, is meant. First, there is moral training, that of the restraint of the body and speech; second, there is mental training, that of the disciplining of the mind so that it becomes calm and clear, and helpful in the cultivation of insight; and thirdly, wisdom training, that is, seeing into the true nature of things.<sup>20</sup>

This is, in brief, the gradual path. In other words, spiritual training is a progressive effort in the identifying of our negative tendencies, the cultivating of wholesome qualities, and the purifying of the mind (Dh 183). The progressive nature of such a training is illustrated in the parable of the elephant training [2.1.2.3].

2.1.2.2 THE HILL VIEW. The novice Acira,vata is unable to convince prince Jaya,sena with his Dharma teaching [§5]. When he consults the Buddha about the situation [§6], he explains that the Dharma training is about renunciation—the giving up of attachment to sensual pleasures—but Jaya,sena is caught up with sensual pleasures. So he is unable to see the Dharma.

<sup>13</sup> See eg Piya Tan, Reflection “Be Buddhist, not a Buddhist” (R342), 2014: [Download](#).

<sup>14</sup> On the 3 characteristics, see *Atam,mayātā*, SD 19.13 (1); *Dhamma Niyāma S* (A 3.134), SD 26.8.

<sup>15</sup> See (*Anicca*) *Cakkhu S* (S 25.1), SD 16.7.

<sup>16</sup> On the once-returner, see SD 15.10a (1.3).

<sup>17</sup> See *Nīvaraṇa*, SD 32.1.

<sup>18</sup> On the attaining of non-return or of arhathood, see SD 45.18 (2.5).

<sup>19</sup> §8 compares 2 tamed elephants, 2 tamed horses, and 2 tamed oxen with 2 untamed elephants, 2 untamed horses, and 2 untamed oxen. The Chin version, MĀ 198 @ T1.757b13, instead mentions 4 tamable beings, ie, an elephant, a horse, an ox, and a man. Out of these four, it then contrasts 2 untamed beings with 2 tamed beings. A similar pattern is found in MĀ 212 @ T1.794a29, which also has men in addition to the elephants, horses, and oxen mentioned in M 90/2:129,4. See Analayo 2011:522 n388.

<sup>20</sup> On the 3 trainings, see *Sīla samādhi paññā*, SD 21.6.

**The parable of the hill view** [§9] illustrates how the person at the foot of the hill is unable to see the panorama from the hill-top. Only after his friend comes down from the hill-top and takes him up the hill, is he able to see the panorama on the other side of the hill. A person on one side of a hill is unable to see the other side. He has to go up to the hill-top and look at the other side for himself. This illustrates a person (such as prince Jaya,sena) who is still caught up with sense-pleasures and is, as such, unable to see beyond his senses. He needs to rise above the limits of his senses, and to taste the liberating bliss of the dhyanas.

Furthermore, the hill in the parable, like the great ocean [2.1.1], illustrates the progressive growth or gradual way of Dharma training. Here, the Buddha is instructing Acira,vata on how he should instruct Jaya,sena, making use of the gradual instruction (*ānupubbī,kathā*).<sup>21</sup> Here, Acira,vata should begin with basic teachings suitable for Jaya,sena's mentality, that is, on moral virtue (teachings on generosity, moral virtue, the heavens, the dangers of sensual pleasures and the advantages of renunciation). When he rejoices in the teaching, so that his mind is ready, only then he should be taught the deeper teachings concerning the mind and wisdom.

2.1.2.3 THE ELEPHANT TRAINING. This parable [§12] compares the trapping and domesticization of a wild elephant to the monasticization of a renunciant.<sup>22</sup> We can easily relate the stages of elephant training to the training of a monastic, thus:

#### **The elephant's training**

- (1) The forester mounts the royal elephant, enters the elephant forest. [§12.1]
- (2) Upon seeing the forest elephant, he binds him by the neck to the royal elephant.
- (3) The royal elephant leads the wild elephant out into the open. [§12.2]
- (4) The tamer brings him near a village, so that he feels natural being amongst the humans. [§12.4]
- (5) The tamer sinks a post into the ground, and ties the elephant to it. [§12.5]
- (6) The tamer addresses the elephant with pleasant words. [§12.6]

#### **The progress of true disciple**

- (1) The forester is the Buddha while the royal elephant is the Dharma; the forest is the world at large. The forester's entering the forest is the Buddha's arising in the world for our benefit.<sup>23</sup>
- (2) The binding here is the gradual teaching that inspires one who hears the Dharma, and aspires to renounce.
- (3) The aspirant renounces the world, leaving behind the "narrowness" of household life.<sup>24</sup>
- (4) The renunciant is trained and learns to give up worldly thinking and habits<sup>25</sup> by understanding and keeping to Pātimokkha.<sup>26</sup>
- (5) The ground here is faith in the Buddha, the post is faith in the true Dharma, and the rope in faith in the noble sangha.
- (6) The Buddha and arhats teach the true Dharma to the renunciant (the elephant) who listens attentively.

<sup>21</sup> On *ānupubbī,kathā*, see SD 21.6 esp (1) & SD 46.1 (4.1).

<sup>22</sup> A minor difference is that in §12, the king gives detailed instructions to the elephant forester on how he should catch a wild elephant and the tamer on how to tame the elephant. However, in MĀ 198 @ T1.757c14+20, the king merely tells the elephant tamer to catch an elephant and to tame it, without giving any details of how it should be done. For another elephant-training parable, see (**Rāja**) **Nāga S** (A 4.114), SD 46.8. For Arrian's description of the ancient Indian method of catching wild elephants, see McCrindle 1877: 213-216.

<sup>23</sup> Both the Sutta and its Chinese parallel agree in parallel between the disciple aspiring to go forth to when the forest elephant is caught and brought out of the forest into the open. See eg (**Ānanda**) **Subha S** (D 10,1.7) n, SD 40a.13: the renunciant pericope.

<sup>24</sup> See esp **Sambādh'okāsa S** (A 6.26), SD 15.6; also **Mahā Taṇhā,saṅkhaya S** (M 38,32.1), SD 7.10; (**Gaha,-pati**) **Potaliya S** (M 54,25), SD 43.8: giving up of all business.

<sup>25</sup> See the 4 parables in **Cātuma S** (M 67,16-19), SD 34.7; (**Paribbājaka**) **Māgandiya S** (M 75,9-12), SD 31.5; also **Kakacūpama S** (M 21,6.1), SD 38.1.

<sup>26</sup> See eg **Sāmañña,phala S** (D 2,42), SD 8.10.

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| <p>(7) The elephant is given grass, fodder and water. (Now this royal elephant will live!) [§12.7]</p> <p>(8) The elephant is given various instructions, “Take it up, sir! Put it down, sir!” [§12.8] “Go forward, sir! Go backwards, sir!” [§12.9]. “Stand up, sir! Sit down, sir!” [§12.10].</p> <p>(9) The elephant is taught the “imperturbable” posture, where he remains stationary and composed despite being taunted in various ways [§12.11], such as weapons and loud noises. [§12.12]</p> <p>(10) The elephant is free from deceitfulness and faults, and is now worthy of the king, and reckoned as a royal emblem. [§12.14]</p> | <p>(7) The renunciant understands the nature of the 4 supports and right livelihood,<sup>27</sup> and lives mindfully without exploiting or corrupting the laity.<sup>28</sup></p> <p>(8) The renunciant is taught practical aspects of the Dharma as a preparation for <u>meditation</u>. He listens attentively, and practises them with <u>diligence</u>. In due course goes into solitary practice,<sup>29</sup> attaining the form dhyanas.<sup>30</sup></p> <p>(9) Here “imperturbable” (<i>āneñja</i>) [§12.11] has 2 important senses: the first is that the renunciant is morally rooted and unshakable;<sup>31</sup> secondly, he is a meditator who is able to attain the 4 formless dhyanas.<sup>32</sup> This is a preparation for arhathood.</p> <p>(10) This refers to the renunciant’s attainment of arhathood or full liberation.</p> |
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## 2.2 SUTTA SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

### 2.2.1 Acira,vata and Jaya,sena

2.2.1.1 The Sutta opens with prince Jaya,sena approaching the novice Acira,vata, dwelling in the forest, about how diligence can bring about mental oneness [§§1-4], but Jaya,sena neither understands nor accepts Aciravata’s teaching [§§5-6.1]. On this account, Aciravata reports the matter to the Buddha [§6.2-6.4].<sup>33</sup>

The Buddha replies that it is impossible for someone like prince Jayasena, living a life of sensual indulgence, to be able to understand or accept what can only be realized through giving up craving and clinging to sensual pleasures [§7]. Using a parable, the Buddha contrasts tamed pairs of animals with their untamed counterparts [§8].<sup>34</sup> The second parable illustrating the same point, shows a man who brings his friend to the hill-top to show him the panorama of the other side of the hill, which the friend has doubted before that<sup>35</sup> [§§9-10].

2.2.1.2 The Buddha tells Acira,vata that if he had used these two parables [§§8-10] in his teaching, Jaya,sena would have responded more positively [2.1.2]. When Acira,vata pleads ignorance of these parable, the Buddha goes on to elaborate on the parable of elephant training [§12]. Then follows the well known “fruits of recluseship” (*sāmañña,phala*) pericope [§§13-30], comprising the 3 trainings [2.1.2.1],

<sup>27</sup> See **Right livelihood**, SD 37.8 esp (4.3.3).

<sup>28</sup> See the moon parable in **Candûpama S** (S 16.3,15-16/2:199), SD 38.2.

<sup>29</sup> See **Paviveka S** (A 3.92), SD 44.2.

<sup>30</sup> On the form dhyanas, see **Dhyana**, SD 8.4.

<sup>31</sup> On the imperturbable (*āneñja*), see SD 11.4 (3.1).

<sup>32</sup> On the formless attainments (*arûpa,samāpatti*), see **Paṭhama Jhāna Pañha S** (S 40.1) @ SD 24.11 (5).

<sup>33</sup> Both the Pali and the Chinese Āgama version agree on this narrative.

<sup>34</sup> M 125/3:130,2 contrasts 2 tamed elephants, 2 tamed horses, and 2 tamed oxen with 2 untamed elephants, 2 untamed horses, and 2 untamed oxen. MĀ 198 @ T1.757b13 instead mentions 4 tamable beings, ie, an elephant, a horse, an ox, and a man. Out of these four, it then contrasts 2 untamed beings with 2 tamed beings. A similar pattern is found in MĀ 212 @ T1.794a29, which also has men in addition to the elephants, horses, and oxen mentioned in M 90/2:129,4. See Analayo 2011:522 n388.

<sup>35</sup> A minor difference between the two versions is that, in M 125/3:131,19, the Buddha, in his parable, says that the mass of ignorance overwhelming prince Jayasena is even greater than the mountain, a remark not found in MĀ 198.



that is, moral training [§§13-19] mental training [§§20-26], wisdom training [§§27-29], and arhathood [§30].<sup>36</sup>

### 2.2.2 Satipatthana, thought and the gradual path

2.2.2.1 The Madhyama Āgama version tends to truncate the fruits of recluseship pericope [§§13-29], mentioning only the 4 satipatthanas, omitting the other practices of the gradual paths.<sup>37</sup> In the sutta quote of the Samatha,deva's commentary (in the Tibetan version), however, the passage on the removal of the 5 hindrances precedes the passage on the 4 satipatthanas [§23].<sup>38</sup>

2.2.2.2 **Analayo** notes that from the perspective of textual transmission, it would be easier to imagine that a reference to the arising of a Tathagata [§13] caused the reciters to supplement a full account of the gradual path of practice, detailing the undertaking of sense-restraint, moderation with food, wakefulness, etc, than to assume that considerable parts of an account of the gradual path have been lost. On the hypothesis that the other practices of the gradual path may have been added to an originally briefer account during the transmission of the Pali version, it would be quite understandable how satipatthana was consequently displaced from its original location to stand after the removal of the 5 hindrances, thereby placed in a position that would better fit the attaining of the dhyanas. (2011:718 f)

2.2.2.3 The Madhyama Āgama, in its parallel to §24, instructs us to avoid thoughts connected with sensuality when contemplating the body and to avoid thoughts that are “against the Dharma” or “not right” (*adharma*), when contemplating dharma [realities as states of mind].<sup>39</sup> Unfortunately, the instructions for contemplation of feelings and dharma are only abbreviated in the Chinese version, so that in these two cases we can only conjecture what type of thoughts are better avoided.

2.2.2.4 The need to avoid sensual thoughts would fit the context in the Madhyama Āgama version well, where satipatthana comes right after the disciple has established a basis of moral purity. Thus, from the perspective of the Madhyama Āgama account, the present stage would be a further development of satipatthana contemplation with particular emphasis given to overcoming any trace of sensuality. Such practice is then said to have “well-established” (*supatitthita*) satipatthana to such an extent that sensual thoughts no longer arise.<sup>40</sup>

2.2.2.5 The instruction to avoid sensual thoughts [§24] is clearly out of place, as here satipatthana has arisen *after* the overcoming of the 5 hindrances, including the first hindrance of sensual desire. For satipatthana to arise at this point, the instruction to avoid any type of thought in connection with the satipatthana-object would fit the context better, which leads to a level of thought-free mindfulness that can serve as a basis for the development of dhyanas.<sup>41</sup>

“Thought” (*vitakka*) is clearly the keyword of §24, which is very significant for a better understanding of meditation, both in theory and in practice. The Chinese parallel here (MĀ 198 @ T1.758b15) also states that satipatthana practice should be done free from thinking.

Here, the translation adopts the PTS and the Siamese readings, thus: “Do not think a thought regarding the (body | feeling | the mind | dharma)” (*mā ca kāy'upasaṃhitam...mā vedan'upasaṃhitam vitakkaṃ...mā citt'upasaṃhitam vitakkaṃ...mā dhamm'upasaṃhitam vitakkaṃ vitakkesi*). The Sanskrit work, *Pañca, vimśati, sāhaśrikā Prajñā, pāramitā* preserves a similar instruction regarding the body contemplation: *na ca kaya, sahaḡatan vitarkan vitarkayati* (Dutt 1934:204,2). The *Pratyutpanna, buddha, saṃmukha, vasthita,*

<sup>36</sup> On the “fruits of recluseship” (*sāmañña, phala*), see **Sāmañña, phala S** (D 2,39-100), SD 8.10; also SD 21.6 (2).

<sup>37</sup> See Analayo 2011:719 & Table 13.4.

<sup>38</sup> D (4094) mngon pa, nyu 40b6 or Q (5595) thu 79a8. According to M 10/1:60,11 (or D 22/2:300,10) and MĀ 98 @ T1.584a24, awareness of the presence of the 5 hindrances is a task that forms part of *satipaṭṭhāna*, so that *satipaṭṭhāna* practice would not necessarily require the previous removal of the 5 hindrances; cf also A 9.64/4:458,5, which presents *satipaṭṭhāna* as the tool for overcoming the 5 hindrances. Nevertheless, for advanced stages of *satipaṭṭhāna* practice, the removal of the 5 hindrances would be required.

<sup>39</sup> MĀ 198 @ T1.758b15: 莫念欲相應念, 乃至觀覺, 心法如法, 莫念非法相應念. This instruction recurs in MĀ 144 @ T1.652b7, parallel to M 107, see Analayo 2011:620 n174. An extract from the present discussion is found in Analayo 2005:103f.

<sup>40</sup> See eg S 22.80/3:93,21 and its parallel SĀ 272 @ T2.72a24.

<sup>41</sup> See **Samatha and vipassanā**, SD 41.1 (6.3.6): Two aspects of satipatthana.

samādhi Sūtra, too, records the instruction not to think any thoughts connected with any of the 4 *smṛtyū-pasthānā*.<sup>42</sup> In fact, either reading *kāmūpasamhitam* (“connected with sensuality,” Be Ce) or *kāmūpasamhitam* (“connected with the body,” Ee Se) is acceptable here, as the import here is that no “thinking,” but only “observing [contemplating]” (*anupassanā*), should occur in any of the 4 satipatthanas. When satipatthana (focus of mindfulness) is fully established, all thoughts cease.<sup>43</sup>

### 3 Is the first dhyana omitted from the Sutta?

**3.1** Both the Danta,bhūmi Sutta and its Chinese version, after presenting the 4 satipatthanas and not letting thought disrupt any of them [§24], continue with the attaining of the form dhyanas [§25]. The Chinese version next describes the first dhyana,<sup>44</sup> but the Danta,bhūmi Sutta, omitting this, goes directly into the second dhyana.<sup>45</sup>

**3.2** Concerning this apparent omission, notes Analayo, it strikes an unfamiliar note when the Danta,bhūmi Sutta presents a progression of practice that leads from satipatthana meditation directly to the second dhyana, *without first attaining the first dhyana*. Although satipatthana can serve as a foundation for the development of the dhyanas,<sup>46</sup> in itself, it does not constitute a form of dhyana practice. Perhaps, Analayo thinks, the occurrence of the word *vitakka* in the passage on satipatthana without thought has led to a lapse on the part of the reciter(s) of the Sutta, who continued straight away with the calming of *vitakka* (*vitakka,vicārānaṃ vūpasama*), mentioned at the outset of the second dhyana formula, thereby unintentionally dropping the first dhyana in between.<sup>47</sup>

**3.3** On the other hand, by the same argument, we can justly surmise that the first dhyana is already implicitly stated in §25, which deals at length with the transcending of thought. This is a very important passage for those practitioners familiar with dhyana, or even meditation in general. The overcoming of all thought (*vitakka*) is tantamount of the first dhyana itself.<sup>48</sup> As such, it would be redundant to mention the first dhyana. In this sense, the Danta,bhūmi Sutta is unique in presenting us this valuable insight into the nature of dhyana meditation.<sup>49</sup>

## 4 Imperturbability

### 4.1 WORD COMMENTARY

#### 4.1.1 Meaning of “imperturbability”

4.1.1.1 The climax of the elephant taming parable is when it is able to master the level of “imperturbability” (*ānejjā,kāraṇa*), that is, to remain totally unmoving and unmoved [§12.11] by either of two kinds of assault, thus:

The royal elephant endures being hit by spears, by swords, by arrows, by enemies from the other side; and the sounds and din of the bheri [conical drum], cymbals, conch-shells, and the dindima [small drum].

[§12.13]

<sup>42</sup> Harrison 1978:130,13, also 155,22), tr in Harrison 1990:125+144

<sup>43</sup> See esp **Poṭṭhapāda S** (D 9) on the 1<sup>st</sup> dhyana: “if he has any previous sense-desires, it disappears” (D 9, 10.3), SD 7.14; also **Piṇḍolya S** (S 22.80,20/3:93,21), SD 28.9a & its Chin parallel SĀ 272/T272a24. See Analayo 2006:12-13+n32 & 2011:719 + n167). Cf M:NB 1338 n1177 for pref of reading *kāmū*-. See also **Bhikkhuṇī Vāsaka S** (S 47.10), which apparently shows a similar split between satipatthana before and after samadhi (S 47.10/5:-155,31-157,20), SD 24.2. See **The Buddha discovered dhyana**, SD 33.1b (6.2.2): Dhyana is beyond words and thoughts. See §24 below (text + n).

<sup>44</sup> MĀ 198 @ T1.758b25. See Analayo 2011:719 Table 13.4.

<sup>45</sup> M 125/3:136,26. All MSS—Be 3:175,25, Ce 3:316,20, Ee 3:136,30, Se 3:269,20—mention the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> dhyanas (pace Analayo 2011:721 n172).

<sup>46</sup> The foundational role of *satipatthāna* for deeper levels of concentration can be seen, eg in D 18/2:216,12, S 52.6/5:299,19, and S 52.11-24/5:303-305.

<sup>47</sup> See Analayo 2011:721. For a similar case, see 2011:140; also 2012d.

<sup>48</sup> See esp **Poṭṭhapāda S** (D 9) on the 1<sup>st</sup> dhyana (D 9,10.3), SD 7.14.

<sup>49</sup> See **Samatha and Vipassanā**, SD 41.1 (6.3.6).

This expression *ānejja, kāraṇa* is found in the same context in at least two Jātaka stories, that is, **the Dubbala, kaṭṭha Jātaka** (J 105) and **the Bhisā Jātaka** (J 488). In J 105, it is said,

And in those days the king put his state elephant in the elephant-trainers' hands to be broken in to stand firm.

*Tasmim kāle bāraṇī, rājā attano maṅgala, hatthim ānañja, kāraṇam sikkhāpetum hattha, cariyānam adāsi.*  
(J 1:415, R Chalmers' translation, 1895)

In J 488, the narrator speaks of an elephant that is unable to be broken in, as described above. It is said:

to have been unable bear the pain of being imperturbable, breaking from the stake, it fled.  
*ānañja, kāraṇam kāriyamāno dukkham adhivāsetum asakkanto ālānam bhinditvā palāyitvā.*  
(J 4:308)

4.1.1.2 This surely cannot be “pretending to be dead” (as suggested by PED), but either (1) a fearless and unflinching “standing of one's ground” in battle or in the face of challenges, or (2) a strategic posture the elephant takes during battle, as described by R Morris in the *Journal of the Pali text Society*: “The *ānañja-kamma* [sic] seems to have been (1) a kind of bending of knees as a mark of obsequence [sic], or respect (J 4:49); (2) a kind of squatting down, so as not to be seen.” (JPTS 1886:155).

From all this, we might surmise that *ānejja, kāraṇa* means that the royal elephant is fearlessly unflinching in standing its ground in battle or adversity, and that it is capable of going down on its knees and remaining unmoving so when commanded or as a strategic manoeuvre. In short, the royal elephant is fearless, agile, disciplined and intelligent.

**4.1.2 Figurative sense.** According to the Chinese version of the Danta, bhūmi Sutta, the elephant's training in imperturbability refers to an attainer of the 4 dhyana's gaining a level of mental imperturbability.<sup>50</sup> The Sutta itself, however, does not relate the elephant's training to this stage of the gradual path, even though it has explicitly presented the stage of the elephant's training in “imperturbability,” during which, according to the description given in both versions, the elephant has to remain unmoved even in a situation that resembles an actual attack or battle [§12.11], or any kind of turmoil [§12.12]

**4.2** The Chinese version explains that the meditator's imperturbability also covers external situations, such as being able to bear hunger and thirst, mosquitoes and gadflies, the inclemencies of the weather, unpleasant words, and disease,<sup>51</sup> just as the elephant, on reaching imperturbability, was able to endure the blows and noise of a battle situation. The Danta, bhūmi Sutta, however, later on, does mention the practitioner's endurance [§30], but without relating it to the elephant's endurance.

**4.3** The Chinese parallel concludes by stating that a practitioner, who has such an endurance has reached an excellent level of taming, and become a supreme field of merit, comparable to an elephant who, by reaching an excellent level of taming, becomes worthy of personal service to a king.

**4.4** The Danta, bhūmi Sutta's account of the elephant's training similarly says that after mastering the stage of imperturbability, the elephant becomes worthy serving the king.<sup>52</sup> Otherwise, the Sutta continues differently, since before turning to the practitioner's ability to bear up with various vicissitudes, it describes how the practitioner attains the 3 higher knowledges.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>50</sup> MĀ 198 @ T1.758b29.

<sup>51</sup> MĀ 198 @ T1.758c8 differs from the Pali version in mentioning the possibility that the practitioner may be attacked with sticks, 捶杖 *chuí zhàng*.

<sup>52</sup> M 125/3:133,28: *rājāraho rāja, bhoggo*.

<sup>53</sup> Concerning this difference, it is rather unusual that MĀ 198 would praise the practitioner's excellent level of taming without relating it to the cultivation of liberating wisdom. From this perspective, our Sutta better reflects the practitioner's training leading to awakening. Here, however, both versions deal with how a practitioner, through diligence, gains mental oneness. From this perspective, it would make sense to only give an account of the practitioner's training up to the fourth dhyana, at which point mental oneness is fully accomplished. The presentation in MĀ 198 is supported by (**Catukka**) **Nāga S** (A 4.114/2:117,31 @ SD 51.12) and (**Pañcaka**) **Sota S** (A 5.140/3:-163,28 @ SD 51.13), which compare qualities of a practitioner to those of a trained elephant. These two suttas de-



## 5 Arhathood

**5.1** Towards the end, both the Danta,bhūmi Sutta and its Chinese parallel agree by comparing a novice monk, a middling monk or an elder monk, who passes away untamed, to a young, a middle-aged, and an old elephant, respectively, who passes away untamed. The same imagery is then used for the corresponding cases of tamed monks or elephants<sup>54</sup> [§31].

**5.2** However, both versions differ at the very end in terms of the attainment of the practitioner. While the Danta,bhūmi Sutta speaks of one whose influxes have been destroyed, that is, the arhat,<sup>55</sup> [§32], the Chinese version simply speaks of a well trained practitioner.<sup>56</sup>

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## The Discourse on the Taming Grounds

M 125

**1** Thus have I heard.

At one times, the Blessed One was residing in the squirrels' feeding ground, in the Bamboo Grove, outside Rāja,gaha.

### Prince Jaya,sena meets novice Acira,vata

**2** Now at that time, the novice<sup>57</sup> Acira,vata was dwelling in a forest cell.<sup>58</sup>

**2.2** Then, prince Jaya,sena,<sup>59</sup> while walking about on a stroll,<sup>60</sup> approached the novice Acira,vata, and exchanged greetings with him. When this courteous and friendly exchange was concluded, prince Jaya,sena sat down at one side.

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scribe how a practitioner overcomes unwholesome thoughts and cultivates the ability to bear patiently the inclemencies of the weather, etc, which they compare to an elephant's ability to bear patiently a battle situation. The two suttas then compare a disciple who swiftly approaches liberation to the elephant's ability to approach swiftly any place that the trainer wants it to go. From the perspective of these two suttas, the stages of an elephant taming described in Danta,bhūmi S and its Chin parallel only illustrate the stages that lead up to only the point when the practitioner is *ready* for liberation, but not up to his *actual* awakening. The actual awakening, judging from the two suttas, would correspond to the elephant swiftly going to whatever place he is being told to go, something not mentioned in the description of the elephant's training in Danta,bhūmi S (M 125) or its Chin version (MĀ 198). From the perspective of transmission, **Analayo** thinks, it could more easily be imagined that a reciter supplied the "missing" attainment of the 3 higher knowledges to an account of the gradual path, than to assume that the higher knowledges were lost. Since Danta,bhūmi S has early expanded along the lines of a full account of the gradual path, it would not be surprising if the same should have happened here, too. (Analayo 2011:722 & Table 13.4)

<sup>54</sup> Wayman 1982:282 notes that the image of passing away untamed or tamed recurs in a listing of 6 types of death in Yogācāra,bhūmi: 不調伏死, 調伏死 (T1579 @ T30.76c14).

<sup>55</sup> M 125/3:137,24: *thero...majjhimo...navo...bhikkhu khiṇ'āsavo*.

<sup>56</sup> MĀ 198 @ T1.759a6: 少. 中. 老聖弟子善調御 *shào, zhōng, lǎo shèng dìzǐ shàn tiáo yù*.

<sup>57</sup> *Samaṇ'uddesa*: see (1.2.2) n.

<sup>58</sup> *Tena kho pana samayena aciravato samaṇuddeso araṇṇakuṭikāyaṃ viharati*. Comy says that the forest cell is in a secluded part of the Bamboo Grove for the use of monks who wanted to practise striving (*padhāna*) (MA 4:97).

<sup>59</sup> A son of Bimbi,sāra, king of Magadha.

<sup>60</sup> *Jaṅghā, vihāraṃ anucaṅkamāno anuvicaramāno*, lit "wandering to and fro on foot, walking up and down." Stock phrase at D 1:235; M 1:108, 227, 2:118, 3:128; A 1:136, 138, 3:76; Sn p105, p115. Or, in the case of meditators, "walking about to stretch his legs." Comy on **Meghiya S** (A 9.3 = U 31) explains *jaṅghā, vihāra* as stretching of one's legs after a long sitting in meditation (UA 217), or of the Buddha himself, ie, walking about for the sake of easing up the legs' tightness (*jaṅghā, kilamatha, vinodan'atthaṃ jaṅghā, cāraṃ*, MA 2:151); or, going for a stroll,

2.3 Sitting thus as one side, prince Jaya,sena said this to the novice Acira,vata:

“This I have heard, master Aggī,vessana,<sup>61</sup> that here a monk who dwells diligent, ardent and resolute<sup>62</sup> would achieve oneness of mind.”<sup>63</sup>

2.4 “That is so, my prince! That is so, my prince! Here, a monk who dwells diligent, exertive and resolute would achieve oneness of mind.”

### Aciravata reluctantly teaches the Dharma

3 “It would be good, master Aggī,vessana, if you were to teach me the Dharma as you have heard it, as you have mastered it.”

3.2 “I’m unable, my prince, to teach you the Dharma as I’ve heard it, as I’ve mastered it. If I, my prince, were to teach you the Dharma as I’ve heard it, as I’ve mastered it, you would not be able to understand its meaning.<sup>64</sup> It would tire me, it would vex me.”<sup>65</sup> [129]

4 “Teach me, master Aggī,vessana, the Dharma as you have heard it, as you have mastered it. Perhaps, I, master Aggī,vessana, may understand it!”

4.2 Then, I shall teach you the Dharma as I’ve heard it, as I’ve mastered it. If you can understand the meaning of my word, that will be good.

But if you, my prince, do not understand the Dharma as I’ve heard it, as I’ve mastered it, then we’ll leave it at that,<sup>66</sup> and you will question me no further.”<sup>67</sup>

4.3 “Teach me, master Aggī,vessana, the Dharma as you have heard it, as you have mastered it. If I, master Aggī,vessana, understand the meaning of what is spoken by master Aggī,vessana, that will be

“for the sake of seeing parks, woods, mountains,” as in the case of Daṇḍa,pānī (MA 2:73) in **Madhu,piṇḍika S** (M 18,3), SD 6.14; or for sight-seeing, “For the sake of seeing parks, woods, mountains” (MA 2:73). This is stock: D 1:235; M 1:108, 2:118, 2:118; Sn p105. Cf Miln 22; J 2:240, 272. See **Tevijja S** (D 13,3/1:234) @ D:RD 1:301n. See MA 2:270 (Assaji, Sāriputta’s teacher); PvA 73. For a detailed treatment on the phrase, see SnA 447 f & K R Norman, *Group of Discourses II*, 1992: 63.

<sup>61</sup> Aggī,vessana: see (1.2.3).

<sup>62</sup> A longer version of this shorthand phrase, “diligent, exertive and resolute” (*appamatto ātāpī pahitatto*) is (“having put away covetousness and displeasure in the world, he dwells exertive, fully aware, mindful...” (*ātāpī sampajāno satimā, vineyya loke abhijjhā,domanassam*)). See **Satipaṭṭhāna S** (M 10,3 nn) @ SD 13.3.

<sup>63</sup> *Sutam m’etaṃ bho aggivessana, idha bhikkhu appamatto ātāpī pahitatto viharanto phuseyya cittassa ekaggatan’ti*. Comy says that this refers to the form dhyanas and formless attainments (MA 4:197). The phrase *appamatto ātāpī pahitatto viharanto*, “dwelling diligent, exertive and resolute” is stock, and here refers to general practice along with these refs [“+arhathood” = ending with arhathood pericope]: **M 92,27/2:146** = Sn 3.7/p111 f, **124,37/3:128×2, 129; S 4.22/1:119×2, 120×2, 4.23/1:120×2, 121×2, 18.1/2:244, 22.35/3:35 (+arhathood), 22.36/3:36, 22.63/3:73, 22.-159/3:187, 23.23/3:198, 23.46/3:200, 35.64/4:37 (+arhathood), 35.76/4:48, 35.86/4:54, 35.88/4:60, 35.89/4:63 (+arhathood), 35.95/4:72 (+arhathood), 47.3/5:143 (+arhathood), 47.15/5:165 (+arhathood); A 4.257/2:248 (+arhathood); Nm 2:455; Nc:Be 211, 230. More commonly, the phrase is part of the famous arhathood pericope that often closes a sutta [“↓practice” = preceded by practice formula]: **D 8/1:177, 9/1:202, 16/2: 153, 30/3:76; M 7,22/1:40, 57,15/1:-392, 73,26/1:496, 75,28/1:513, 82,14/2:61, 86,16/2:103, 124,39/3:127, 128,19+ 24+28+29/3:158, 160, 161 ×2, 145,-1/3:267; S 6.2/1:140, 7.1/1:161, 7.2/1:163, 7.10/1:171, 12.17/2:22, 18.1/2:244, 22.35/3:36 (↓practice), 22.63/3:74 (+arhathood), 35.64/4:38 (↓practice), 35.89/4:64 (↓practice); 35.95/4:76 (↓practice), 35.162/4:145 (↓practice), 41.9/-4:302, 47.3/5:144 (↓practice), 47.15/5:166 (↓practice), 47.1647.46/5:166×2, 47.46/5:187, 188, 47.47/5:188; A 3.130/-1:282; 4.257/2:249; 5.56/3:70, 5.180/3:217, 6.55/3:376, 6.60/3:399; 7.83/4:143 (with *nibbidā* formula); 8.30/4:235, 8.63/4:299, 301, 8.64/4:302×2, 303×2, 304, U 3.2/23; Sn 1.4/p16, 3.7/p11 f = M 92,27; Vinaya: Mv 5.1.18 @ 1:183, Cv 11.1.15 @ 2:292; the attaining of streamwinning: A 10.46/5:84, 85×4, 86.****

<sup>64</sup> *Ahaṃ carahi* [Ce Ee; Se *ahañ carahi*; Be *ahañ ca hi*] *te rāja,kumāra, yathā,sutam yathā,pariyattam dhammam deseyyam, tvañca me bhāsitaṃ attham na ājāneyyāsi*.

<sup>65</sup> Acira,vata is echoing the newly awakened Buddha’s words when he first hesitates whether to teach the Dharma (V 1:5,4-5): see SD 12.1 (2.3.1).

<sup>66</sup> Comy: “You must remain in your own state of not knowing” (*attano ajānana,kotṭhāse yeva tiṭṭheyyāsīti*, MA 3:197).

<sup>67</sup> *No ce me tvañ bhāsitaṃ attham ājāneyyāsi, yathā sake tiṭṭheyyāsi na mañ tattha uttarim paṭipuccheyyāsīti*.

good. If I do not understand what has been spoken by master Aggī,veśṣana, then we will leave it at that, and I will question you no further.

### Jayasena is dissatisfied with Aciravata's teaching

5 The novice Acira,vata then taught the Dharma as he has heard it, as he has mastered it, to prince Jaya,sena.

5.2 When this was said, prince Jaya,senas said this to the novice Acira,vata,

“That is impossible, master Aggī,veśṣana, there is no way it can be, where a monk who dwells diligent, ardent and resolute would achieve oneness of mind!”<sup>68</sup>

6 Then, prince Jaya,sena, having declared that it is impossible, that there is no way it can be, rose from his seat and departed.

### Aciravata approaches the Buddha

6.2 Then, not long after prince Jaya,sena had left, the novice Acira,vata approached the Blessed One, saluted him and sat down as one side.

6.3 Seated thus at one side, he recounted to the Blessed One the whole conversation that he had with prince Jaya,sena.

6.4 When this was said, the Blessed One said this to the novice Acira,vata,

7 “How is it ever possible here,<sup>69</sup> Aggī,veśṣana, that what

should be known through renunciation,

*nekkhammena ñātabbam*

seen through renunciation,

*nekkhammena daṭṭhabbam*

attained through renunciation,

*nekkhammena pattabbam*

realized through renunciation—

*nekkhammena sacchikātabbam*

that this would ever be known, seen, attained, realized<sup>70</sup> by prince Jaya,sena, who lives enjoying sensual pleasures, being consumed with sensual thoughts, burning with the fever of sensual pleasures, [130] being caught up with seeking sensual pleasures—this is impossible!

### Parable of the two tamable animals

8 Suppose there were two tamable elephants or tamable horses or tamable oxen that were well tamed and well disciplined, and two tamable elephants or tamable horses or tamable oxen that were untamed and undisciplined.

8.2 What do you think, Aggī,veśṣana? Would the two tamable elephants or tamable horses or tamable oxen that were well tamed and well disciplined, being tamed, assume the nature of the tamed? Would they attain to the level of the tamed?”<sup>71</sup>

“Yes, bhante.”

8.3 “But would the two tamable elephants or tamable horses or tamable oxen that were untamed and undisciplined assume the nature of the tamed? Would they attain to the level of the tamed, like the two tamable elephants or tamable horses or tamable oxen that were well tamed and well disciplined?”

“No, bhante.”

8.4 “Even so, Aggī,veśṣana, that what should be known through renunciation,

<sup>68</sup> *Aṭṭhānam-etam bho aggivessana anavakāso, yaṃ bhikkhu appamatto ātāpī pahitatto viharanto phuseyya citta-sa ekaggatan'ti.* Cf §§2.3+2.4.

<sup>69</sup> *Tam kut'ettha...labbhā*, lit “How could one obtain that here?” “Here” (*ettha*) means “in this training” or “in this Dharma-Vinaya.”

<sup>70</sup> *Ñassati vā dakkhiti vā sacchī vā karissatī'ti.* Horner suggests emending this reading to *dakkhati vā pāpunissati vā sacchikarissati vā*, “thus balancing the modes by which renunciation can be apprehended, given in the same sentence” (M:H 3:176 n4). This line (along with the form *sacchi vā karissati*, which seems to be a wordplay on *sacchi-karissati*, “he realizes”) recurs in (**Brahma,vihāra**) **Subha S** (M 99/2:201,4), SD 38.6.

<sup>71</sup> This parable recurs in **Kaṇṇaka-ṭṭhala S** (M 90,11), SD 10.8.

seen through renunciation,  
 attained through renunciation,  
 realized through renunciation—

that this would ever be known, seen, attained, realized by prince Jaya,sena, who lives enjoying sensual pleasures, being consumed with sensual thoughts, burning with the fever of sensual pleasures, being caught up with seeking sensual pleasures—this is impossible!<sup>72</sup>

### The parable of the hill view

9 Suppose, Aggi,vessana, there were a great hill [cliff] not far from a village or a market town, and two friends from that village or market town were to depart from it and approach the hill hand in hand.<sup>73</sup>

9.2 On reaching it, one friend were to remain at the foot of the hill, while the other would climb to the top of the hill.

9.3 Then, the friend at the foot of the hill would say to the friend at the top of the hill, thus:

‘Well, my friend [my dear], what do you see as you stand on the hill-top?’

9.4 He would reply thus,

‘Standing on the hill-top, my friend, I see delightful parks, delightful forests, delightful terrains [grounds], delightful lotus lakes.’

9.5 He (the other friend) would say thus:

‘That is impossible, [131] my friend, there is no way that you, standing on the hill-top, can see delightful parks, delightful forests, delightful terrains, delightful lotus lakes!’

9.6 Then the friend standing on the hill-top, comes down to the foot of the hill, and taking his friend by the arm, brought him up to the hill-top.

After giving him a moment to catch his breath, he spoke thus to him,

‘Now, my friend, standing on the hill-top, what do you see?’

9.7 His friend would reply thus,

‘Standing on this hill-top, my friend, I too see delightful parks, delightful forests, delightful terrains, delightful lotus lakes!’

9.8 He (the other friend) would say thus,

‘Only just now, my friend, we know you to have said to us thus, “*That is impossible, my friend, there is no way that you, standing on the hill-top, can see delightful parks, delightful forests, delightful terrains, delightful lotus lakes!*”’

But now we know you saying, “*Standing on this hill-top, my friend, I too see delightful parks, delightful forests, delightful terrains, delightful lotus lakes!*”’

He (the other friend) would reply, “That’s because, my friend, I was obstructed by this high hill so that I am unable to see what should be seen.”<sup>74</sup>

10 So, too, Aggi,vessana, was prince Jaya,sena obstructed, hindered, covered, shrouded by an even greater mass than this—that of ignorance.<sup>75</sup>

10.2 Indeed, that what

should be known through renunciation,  
 seen through renunciation,  
 attained through renunciation,  
 realized through renunciation—

<sup>72</sup> A related parable is that of the ass that thinks it is a cow: see (Gadhabha) Samāṇa S (A 3.81,2), SD 24.10b.

<sup>73</sup> Seyyathā’pi aggivessana, gāmassa vā nigamassa vā avidūre mahā’pabbato, tam enaṃ dve sahāyakā tamhā gāmā vā nigamā vā nikkhamitvā hattha,vilaṅghakena yena so pabbato, ten’upasaṅkameyyuṃ.

<sup>74</sup> So evaṃ vadeyya, tathā hi panāhaṃ samma, iminā mahatā pabbatena āvuto datttheyyaṃ nāddasan’ti.

<sup>75</sup> Evam eva kho ato [Be Ce Ee Se; vll ...āvuto, ...āvāto] mahantatarena kho aggi,vessana, avijjā khandhena jaya,seno rāja,kumaro āvuto nivuto ovuto pariyonaddho. On the phrase āvuto nivuto ovuto pariyonaddho, see SD 1.8 (30) n. Ato (indecl), “than this.”

that this would ever be known, seen, attained, realized by prince Jaya,sena, who lives enjoying sensual pleasures, being consumed with sensual thoughts, burning with the fever of sensual pleasures, being caught up with seeking sensual pleasures—this is impossible!

11 Now, Aggi,vessana, if these two parables had occurred to you for the sake of prince Jaya,sena, it would not be surprising [would be natural]<sup>76</sup> that this prince Jaya,sena would have had faith. And filled with faith, he would have shown his faith in you.”<sup>77</sup>

### The parable of elephant training

11.2 “But how, bhante, could these two parables, that I’ve not heard of them before, have occurred to me naturally [spontaneously] for the sake of prince Jaya,sena, as it is for the Blessed One?”<sup>78</sup> [132]

12 “Suppose, Aggi,vessana, a head-anointed kshatriya rajah were to address his elephant forester, thus,

‘My good elephant forester, mount the royal elephant, enter the elephant forest, and upon seeing the forest elephant, bind him by the neck to the royal elephant.’<sup>79</sup>

12.2 “Yes, your majesty!” Aggi,vessana, the elephant forester, replies to the head-anointed kshatriya rajah.

Then he would *mount the royal elephant, enter the elephant forest, and upon seeing the forest elephant, bind him by the neck to the royal elephant*. This royal elephant will lead him out into the open.

And, Aggi,vessana, to that extent the forest elephant would have gone into the open.<sup>80</sup> For, here, Aggi,vessana, the forest elephant clings to that elephant forest.

12.3 That elephant forester then tells the head-anointed kshatriya rajah,

‘Your majesty, the forest elephant has gone into the open!’

12.4 Then, Aggi,vessana, the head-anointed kshatriya rajah would address the elephant tamer,

‘Come, my good elephant tamer, tame the forest elephant,

so as to subdue his habits of the forest,<sup>81</sup>

so as to subdue his memories and thoughts of the forest,<sup>82</sup>

so as to subdue his distress, weariness and fever for the forest,<sup>83</sup>

Get him to delight being near a village, so that he feels natural being amongst humans!”<sup>84</sup>

12.5 “Yes, your majesty!” Aggi,vessana, replies the elephant tamer to the head-anointed kshatriya rajah.

Then, Aggi,vessana, he sinks a great post into the ground, and binds the forest elephant by the neck to it,<sup>85</sup>

*so as to subdue his habits of the forest,*

<sup>76</sup> “Would not be surprising,” *anacchariyam* (lit, “not wonderful”) = *na*, “not,” + *acchariya*, “wonderful, miraculous, marvelous,” ie, not wonderful, naturally, spontaneously (V 1:5,6 ≈ S 1:136,19 ≈ D 2:36,13; 38,1 ≈ M 1168,3; D 2:93,11 = S 5:359,15; cf V 2:17,31; M 3:131,29; S 4:301,21; A 4:211,13; J 3:406,20, 4:153,1:1, 6:220,24, 255,20; MA 2: 65,19; KhpA 1:150,27; DhA 2:121,19). Esp in the well known phrase, “unheard before, spontaneously occurred” (*anacchariyā pubbe assuta,pubbā*) (M 1:240,30 ≠ 3:131,33). See CPD sv.

<sup>77</sup> *Sace kho taṃ aggivessana jaya,senassa rāja,kumārassa imā dve upamā paṭibhāseyyum anacchariyam te jaya,-seno rāja,kumāro pasīdeyya: pasanno ca te pasannākāraṃ kareyyāti.*

<sup>78</sup> *Kuto pana maṃ bhante jaya,senassa rāja,kumārassa imā dve upamā paṭibhāsissanti anacchariyā pubbe assuta,pubbā, seyyathā’pi bhagavantā’ti.* For another parable on elephant-training, see (Rāja) Nāga S (A 4.114), SD 46.8.

<sup>79</sup> *Tvaṃ samma nāga,vanika, rañño nāgaṃ abhiruhitvā nāga,vanam pavisitvā ārañṇakam nāgaṃ atipassitvā rañño nāgassa gīvāya* [Ce Ee; Be gīvāyam; Se gīvāyam] *upanibandhāhīti.*

<sup>80</sup> *Ettāvatā ca kho aggi,vessana ārañṇako nāgo abbhokāsaṃ gato hoti.*

<sup>81</sup> *Ārañṇakam nāgaṃ damayāhi ārañṇakānaṃ c’eva sīlānaṃ abhinimmadanāya,*

<sup>82</sup> *Ārañṇakānaṃ c’eva sara,saṅkappānaṃ abhinimmadanāya,*

<sup>83</sup> *Ārañṇakānaṃ c’eva daratha,kilamatha,pariāhānaṃ abhinimmadanāya,*

<sup>84</sup> *Gāma’nte abhiramāpanāya, manussak’antesu sīlesu samādapanāyāti.*

<sup>85</sup> On the figure of sinking the post, see §23.2+n.



*so as to subdue his memories and thoughts of the forest,  
so as to subdue his distress, weariness and fever for the forest,  
and get him to delight being near the village, so that he feels natural being amongst humans.*

12.6 The elephant tamer, Aggī, vessana, then addresses it with words that are gentle, pleasant to the ear, loving, touching the heart, urbane [refined], delighting to the multitude, pleasing to the multitude.<sup>86</sup>

Then, Aggī, vessana, the forest elephant, *on being addressed with words that are gentle, pleasant to the ear, loving, touching the heart, urbane [refined], delighting to the multitude, [133] pleasing to the multitude*, listens, gives ear, sets his mind on learning.<sup>87</sup>

12.7 The elephant tamer, Aggī, vessana, further offers him grass, fodder and water.<sup>88</sup>

When the forest elephant accepts the grass, fodder and water, it occurs to the elephant tamer,

‘Now this royal<sup>89</sup> forest elephant will live!’<sup>90</sup>

12.8 The elephant tamer then makes him work further,<sup>91</sup> saying,

‘Take it up,<sup>92</sup> sir! Put it down, sir!’<sup>93</sup>

12.9 Now, Aggī, vessana, when the royal elephant obeys the elephant tamer’s orders to take something up and put it down,<sup>94</sup>

the elephant tamer makes him work further, saying,

‘Go forward, sir! Go backward, sir!’

12.10 Now, Aggī, vessana, when the royal elephant obeys the elephant tamer’s orders to take something up and put it down,

the elephant tamer makes him work further, saying,

‘Stand up, sir! Sit down, sir!’<sup>95</sup>

12.11 Now, Aggī, vessana, when the forest elephant obeys the elephant tamer’s order to stand up and sit down,

the elephant tamer makes him work further to do a task called ‘the imperturbable’.<sup>96</sup>

<sup>86</sup> *Tam enaṃ hatthi, damako yā sā vācā nelā kaṇṇa, sukhā pemaṇīyā hadayaṃ, gamā porī bahu.jana, kantā bahu.jana, manāpā, tathā, rūpāhi vācāhi samudācarati. Neḷa (na + eḷa = Skt anenas, opp of enas, “fault, bad”), (of speech) gentle, humane. As in **Sevitabbāsevitabba S** (M 114, 6.7(13)), SD 39.8, except that *tathā, rūpāhi vācāhi samudācarati* here is replaced by *tathā, rūpīm vācam bhāsītā hoti*, “he utters...such words...”.*

<sup>87</sup> “Listens, gives ear, sets his mind on learning,” *sussūsati sotaṃ odahati aññā cittaṃ upaṭṭhapeti*.

<sup>88</sup> *Tam enaṃ hatthi, damako uttarim tīna, ghās’odakam anuppaveccati*.

<sup>89</sup> Henceforth, the elephant, since he is becoming more docile and amenable, is called “royal” (*rañño*).

<sup>90</sup> This & prec line: *Tatra [Be Ce; Ee Tattha] hatthi, damakassa evaṃ hoti: jivissati kho’ dāni [Be Ee Se jīvissati kho dāni; Ce ...nu kho] rañño [Ce Ee; Be Se āraññako] nāgo’ti*.

<sup>91</sup> “Makes him do a further task,” *uttarim kāraṇam kāreti*.

<sup>92</sup> Ee Se *ādissa*, Be Ce *ādiya*: PED (*ādissa*) takes *ādissa* as imperative of *ādiyati* (sv), “he takes (up)”; but DP (*ādiyati*<sup>1</sup>) thinks this is wr at M 3:133, 7. Noun: *ādāna*. Cf *ādāna, nikkhepe* [§12.9 = M 3:133, 9]; *ādāna, nikkhepanam*, S 4:171, 19, Vism 619, 1).

<sup>93</sup> *Ādissa bho, nikkhipa bho’ti*. Instead of Ee Se *ādissa*, M:Be 3:173, 16 and M:Ce 3:310, 23 read *ādiya*. For an apparent textual problem, see Analayo 2011:720 n171. See prec n.

<sup>94</sup> *Yato kho aggī, vessana āraññako nāgo hatthi, damakassa ādāna, nikkhepe vacana, karo hoti ovāda, patikaro*.

<sup>95</sup> *Uṭṭhaha bho, nisīda bhoti*. Instead of *nisīda*, M:Se 3:266, 19 reads *nipajja*. The Chin parallel compares this stage of satipatthana to the elephant trainer’s instruction to the wild elephant to sit down and get up, to go forward and backward, to take something up and put it down (MĀ 198 @ T1.758b20): 臥起, 去來, 取捨, wò qǐ, qù lái, qǔ shě which follow the instructions to bend and stretch, 屈伸 qū shēn, two activities not mentioned in the Sutta. By including bending and stretching, MĀ 198 presents a closer connection between these instructions to the elephant and the satipatthana practice of mindfulness and full awareness in terms of body-based contemplation (**Saripatṭhana S**, M 10/1:57, 5 = D 22/2:292, 25; MĀ 98 @ T1.582b25), which however includes the acts of going forward and backward (*abhiikkante paṭikkante*) 出入 chūrù, of carrying (a bowl, etc) (*dharāṇe*) 著 zhuó, and of sitting and lying down (*ni-sinne sutte*) 坐臥 zuò wò, and also bending and stretching (*samiñjite pasarite*) 屈伸 qū shēn. However, it should be noted that bending and stretching are not common acts of an elephant.

<sup>96</sup> *Tam enaṃ hatthi, damako uttarim ānejjam nāma kāraṇam kāreti (tam enaṃ hatthi, damako uttarim ānejjam nāma kāraṇam karoti*, M:Be 3:173, 24, M:Ce 3:310, 31, and M:Se 3:267, 2 read *āneñjam nāma kāraṇam*, Be also

He binds a great shield to his trunk.<sup>97</sup> A man holding a lance sits on his neck.<sup>98</sup>

And men, each holding a lance in his hand, stand surrounding him. And the elephant tamer himself, holding a long lance-pole, stands in front of him.

12.12 Now, while he is performing the task called ‘**the imperturbable**,’<sup>99</sup> he moves neither his fore-legs nor his hind-legs; he moves neither the front of his body nor his back; he moves neither his head nor his ears; he moves neither his tusks nor his tail; he moves not his trunk.

12.13 The royal elephant endures being hit by spears, by swords, by arrows, and by enemies from the other side; and endures the sounds and din of the bheri [conical drum], cymbals, conch-shells, and the dindima [small drum].<sup>100</sup>

12.14 Being free of all deceitfulness and faults, purified of any deficiency, he is worthy of the king, in the king’s service, and is reckoned as a limb [an emblem] of the king.<sup>101</sup> [134]

## The fruits of recluseship

### The Buddha’s presence

13 So, too, Aggī, vessana,

<sup>102</sup>here, there arises in the world the Tathagata [the Buddha Thus Come], an arhat, fully self-awakened one, accomplished in knowledge and conduct, well-gone [Sugata], world-knower, unexcelled trainer of persons to be tamed, teacher of gods and humans, awakened, blessed.

Having realized, by his own direct knowledge,

this world with its gods, its Māras [bad ones], and its Brahmās [high gods],

this generation with its recluses and brahmins, its rulers<sup>103</sup> and people,

he makes it known to others.

He teaches the Dharma, good in its beginning, good in its middle, good in its end,

endowed with meaning and phrasing.

He proclaims the holy life that is entirely complete and pure.

14 A householder or a householder’s son, hearing the Dharma, gains faith<sup>104</sup> in the Tathagata and reflects, thus:

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reads *uttari*). MĀ 198 @ T1.758a8 has: “I will now train you in imperturbability, you must not move,” 我今治汝令不移動治，汝勿動搖! *wǒ jīn zhì rù, líng bù yídòng zhì, rǔ wù dòngyáo*. See [12.12]+n & (4).

<sup>97</sup> *Mahanta’ssa phalakam soṇḍāya upanibandhati*.

<sup>98</sup> *Tomāra, hattho ca puriso upari gīvāya nisinno hoti*.

<sup>99</sup> *Ānejja, kāraṇa* or *āneñja, kāraṇa*. See (4.1.1.2).

<sup>100</sup> *So hoti rañño nāgo khamo satti-p, pahārānaṃ asi-p, pahārānaṃ usu-p, pahārānaṃ para, sattu-p, pahārānaṃ* [Ee Se; Ce *para, sattha-p, pahārānaṃ*; Be *sara, patta-p, pahārānaṃ*]\* *bheri, paṇava saṅkha, deṇḍima* [Be; Ce *saṅkha, dindima*; Ee *saṅkha, tinava*], *ninnāda, saddānaṃ*. [\*A 2:117,5: *pharasu-p, pahārānaṃ*, “being hit by axes” or “axe-blows.” But *parasu* at S 4:441; J 3:179.] This parable recurs in **Rāja Nāga S** (A 4.114,4/2:117), SD 51.12. On the various sounds, see **Sāmañña, phala S** (D 2,92), SD 8.10.

<sup>101</sup> *Sabba, vaṅka, dosa, nihita, ninnīta, kasāvo rājāraho rāja, bhoggo rañño aṅgaṇaṃ t’eva saṅkham gacchati. Sabba, vaṅka, dosa, nihita*, “all deceitfulness [“crookedness”] and faults removed,” *ninnīta, kasāvo*, “purified of deficiencies.” On “purified of any deficiency,” *ninnīta, kasāvo*, we have *aninnīta, kasāvo* in **Paṇḍu, dhovaka S** (A 3.100a), where it means “its debris still not removed” (A 3.100,2.2/1:254), SD 19.11. The phrase *rājāraho rāja, bhoggo rañño aṅgaṇaṃ t’eva saṅkham gacchati* recurs (with a minor variation) at A 3.94,1/1:244, 3.131,1/1:284, 4.112,2/2:113, 4.181,1/2:170: in all cases, *rājāraho hoti* etc.

<sup>102</sup> §§13-14.1 form the renunciation pericope: see (**Ānanda**) **Subha S** (D 10,1.7) n, SD 40a.13.

<sup>103</sup> *Deva*, here in the sense of “devas by convention” (*sammati, deva*), ie kings. The other 2 types of *deva* are “gods by rebirth” (*upapatti, deva*) and “gods by purification” (*visuddhi, deva*), ie the buddhas, pratyeka buddhas and arhats. (Nc 307; KhpA 123).

<sup>104</sup> “Faith,” *saddhā*. There are 2 kinds of faith (*saddhā*): (1) “rootless faith” (*amūlaka, saddhā*), baseless or irrational faith, blind faith. (M 2:170); (2) “faith with a good cause” (*ākāravati, saddhā*), faith founded on seeing (M 1:320,8 401,23); also called *avecca-p, pasāda* (S 12.41,11/2:69). “Wise faith” is syn with (2). *Amūlaka* = “not seen, not heard, not suspected” (V 2:243 3:163 & Comy). **Ledi Sayadaw** speaks of 2 kinds: “ordinary faith” (*pakati sad-*

‘The household life is stifling a dusty path.’<sup>105</sup> The life of renunciation is like the open air. It is not easy living in a house to practise the holy fully, in all its purity, like a polished conch-shell.

What if I were to shave off my hair and beard, put on the saffron robes, and go forth from the household life into homelessness?’

Then, after some time, he abandons all his pile of wealth, little or great,<sup>106</sup> and circle of relatives, small or large, shaves off his hair and beard, puts on the saffron robes, and goes forth from the household life into homelessness.

14.2 Indeed, Aggī, vessana, to that extent the noble disciple has gone into the open.<sup>107</sup>

But here, Aggī, vessana, gods and humans have greed, that is to say, the 5 cords of sense-pleasures.<sup>108</sup>

## Moral virtue

15 The Tathagata leads [disciplines] him further, saying,

‘Come, bhikshu, be morally virtuous.

15.2 MORAL VIRTUE. Dwell restrained in the restraint of the Pātimokkha [the monastic code], possessed of proper conduct and resort.<sup>109</sup>

Having taken up the training-rules, he trains himself in them, seeing danger in the slightest faults.’<sup>110</sup>

16 Aggī, vessana, when the noble disciple is morally virtuous,

he dwells restrained in the restraint of the Pātimokkha, possessed of proper conduct and resort;

having taken up the training-rules, he trains himself in them, seeing danger in the slightest faults.

16.2 SENSE-RESTRAINT. The Tathagata leads him further, saying,

‘Come, bhikshu, be guarded in your senses.

(1) Seeing a form with the eye, do not grasp the signs, do not grasp the details.

For, if you dwell with the eye-faculty unrestrained,

bad, unwholesome states in the form of covetousness and displeasure would assail you.

So practise restraint towards it—guard the eye-faculty, keep the eye-faculty restrained.

*dhā*) and “faith through cultivation” (*bhāvanā saddhā*) (*The Manuals of Buddhism*, 1965:339 f). “Ordinary faith” is mainly based on giving and pious acts (which can be either wholesome or unwholesome, depending on the intention). “Faith through cultivation” is founded on mindfulness practice and meditation. **Gethin** also speaks of 2 kinds of faith: the cognitive and the affective (eg ERE: Faith, & Jayatilleke, *Early Buddhist Theory of Knowledge*, 1963: 387): “Faith in its cognitive dimension is seen as concerning belief in propositions or statements of which one does not—or perhaps cannot—have knowledge proper (however that should be defined); cognitive faith is a mode of knowing in a different category from that knowledge. Faith is its affective dimension is a more straightforward positive response to trust or confidence towards something or somebody...the conception of *saddhā* in Buddhist writings appears almost, if not entirely affective, the cognitive element is completely secondary” (Gethin 2001:207; my emphases).

<sup>105</sup> *Sambādho gharavāso rajā, patho*. There is a wordplay on *sambādha*, “crowded, stifling, narrow, full of hindrances,” which also refers to the sexual organ, male (V 1:216, 2:134) or female (V 4:259; Sn 609; J 1:61, 4:260).

<sup>106</sup> On the accumulation of wealth, cf **Mahā Parinibbāna S** (D 16.1.23-24/2:85 f).

<sup>107</sup> *Ettāvatā kho aggī, vessana, ariya, sāvako abbhokāsa, gato hoti*.

<sup>108</sup> *Ettha gedhā hi aggī, vessana, yad idaṃ pañca, kāma, guṇā*.

<sup>109</sup> *Go, cara*, lit “a cow’s habitual path or pasture.” Here it refers to 2 aspects of the renunciant’s life. In the Canon, it refers to places that are regarded as suitable for collecting almsfood (V 2:208). In this sense, *agocara* refers to places that are unsuitable for renunciants as resort (whether for alms or otherwise) (D 1:63 = It 118; M 1:33, S 5:-187; It 96; cf Dh 22). In Comys, *go, cara* refers to places suitable for meditation (Vism 127). We can also take *go, -cara* here in a psychological sense of *ārammaṇa*, ie, sense-objects. In other words, one “possessed of proper conduct and resort” (*ācāra, gocara, sampanna*) can also incl the meaning “accomplished in proper conduct of body and of mind.” Cf *gavesanā*, SD 43.10 (1.2.3).

<sup>110</sup> The Chin parallel simply speaks of purifying body, speech, and mind (MĀ 198 @ T1.758a29). This minor difference, however, often recurs, that is, where the Pali suttas describes how a renunciant is conscientious in keeping to the training rules, the Madhyama Āgama parallels highlight the purpose of observing the rules for the sake of developing bodily, verbal, and mental purity.

- (2) Hearing a sound with the ear, do not grasp the signs, do not grasp the details.  
For, if you dwell with the ear-faculty unrestrained,  
bad, unwholesome states in the form of covetousness and displeasure would assail you.  
So practise restraint towards it—guard the ear-faculty, keep the ear-faculty restrained.
- (3) Smelling a smell with the nose, do not grasp the signs, do not grasp the details.  
For, if you dwell with the nose-faculty unrestrained,  
bad, unwholesome states in the form of covetousness and displeasure would assail you.  
So practise restraint towards it—guard the nose-faculty, keep the nose-faculty restrained.
- (4) Tasting a taste with the tongue, do not grasp the signs, do not grasp the details.  
For, if you dwell with the tongue-faculty unrestrained,  
bad, unwholesome states in the form of covetousness and displeasure would assail you.  
So practise restraint towards it—guard the tongue-faculty, keep the tongue-faculty restrained.
- (5) Feeling a touch with the body, do not grasp the signs, do not grasp the details.  
For, if you dwell with the body-faculty unrestrained,  
bad, unwholesome states in the form of covetousness and displeasure would assail you.  
So practise restraint towards it—guard the body-faculty, keep the body-faculty restrained.
- (6) Thinking a thought with the mind, do not grasp the signs, do not grasp the details.  
For, if you dwell with the mind-faculty unrestrained,  
bad, unwholesome states in the form of covetousness and displeasure would assail you.  
So practise restraint towards it—guard the mind-faculty, keep the mind-faculty restrained.

17 Aggī, vessana, when the noble disciple is guarded in his sense-doors, the Tathagata leads him further, saying thus,

MODERATION IN FOOD. ‘Come, bhikṣu, be moderate in food.’<sup>111</sup>

Wisely reflecting, he uses almsfood:

not for amusement,<sup>112</sup> not for intoxication,  
not for fattening, not for beautifying,  
but only for keeping this body going and enduring,  
for ending hunger pangs,<sup>113</sup>

for the sake of supporting the holy life,<sup>114</sup> considering,

“Thus I shall get rid of an old feeling, and not let a new feeling arise,  
and so that I will be healthy and blameless, and live at ease.”<sup>115</sup>

18 Aggī, vessana, when [135] the noble disciple is moderate in food, the Tathagata leads him further, thus,

WAKEFULNESS. ‘Come, bhikṣu, dwell devoted to wakefulness [vigilance].’<sup>116</sup>

During the day, while walking to and fro and sitting down,  
we will purify the mind of obstructions.<sup>117</sup>

<sup>111</sup> This reflection is found by itself at **Mahā Assaṭṭha S** (M 39,9/1:273), SD 10.13; **Sekha S** (M 53,10/1:355), SD 21.14; **Gaṇaka Moggallāna S** (M 107,5/3:2), SD 56.3; **Sāriputta Saddhi, vihārika S** (S 35.129/4:104), SD 103.1; **Rathôpama S** (S 35.239/4:176, 177), SD 55.14; **Apaṇṇaka Paṭipada S** (A 3.16/1:114), SD 74.11; (**Catukka**) **Aparihāna S** (A 4.37,4/2:40), SD 103.2; (**Taṇhā**) **Bhikkhuṇī S** (A 4.159,4/2:145), SD 10.14; **Nanda S** (A 8.9,-3/4:167); **Nm** 1:240, 241, 368× 2, 484; **Nc:Be** 292; **Dhs** 231; **Vbh** 249; **Pug** 25.

<sup>112</sup> This stock: M 1:355; A 2:40, 145; Dhs 1346; Pug 21; Vbh 249.

<sup>113</sup> Vism 1.92/32.

<sup>114</sup> Buddhaghosa distinguishes 2 kinds of holy life (*brahma, cariya*): the teaching (*sāsana*) as a whole, and the holy life of the path (*magga brahma, cariya*), ie sainthood (Vism 1.92/32).

<sup>115</sup> “Live at ease” (*phāsu, vihāra*) refers to bodily ease or comfort, free from pain and distraction, so that we could direct our mind to meditation.

<sup>116</sup> *Ehi tvam bhikkhu jāgariyaṃ anuyutto viharāhi.*

<sup>117</sup> “Obstructions,” *āvaraṇā*, syn of *nīvaraṇā*, “mental hindrance.” See **Āvaraṇa Nīvaraṇa S** (S 46.38/5:94-96), SD 41.10.

During the first watch of the night,<sup>118</sup> while walking to and fro and sitting down,  
we will purify the mind of obstructions.

During the middle watch of the night, we will, after mentally noting the time for rising,<sup>119</sup>  
mindfully and fully aware lie down, lion-like<sup>120</sup> on our right side, one foot placed on the other.

During the last watch of the night, while walking to and fro and sitting down,  
we will purify the mind of obstructions.<sup>121</sup>

19 Aggī, vessaṇa, when the noble disciple is devoted to wakefulness, the Tathagata leads him further,  
thus,

MINDFULNESS AND FULL AWARENESS. ‘Come, bhikkhu, be accomplished in mindfulness and full awareness.

While going forward and returning,	act fully aware;
while looking toward and looking away,	act fully aware;
while bending and extending our limbs,	act fully aware;
while carrying our outer cloak, our upper robe, and our bowl,	act fully aware;
while eating, drinking, chewing, and tasting,	act fully aware;
while peeing and voiding,	act fully aware;
while walking, standing, sitting, falling asleep, waking up, talking, or remaining silent,	act fully aware. <sup>122</sup>

20 Aggī, vessaṇa, when the noble disciple is accomplished in mindfulness and full awareness, the  
Tathagata leads him further, thus,

SOLITARY LODGING. ‘Come, bhikkhu, resort to a secluded dwelling: a forest, the foot of a tree, a  
mountain, a glen, a hillside cave, a charnel ground, a jungle grove, the open air, a heap of straw.<sup>123</sup>

<sup>118</sup> In the Buddha’s time, the day was divided into 2 parts: forenoon (dawn to noon) and afternoon (noon to sunset); and the night into 3 watches (*yāma*): the first watch (6.00-10.00 pm), the middle watch (10.00 pm-2.00 am) and the last watch (2.00 am-6.00 am) (DA 1:45 ff, 3:727; MA 1:255; SA 3:184; SnA 131 f; BA 8, 133, 298).

<sup>119</sup> After mentally noting the time for rising,” *uṭṭhāna, saññāṃ manasi karitvā*: D 33/3:209; M 39, 10/1:274, 53, 5 + 10/1:354 f; S 4.7/1:107, 35.120/4:105, 35.239/4:177, 35.243/4:184; A 3.16/1:114, 4.23/2:40, 4.58, 9/4:87, 8.9.4/-4:168, 10.67.1/5:123, 10.68.1/5:126; U 8.5/84. When one is going to sleep is an example of “sleeping mindfully,” mentioned in *Sati, paṭṭhāna S* (M 10, 8(7)/1:57). In *Pacalā S* (A 7.58), the Buddha exhorts, “Moggallāna, mindful and fully aware, you should lie down lion-like on your right side, placing foot on foot, keeping in mind the thought that on awakening, you would get up quickly, thinking, ‘I will dwell without indulging in the pleasure of sleep, or in the pleasure of reclining, or in the pleasure of drowsiness’” (*na seyya, dukhaṃ na passa, sukhaṃ na middha, sukhaṃ anuyutto*) (A 7.58/4:87), SD 4.11. On this mental noting of rising up again, see also n at *Mahā Parinibbāna S* (D 16.4.14/2:135, 16.5.1/2:137), SD 9 §§4.40, 5.1.

<sup>120</sup> *Seyyā S* (A 4.244) mentions 4 sleeping-postures (*seyyā*): that of the ghosts (*petā*) (lying supine like a corpse); that of those who indulge in sense-pleasures (*kāma, bhogī*) (lying on the left side); that of the lion (lying on the right side); and that of the Tathāgata (lying while in the 4 dhyānas); the lion’s sleeping posture is described in detail (A 4.244/2:244 f), SD 76.6. Comy qu *Seyyā S* but places *kāma, bhogī, seyyā* first (MA 2:316). See *Avassuta Pariyāya S* (S 35.143) where the Buddha, after saying, “My back aches, so I will stretch it,” and lies in the lion posture (S 35.143/4:184). Cf SA 1:78; UA 403; VbhA 345.

<sup>121</sup> *Divasaṃ caṅkameṇa nisajjāya āvaraṇīyehi dhammehi cittaṃ parisodhehi. Rattiyā paṭhamāṃ yāmaṃ caṅkameṇa nisajjāya āvaraṇīyehi dhammehi cittaṃ parisodhehi. Rattiyā majjhimāṃ yāmaṃ dakkhiṇeṇa passena sīha, seyyāṃ kappeyyāsi pāde pādāṃ accādhāya sato sampajāno uṭṭhāna, saññāṃ manasi karitvā rattiyā pacchimāṃ yāmaṃ paccuṭṭhāya caṅkameṇa nisassāya āvaraṇīyehi dhammehi cittaṃ parisodhehīti*. This is stock: *Mahā Assa, pura S* (M 39, 10/1:273 f), SD 10.13; *Sekha S* (M 53, 10/1:355), SD 21.14; *Gaṇaka Moggallāna S* (M 107, 7/3:3), SD 56.3; *Sāriputta Suddhi, vihārika S* (S 35.120, 8/4:104 f), SD 103.1; *Rathōpama S* (S 35.239, 8/4:177), SD 55.14; *Apaṇ-ṇaka Paṭipada S* (A 3.16/1:114), SD 74.11; (*Catukka*) *Aparihāniya S* (A 4.37, 3/2:40), SD 103.2; *Nanda S* (A 8.9.4/4:168), SD 84.18; *Tuvaṭṭaka Sutta Niddesa* ad Sn 926 (Nm 2:377, 26); *Sāriputta Sutta Niddesa* ad Sn 964 (Nm 4:484, 10) & ad Sn 972 (Nm 2:501, 3); *Jhāna Vibhaṅga* (Vbh §519/249, 24).

<sup>122</sup> On this pericope, see *Satipaṭṭhāna S* (M 10, 8) n, SD 13.3.

<sup>123</sup> *Ehi tvaṃ bhikkhu vivittaṃ senāsanāṃ bhaja, araṇṇāṃ rukkha, mūlāṃ pabbatāṃ kandaraṃ giri, guhaṃ susā-  
nāṃ vana, paṭthāṃ abbhokāsaṃ palāla, puṇjaṇ’ti*. For details, see *Mahā Assa, pura S* (M 39, 12.2) n, SD 10.13.



**21** He resorts to *a secluded dwelling: a forest, the foot of a tree, a mountain, a glen, a hillside cave, a charnel ground, a jungle grove, the open air, a heap of straw.*

21.2 Returning from his alms-round, after his meal, he sits down, crosses his legs, holds his body upright, and establishes mindfulness before him.<sup>124</sup>

### Overcoming the mental hindrances

#### 21.3 EFFECTIVE MEDITATION<sup>125</sup>

- (1) Abandoning **covetousness** with regard to the world,  
he dwells with a mind devoid of covetousness.  
He cleanses his mind of covetousness.
- (2) Abandoning **ill will and anger**,  
he dwells with a mind free of ill will,  
caring for the welfare of all living beings.  
He cleanses his mind of ill will and anger.
- (3) Abandoning **sloth and torpor**,  
he dwells with a mind devoid of sloth and torpor, mindful, alert, perceiving light.  
He cleanses his mind of sloth and torpor. [136]
- (4) Abandoning **restlessness and worry**,  
he dwells undisturbed, his mind inwardly stilled.  
He cleanses his mind of restlessness and worry.
- (5) Abandoning **doubt**,<sup>126</sup>  
he dwells having crossed over doubt,  
with no perplexity with regard to wholesome mental states.  
He cleanses his mind of doubt.

### The 4 focuses of mindfulness

**22** Having given up these 5 mental hindrances, mental impurities that weaken wisdom,

- (1) he dwells dwells<sup>127</sup> exertive, clearly aware, mindful,  
**observing [watching] the body in the body**,<sup>128</sup>  
removing<sup>129</sup> covetousness and displeasure [discontent]<sup>130</sup> in regard to the world;<sup>131</sup>

<sup>124</sup> Comy. He applies mindfulness towards his meditation subject; or he sets it up in the region of the mouth. As such, it is said in **Vibhaṅga**: “This mindfulness is set up, set up well, at the tip of the nose or at the sign of the mouth” (MA 2:216; DA 1:210; SA 1:238; Vbh §537/252). **M Abhinava Tīkā**: The “sign of the mouth” (*mukha-nimitta*) is the middle region of the upper lip, against which the air strikes when it comes out of the nose (MAṬ:Be 2:124). On the “location” of the breath, see SD 7.13 (2) esp (2.4).

<sup>125</sup> This whole section as in **Mahā Assaṭṭhāna S** (M 39), where it is followed by parables, and the 4 dhyanas (M 39,13.2), SD 10.13. Here, however, **Danta,bhūmi S** has, instead of the parables, the 4 satipatthanas [§22+n], followed by the 4 dhyanas [§23].

<sup>126</sup> These are not doubts seeking answers, but persistent doubts regarding the Buddha, the Dharma, the Sangha, the threefold training (moral virtue, mental cultivation, wisdom), the past, the future, both past and future, and states arising through specific conditionality and dependent arising (Vbh 914/365).

<sup>127</sup> *Ātāpī sampajāno satimā, vineyya loke abhijjhā,domanassam*. Here we find 4 of the 5 spiritual faculties (*pañc'-indriya*) in action: see SD 13.1 (4.2).

<sup>128</sup> “Observing the body in the body” (*kāye kāyānupassī*). See SD 13.1 (3.4).

<sup>129</sup> *Vineyya* can mean “should remove” (as pot, like *vineyya*, Sn 590) or as “having removed” (as ger, like *vinayitvā*, Pm 1:244), and both senses apply in Satipaṭṭhāna S. U Silananda similarly ends the sentence with “removing covetousness and grief in the world” (1990:177); also 1990:22-25. See SD 13.1 (4.2c) above.

<sup>130</sup> “Covetousness and displeasure,” *abhijjhā,domanassam*, alt trs: “desire and discontent,” “desiring and disliking,” or “longing and loathing.” Walshe (1995:335 & n632) renders it as “hankering and fretting [in regard to the world].” See SD 13.1 (4.2) above.

<sup>131</sup> “World” (*loka*). See SD 13.1 (4.2.4).

- (2) he dwells exertive, clearly aware, mindful,  
**observing feelings in the feelings,**  
 removing covetousness and displeasure in regard to the world;  
 (3) he dwells exertive, clearly aware, mindful,  
**observing the mind in the mind,**  
 removing covetousness and displeasure in regard to the world;  
 (4) he dwells exertive, clearly aware, mindful,  
**observing dharmas in the dharmas,**  
 removing covetousness and displeasure in regard to the world.<sup>132</sup>

### Letting go of the world

**23** Aggī, vessaṇa, just as the elephant tamer, having sunk a great post<sup>133</sup> into the ground, binds the forest elephant by the neck to it [§12.5],

*so as to subdue his habits of the forest,*

*so as to subdue his memories and thoughts of the forest,*

*so as to subdue his distress, weariness and fever for the forest,*

*and get him to delight being near the village, so that he feels natural being amongst humans.*

23.2 even so, Aggī, vessaṇa, **these 4 focuses of mindfulness** are the leashes<sup>134</sup> for the noble disciple's mind,

for the subduing of his conduct [habits] of the household life,<sup>135</sup>

for the subduing of his thoughts rooted towards the household life,<sup>136</sup>

for the subduing of his distress, fatigue, and fever for the household life,<sup>137</sup>

for the sake of attaining the true way and realising nirvana.<sup>138</sup>

### Letting go of thoughts

**24** Then the Tathāgata leads [disciplines] him further, saying,  
 'Come, bhikkhu,

(1) dwell observing the body in the body,

but do not think (any) thought<sup>139</sup> regarding the body;<sup>140</sup>

<sup>132</sup> As already noted at §21.3 (overcoming the mental hindrances), in **Mahā Assa, pura S** (M 39), it is followed by parables, and then the 4 dhyānas (M 39, 13.2), SD 10.13. Here, however, **the 4 satipatthanas** [§24] replaces the parables, and then the 4 dhyānas follow [§25]. In other words, here satipatthana is used to cultivate dhyāna: see **Satipatthāna S** (M 10) @ SD 13.1 (4.3.2). See Intro (2.2.2).

<sup>133</sup> The Pali, Chinese, and Tibetan versions agree in comparing the practice of satipatthana to a strong post to which the elephant trainer binds the forest elephant [§12.5], explaining that the function of the 4 satipatthanas is to overcome thoughts related to the household life. This explanation supports the Madhyama Āgama's presentation, since if the practice of satipatthana were to take place after the 5 hindrances have already been removed, there would be little need for it to perform the function of overcoming thoughts related to the household life. MA 4:199, 12 explains that the expression "habits [related to] the household life" [cf §23.2] refers to habits based on the 5 sensual pleasures (*gehasita, sīlānaṃ 'ti pañca, kāma, guṇa, nissita, sīlānaṃ*). With the removal of the hindrances, there would be no need for concern with these sensual pleasures.

<sup>134</sup> "Leashes," *upanibandhana*, ie *upa* ("close up to") + *ni* ("down") + *bandhana* ("tying"): "tying, fastening, what ties or connects, rope." From vb *upanibadhati* (BHS *upanibadhnāti*; Skt, "to compose") "to connect, attach to."

<sup>135</sup> *Gehasitānaṃ c'eva sīlānaṃ abhinimmanāya*.

<sup>136</sup> *Gehasitānaṃ c'eva sara, saṅkappānaṃ abhinimmanāya*.

<sup>137</sup> *Gehasitānaṃ c'eva daratha, kilamatha, paṭiḷhānaṃ abhinimmanāya*.

<sup>138</sup> *Ñāyassa adhiḡamāya nibbānassa sacchikiriyāya*.

<sup>139</sup> "Thought" (*vitakka*): This is clearly the keyword in this para. The Chin parallel here also in Chin version (MĀ 198 @ T1.758b15) also states that satipatthana practice should be done free from thinking. M:Ee 3:136, 21 and M:Se 3:269, 16 instruct: "Do not think a thought regarding the (body | feeling | mind | dharma)" (*mā ca kāy'upasaṃhitam... mā vedan'upasaṃhitam vitakkaṃ... mā citt'upasaṃhitam vitakkaṃ... mā dhamm'upasaṃhitam vitakkaṃ vitakkesi*). M:Be 3:175, 20 and M:Ce 3:316, 16 state for all 4 satipatthanas: "Do not think a thought related to sensuality" (*mā ca*

- (2) dwell observing feelings in feelings,  
but do not think (any) thought regarding feelings;
- (3) dwell observing the mind in the mind,  
but do not think (any) thought regarding the mind [thoughts];
- (4) dwell observing dharmas in the dharma,  
but do not think (any) thought regarding dharmas [realities].

### The 3 dhyanas<sup>141</sup>

**25** <sup>142</sup>With the stilling of initial application and sustained application, by gaining inner tranquillity and oneness of mind, he enters and dwells in **the second dhyana**, free from initial application and sustained application, accompanied by zest and joy, born of concentration.<sup>143</sup>

25.2 And with the fading away of zest, he dwells equanimous.

Mindful and fully aware, he experiences joy with the body.

**26** He enters and dwells in the third dhyana, of which the noble ones declare, “Happily he dwells in *equanimity and mindfulness*.”

26.5 With the abandoning of joy and abandoning of pain, and with the earlier disappearance of pleasure and displeasure, he attains and dwells in **the fourth dhyana** that is neither painful nor pleasant, and with *mindfulness fully purified by equanimity*.

### The 3 knowledges

(1) RECOLLECTION OF PAST LIVES

**27** With his concentrated mind thus purified, and bright, unblemished, free from defects,<sup>144</sup>  
pliant, malleable, steady and utterly unshakable,  
he directs it to **the knowledge of the recollection of past lives**.<sup>145</sup>

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*kāmūpasamhitam vitakkaṃ vitakkesi*). The Skt work Pañca, vimśati, sāhaśrikā Prajñā, pāramitā preserves a similar instruction regarding the body contemplation: *na ca kāya, saḥagatan vitarkan vitarkayati*. (Dutt 1934:204,2). Pratyutpanna, buddha, saṃmukha, vāsthita, samādhi Sūtra also records the instruction not to think any thoughts to all 4 *smṛtyūpasthānā*. (Harrison 1978b:130,13, also 155,22), tr in Harrison 1990:125+144). See foll n: Either reading *kāmūpasamhitam* (“connected with sensuality,” Be Ce) or *kāmūpasamhitam* (“connected with the body,” Ee Se) is acceptable here, as the import here is that no “thinking,” but “observing [contemplating]” (*anupassanā*), should occur in any of the 4 satipatthanas. When satipatthana (focus of mindfulness) is fully established, all thoughts cease: see esp **Poṭṭhapāda S** (D 9) on the 1<sup>st</sup> dhyana: “if he has any previous sense-desires, it disappears” (D 9,10.3), SD 7.14; also **Piṇḍolya S** (S 22.80,20/3:93,21), SD 28.9a & its Chin parallel SĀ 272/T2.99.72a24. See Analayo 2006:12-13+n32 & 2011:719 + n167). Cf M:NB 1338 n1177 for pref of reading *kāmū-*. See also **Bhikkhuṇī Vāsaka S** (S 47.10), which apparently shows a similar split between satipatthana before and after samadhi (S 47.10/5:155,31-157,20), SD 24.2. See foll n & (2.2.4.4).

<sup>140</sup> Here, and in the other satipatthanas below, the preferred reading follows Ee & Se: *mā ca kāy’upasaṃhitam... mā vedan’upasaṃhitam vitakkaṃ... mā citt’upasaṃhitam vitakkaṃ... mā dhamm’upasaṃhitam vitakkaṃ vitakkesi*: see prec n & (2.2.4.3).

<sup>141</sup> This section on the 4 dhyanas, as in **Kandaraka S** (M 51,21-23), SD 32.8.

<sup>142</sup> On the omission of the 1<sup>st</sup> dhyana here, see Intro (3).

<sup>143</sup> *So vitakka, vicāraṇam vupasamā ajjhataṃ sampasādanam cetaso ekodi, bhāvaṃ avitakkaṃ avicāraṃ samādhi, jaṃ pīti, sukhaṃ dutiyaṃ jhānaṃ upasampajja viharati*. The 2<sup>nd</sup> dhyana is known as “the noble silence” (*ariya, -tuṇhī, bhāva*) because within it initial application and sustained application (thinking and discursion, *vitakka, vicāra*) cease, and with their cessation, speech cannot occur. (S 2:273); cf S 4:293 where *vitakka* and *vicāra* are called verbal formation (*vacī, saṅkhāra*), the mental factors responsible for speech: see **Kolita S** (S 21.1/2:273 f), SD 24.12b & **Dutiya Jhāna S** (S 40.2/4:263 f), SD 24.12a. In **Ariya Pariyesanā S** (M 26,4/1:161), SD 1.11, the Buddha exhorts the monks when assembled to “either speak on the Dharma or observe the noble silence” (ie either talk Dharma or meditate).

<sup>144</sup> *Upakkilesa*: to be distinguished from *kilesa*, “defilement.” Perhaps the 10 “imperfections of insight” listed in Vism 20.105 ff are meant here, but potential hindrances at a certain stage of insight meditation.

He recollects manifold past existence,  
 that is to say, 1 birth, 2 births, 3 births, 4 births, 5 births,  
 10 births, 20 births, 30 births, 40 births, 50 births,  
 100 births, 1,000 births, 100,000 births,  
 many aeons of cosmic contraction, many aeons of cosmic expansion,  
 many aeons of cosmic contraction and expansion, thus:  
 ‘There I had such a name, belonged to such a clan, had such an appearance.  
 Such was my food, such my experience of joy and pain, such the end of my life.  
 Passing away from that state, I re-arose there.  
 There too I had such a name, belonged to such a clan, had such an appearance.  
 Such was my food, such my experience of joy and pain, such my life-span.  
 Passing away from that state, I re-arose here.’  
 Thus,<sup>146</sup> bhikshus, he recollects his manifold past lives in their modes and details.

(2) HOW BEINGS FARE ACCORDING TO THEIR KARMA

**28** With his mind thus concentrated, purified, and bright, unblemished, free from defects,  
 pliant, malleable, steady and utterly unshakable,  
 he directs it to **the knowledge of the passing away and re-arising of beings**.<sup>147</sup>  
 He sees—by means of the divine eye [clairvoyance],<sup>148</sup> purified and surpassing the human—  
 beings passing away and re-arising,  
 and he knows how they are inferior and superior, beautiful and ugly, fortunate and unfortunate,  
 in the heavens, in the suffering states, faring in accordance with their karma:  
 ‘These beings, alas, sirs—who were endowed with evil conduct of body, speech, and mind,  
 who reviled the noble ones,  
 held wrong views and undertook actions under the influence of wrong views—  
 with the body’s breaking up, after death,  
 have re-arisen in a plane of misery, an evil destination, a lower realm, in hell.  
 But these beings, sirs—who were endowed with good conduct of body, speech, and mind,  
 who did not revile the noble ones,  
 who held right views and undertook actions under the influence of right views—  
 with the body’s breaking up, after death, have reappeared in a happy destination, in heaven.’  
 Thus, by means of the divine eye, thus purified, surpassing the human, he sees beings passing away  
 and re-arising, and understands how they fare according to their karma.  
 Thus, too, bhikshus, is the exertion fruitful, the striving fruitful.

(3) THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DESTRUCTION OF MENTAL INFLUXES

**29** With his mind thus concentrated, purified, and bright, unblemished, free from defects, pliant,  
 malleable, steady and utterly unshakable, the monk directs it to **the knowledge of the destruction of the  
 mental influxes**.<sup>149</sup>

<sup>145</sup> *Pubbe, nivāsanānussati*, lit “recollection of past abiding [existence].” The remainder of this is expanded into 4 sections in **Brahma, jāla S** (D 1, 1.31-34/1:13-), SD 25.3 (76.3) and 3 sections in **Sampasādaniya S** (D 27, 15-17/3:-107-112), SD 10.12. In both cases, each explains how the eternalist view arose.

<sup>146</sup> *Iti*.

<sup>147</sup> *Cutūpapāta ñāṇa*, or “knowledge of rebirth according to karma” (*yathā, kammūpaga ñāṇa*), or “the divine eye” (*dibba, cakkhu*): see foll n.

<sup>148</sup> *Dibba, cakkhu*, clairvoyance, not to be confused with the Dharma-eye (*dhamma, cakkhu*) (see n in §104). On the relationship of this knowledge to the 62 grounds for wrong views, see **Brahma, jāla S** (D 1), SD 25.3 (76.3). See prec n.

<sup>149</sup> *Āsava-k, khaya, ñāṇa*. The term *āsava* (lit “cankers”) comes from *ā-savati* “flows towards” (ie either “into” or “out” towards the observer). It has been variously translated as taints (“deadly taints”, RD), corruptions, intoxicants, biases, depravity, misery, bad (influence), or simply left untranslated. The Abhidhamma lists 4 *āsava*: the influx of (1) sense-desire (*kām’āsava*), (2) (desire for eternal) existence or becoming (*bhav’āsava*), (3) wrong views (*diṭṭh’*

He knows, as it is really is, “This is suffering (*dukkha*)”;  
 He knows, as it is really is, “This is the arising of suffering”;  
 He knows, as it is really is, “This is the ending of suffering”;  
 He knows, as it is really is, “This is the path to the ending of suffering”<sup>150</sup>

He knows, as it is really is, “These are mental influxes (*āsava*)”;  
 He knows, as it is really is, “This is the arising of influxes”;  
 He knows, as it is really is, “This is the ending of influxes”;  
 He knows, as it is really is, “This is the path to the ending of influxes.”<sup>151</sup>

- 29.2 His mind, thus knowing, thus seeing, is released from  
 (1) the influx of sensual desire, *kām’āsava*  
 (2) the influx of existence, *bhav’āsava*  
 (3) the influx of ignorance.<sup>152</sup> *āviijāsava*

With release, there is the knowledge, ‘Released (am I)!’

He knows that ‘Birth is ended, the holy life has been lived, done is that which needs to be done.  
 There is nothing further beyond this.’<sup>153</sup>

## The arhat

**30** That monk endures cold and heat, hunger and thirst, gadflies, the touch of mosquitoes and creeping things.<sup>154</sup>

30.2 He has grown patient with words and speech that are ill-spoken and unwelcome, **[137]**  
 with painful feelings that have arisen in his body, sharp, piercing, racking, unpleasant, disagreeable,  
 taxing on our breaths [sapping our life itself].<sup>155</sup>

39.3 cleansed and free of all impurities that is lust, hate and delusion<sup>156</sup> —  
 he is worthy of offerings,<sup>157</sup> worthy of hospitality,<sup>158</sup> worthy of gifts,<sup>159</sup> worthy of salutation with the  
 lotus-palms, a supreme field of merit for the world.<sup>160</sup>

*āsava*), (4) ignorance (*avijjāsava*) (D 16,2.4, Pm 1.442, 561, Dhs §§1096-1100, Vbh §937). These 4 are also known as “floods” (*ogha*) and “yokes” (*yoga*). The list of 3 influxes (omitting the influx of views) [43] is prob older and is found more frequently in the suttas (D 33,1.10(20)/3:216,; M 1:55, 3:41; A 3.59, 67, 6.63). The destruction of these *āsavas* is equivalent to arhathood. See BDict under *āsava*.

<sup>150</sup> These 4 statements on suffering pose an interesting problem: they are not called “noble truths” here (nor in **Ariya Pariyesanā S**, M 26,43). Elsewhere, **K R Norman** (a non-Buddhist scholar) remarks that these 4 statements, which also likewise appear in **Mahā Saccaka S** (M 36,42/1:249), but are not referred to as the noble truths about suffering, “and since they appear to be subordinate to the four statements about the *āsavas*, it is possible that the statements about misery are a later addition [here], which led to a parallel, but inappropriate, set of four statements being evolved about the *āsavas*, to provide a symmetry” (Norman 1990:26). For a discussion on the formulation of the noble truths, see Norman 1982:377-91 & also Schmithausen 1981:205.

<sup>151</sup> As in **Ariya Pariyesanā S** (M 26.42), SD 1. On the application of the 4 noble truth template to both *dukkha* and to *āsava* here, see Analayo 2003:224 n28 + SD 17.4 (8.4)

<sup>152</sup> See §26 n on “mental influxes.”

<sup>153</sup> *Nāparam itthatāya*: lit. “there is no more of ‘thusness.’” See **Mahā, nidāna S** (M 15,22), SD 5.17.

<sup>154</sup> *So hoti, bhikkhu khamo sītassa uñhassa jīghacchāya pipāsāya dāmsamakasavātātapa, sirīmsapa, samphassānam*.

<sup>155</sup> See **Sabba, kamma, jaha S** (U 3.1.4/21), SD 37.3 n.

<sup>156</sup> *Sabba, rāga, dosa, moha, nihata, ninnīta, kasāvo*. See M 3:137,3, 3:243,19 (MA 5:54,16) ≈ A 1:254,6.

<sup>157</sup> *Āhuneyyo*. That is, worthy of receiving sacrifices or offerings. The Skt cognate *āhavanīya* refers to that which was offered as an oblation as in *āhuneyy’aggī*, one of the 3 brahminical sacrificial fires (the one in the east).

<sup>158</sup> *Pāhuneyyo*: see **Love**, SD 38.4 (6.2).

<sup>159</sup> *Dakkhiṇeyyo*. Traditionally refers to honoraria or gifts to teachers after completion of tutelage under them. Specifically refers to offerings made for the benefit of the departed by way of dedication of merits to them.



## Conclusion

### How monastics die

- 31** If, Aggī, vessana, the royal elephant were to die in old age, **untamed and undisciplined**,<sup>161</sup> then, he would be reckoned simply as an old royal elephant that had died an untamed death.<sup>162</sup>
- If, Aggī, vessana, the royal elephant were to die in middle age, *untamed and undisciplined*, then, he would be reckoned simply as a middle-aged royal elephant that had died *an untamed death*.
- If, Aggī, vessana, the royal elephant were to die young, *untamed and undisciplined*, then, he would be reckoned simply as a young royal elephant that had died *an untamed death*.
- 31.2 Even so, Aggī, vessana, if an elder monk were to die **without having destroyed the influxes**, then he would be reckoned simply as an elder monk who had died *an untamed death*.
- If, Aggī, vessana, a middling monk were to die *without having destroyed the influxes*, then he would be reckoned simply as a middling monk who had died *an untamed death*.
- If, Aggī, vessana, a novice monk were to die without having destroyed the influxes, then he would be reckoned simply as a novice monk who had surely died *an untamed death*.
- 32** If, Aggī, vessana, the royal elephant were to die in old age, **well tamed and disciplined**,<sup>163</sup> then, he would be reckoned as an old royal elephant that had surely died a tamed death.<sup>164</sup>
- If, Aggī, vessana, the royal elephant were to die in middle age, *well tamed and disciplined*, then, he would be reckoned as a middle-aged royal elephant that had surely died *a tamed death*.
- If, Aggī, vessana, the royal elephant were to die young, *well tamed and disciplined*, then, he would be reckoned as a young royal elephant that had surely died *a tamed death*.
- 32.2 Even so, Aggī, vessana, if an elder monk were to die **with influxes destroyed**, then, he would be reckoned an elder monk who had surely died a tamed death.
- Even so, Aggī, vessana, if a middling monk were to die *with influxes destroyed*, then, he would be reckoned a middling monk who had surely *died a tamed death*.
- Even so, Aggī, vessana, if a novice monk were to die *with influxes destroyed*, then, he would be reckoned a novice monk who had surely *died a tamed death*.
- The Blessed One said this. The novice Acira, vata joyfully approved of the Blessed One's word. [138]

— evaṃ —

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<sup>160</sup> *Āhuṇeyyo pāhuṇeyyo dakkhiṇeyyo añjali, karaṇīyo anuttaram puñña-k, khettaṃ lokassāti*. This is the closing of the recollection on the sangha: see SD 15.10, esp (4).

<sup>161</sup> *Mahallako ce 'pi aggī, vessana rañño nāgo adanto avinīto kālaṃ, karoti*.

<sup>162</sup> *Adantam, araṇaṃ mahallako rañño nāgo kālaṃkato tv-eva saṅkhaṃ gacchati*.

<sup>163</sup> *Mahallako ce 'pi aggivessana rañño nāgo sudanto suvinīto kālaṃ, karoti*.

<sup>164</sup> *Danta, maraṇaṃ mahallako rañño nāgo kālaṃ, kato tv-eva saṅkhaṃ gacchati..*

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