AN 2.35 — AN 2.35

English translation by Bhikkhu Candana.

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Text

35. At one time, the householder Anāthapiṇḍika came and approached The Blessed One, and after paying his respects by respectfully bowing to The Teacher, he went and sat to one side and said:

“Bhante, who in existence is truly worthy of receiving gifts and offerings? To whom should those with faith be giving their gifts?”

“There are in existence, householder, these two who are worthy of receiving gifts from the faithful: The Noble Disciples in Training and Those Nobles Disciples who have completed their Training.

“Therefore, householder, these are the ones who are worthy of receiving gifts and offerings. These are the ones to whom all those with faith should be giving their gifts.

Then, The Blessed One spoke further, but this time in verse, while saying:

“The Noble Disciple who has completed The Training, and The Noble Disciple still in Training, Are the ones truly worthy of gifts and offerings; They indeed are the ones to whom those who give their heartfelt gifts should be giving, For, they are the ones who live with honesty and unerring character, Upright in actions they commit with their body, speech, and mind. It is therefore these beings who are the genuine field of merits To make one’s offerings to, For, they alone are the ones, To whom those offerings Will bring the greatest of rewards, indeed.”