

From page 358

*128 (6) Pollution*

On one occasion the Blessed One was dwelling in Bārāṇasī at the deer park in Isipatana. Then, in the morning, the Blessed One dressed, took his bowl and robe, and entered Bārāṇasī for alms. [280] While walking for alms near the cattle-yoking fig tree, the Blessed One saw a dissatisfied bhikkhu, [seeking] gratification outwardly, muddle-minded, without clear comprehension, unconcentrated, with a wandering mind and loose sense faculties. Having seen him, he said to that bhikkhu:

“Bhikkhu, bhikkhu! Do not pollute yourself. It is inevitable, bhikkhu, that flies will pursue and attack one who has polluted himself and been tainted by a stench.”

Then, being exhorted thus by the Blessed One, that bhikkhu acquired a sense of urgency.

When the Blessed One had walked for alms in Bārāṇasī, after his meal, when he had returned from his alms round, he addressed the bhikkhus:

“Bhikkhus, this morning I dressed, took my bowl and robe, and entered Bārāṇasī for alms. While walking for alms near the cattle-yoking fig tree, I saw a dissatisfied bhikkhu [seeking] gratification outwardly, muddle-minded, without clear comprehension, unconcentrated, with a wandering mind and loose sense faculties. Having seen him, I said to that bhikkhu: ‘Bhikkhu, bhikkhu! Do not pollute yourself. It is inevitable, bhikkhu, that flies will pursue and attack one who has polluted himself and been tainted by a stench.’ Then, being exhorted thus by me, that bhikkhu acquired a sense of urgency.”

When this was said, a certain bhikkhu asked the Blessed One: “What, Bhante, is meant by ‘pollution’? What is the ‘stench’? And what are the ‘flies’?”

(1) “Longing, bhikkhu, is what is meant by ‘pollution.’ (2) Ill will is the ‘stench.’ (3)

Bad unwholesome thoughts are the ‘flies.’ It is inevitable that flies will pursue and attack one who has polluted himself and been tainted by a stench.” [281]

The flies—thoughts based on lust—  
will run in pursuit of one  
unrestrained in the sense faculties,  
unguarded in the eye and ear.

A bhikkhu who is polluted,  
tainted by a stench,  
is far from nibbāna  
and reaps only distress.

Whether in the village or the forest,  
the unwise foolish person,  
not having gained peace for himself,  
goes around followed by flies.

But those accomplished in virtuous behavior  
who delight in wisdom and peace,  
those peaceful ones live happily,  
having destroyed the flies."

From page 368

*143 (11) The Peacock Sanctuary (1)*

On one occasion the Blessed One was dwelling at Rājagaha at the wanderers' park, the peacock sanctuary. There the Blessed One addressed the bhikkhus: ...

“Bhikkhus, possessing three qualities, a bhikkhu is best among devas and humans: one who has reached the ultimate conclusion, won ultimate security from bondage, lived the ultimate spiritual life, and gained the ultimate consummation. What three? (1) The aggregate of virtuous behavior of one beyond training, (2) the aggregate of concentration of one beyond training, and (3) the aggregate of wisdom of one beyond training. Possessing these three qualities, a bhikkhu is best among devas and humans ... and gained the ultimate consummation.”

*144 (12) The Peacock Sanctuary (2)*

“Bhikkhus, possessing three qualities, a bhikkhu is best among devas and humans: one who has reached the ultimate conclusion, won ultimate security from bondage, lived the ultimate spiritual life, and gained the ultimate consummation. What three? [292] (1) The wonder of psychic potency, (2) the wonder of mind-reading, and (3) the wonder of instruction. Possessing these three qualities, a bhikkhu is best among devas and humans ... and gained the ultimate consummation.”

*145 (13) The Peacock Sanctuary (3)*

“Bhikkhus, possessing three qualities, a bhikkhu is best among devas and humans: one who has reached the ultimate conclusion, won ultimate security from bondage, lived the ultimate spiritual life, and gained the ultimate consummation. What three? (1) Right view, (2) right knowledge, and (3) right liberation. Possessing these three qualities, a bhikkhu is best among devas and humans ... and gained the ultimate consummation.”