AN 3.8 — Sabyābajjha Sutta (Harmful)

English translation by Bhikkhu Candana.

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Text

8. Sabyābajjha Sutta (Harmful) Bhikkhus, the one who possesses three traits should be known as a fool. Which three?

He engages in harmful bodily actions, engages in harmful verbal actions, and engages in harmful mental actions.

Thus, the person possessing these three traits should be identified as a fool.

Meanwhile, the one who possesses these other three traits should be known as a wise person. Which three?

He engages in non-harmful bodily actions, engages in non-harmful verbal actions, and engages in non-harmful mental actions.

So, the person possessing these three traits should be identified as a wise person.

Therefore, Bhikkhus, it is in this manner that you must train yourselves, by reflecting:

‘We will fully relinquish and abandon all those qualities that designate one as a fool, those qualities with which a fool is identified. And instead, we will continuously develop and cultivate within us those qualities that transform us into wise individuals, chiseling for ourselves those bright characteristic features that make one be recognized as truly skillful and wise!’

It is in this manner, O Bhikkhus, that you must all train yourselves!