AN 2.49 — AN 2.49

English translation by Bhikkhu Candana.

Source: https://www.mindreleased.com/s/Book-2_Anguttara-Nikya-A-New-Translation.pdf#page=69

Source revision: 95439bcf66d6295a952d574a8501d2d31edc03ca3ed8eb1e5889f079f7b658c9

License: Candana — free distribution, unaltered contents — https://www.mindreleased.com/s/Book-2_Anguttara-Nikya-A-New-Translation.pdf

Copyright © Bhikkhu Candana, 2020, 2026. Free distribution only; do not alter the contents. The original book, including its complete permission notice, accompanies this text.

Candana source labels: 49. Site text ID: AN 2.49.

Text

49. “Bhikkhus, there are two types of gatherings. What two?

“The unlawful and chaotic gathering, and the gathering that is lawful and well-balanced.

“Now what, Bhikkhus, is the unlawful and chaotic gathering?

“Bhikkhus, in such a gathering, unlawful activities take place where confusion prevails, as clearly defined disciplinary proceedings are not followed in accordance with The Dhamma and The Vinaya, the way they should be. Instead, participants engage in behaving and conducting proceedings that go against The Dhamma and The Vinaya.

“Furthermore, they explain and elaborate on disciplinary proceedings that are incongruent with the teachings, but present them as being more valuable and important than what is supposed to be followed as per The Dhamma and The Vinaya, taught by The Tathāgata. Thus, unlawful discipline prevails while lawful discipline is ignored. Unlawful activity and discipline become the norm, as they keep enacting disciplinary acts which go contrary to the Vinaya, while those lawful disciplinary acts that are in agreement with the Vinaya are discarded, not enacted, and in time fully tossed out. This, therefore, is the unlawful and chaotic gathering.

“And what, Bhikkhus, is the lawful and well-balanced gathering?

“In such a gathering, Bhikkhus, lawful activities take place, where clarity and proper protocol prevail, as clearly defined disciplinary proceedings are followed in accordance with The Dhamma and The Vinaya, the way they should be. Thus, participants engage in behaving and conducting proceedings that take place in harmony and are congruent with The Dhamma and The Vinaya.

“Furthermore, they explain and elaborate on disciplinary proceedings that are perfectly in line with the teachings, by presenting them as lawful and legitimate structures to protect The Sangha, and therefore as valuable and important, and thus to be followed as per The Dhamma and The Vinaya, taught by The Tathāgata. In this manner, lawful discipline prevails while unlawful discipline does not. Lawful activity and discipline become the norm,

as they continue enacting disciplinary acts that are in agreement with the Vinaya, while those unlawful disciplinary acts being suggested or argued for that go contrary to the Vinaya are discarded, not enacted, and immediately tossed out. This, therefore, is the lawful and well-balanced gathering.

“Bhikkhus, these are the two types of gatherings. And out of these two, the gathering that is lawful and well-balanced is indeed the greatest.”