AN 1.46 — AN 1.46

English translation by Bhikkhu Candana.

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Text

46. “Imagine, Bhikkhus, a crystal clear and unperturbed lake, which had within it many schools of fish swimming about, along with the pebbles and rocks at its bottom that remained clearly visible, as well as the plant life living beneath it. Meanwhile, there was a man standing on its shore, looking down, who was able to see all that was taking place within the lake itself.

“And what is the reason for this?

“It is because the lake is, in fact, crystal clear and unperturbed.

“In the same manner, Bhikkhus, when the Bhikkhu has a heart that is purified and free from the defilements, he is thus able to know and understand as to what is truly beneficial for him or serves him best. In addition, he would also know and understand as to what is truly beneficial for others as well, and what may serve them best. Furthermore, he would know and understand as to what is truly beneficial for both himself and others, as well as what may best serve them both. Especially, however, that Bhikkhu would come to see things as they truly are, by realizing it for himself, with knowledge and vision, which is a quality of the Noble Ones.

“And what is the reason for this?

“It is because such a Bhikkhu has a heart that is crystal clear and unperturbed.”