AN 3.12 — Sāraṇīya Sutta (Special Locations to Recall)

English translation by Bhikkhu Candana.

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Source revision: ee5230c458ad6c1566f518d5909916ad92d12aebf1240750c5357dd9b5699f30

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Candana source labels: 12. Site text ID: AN 3.12.

Text

12. Sāraṇīya Sutta (Special Locations to Recall) Bhikkhus, there are three special locations that a noble head-anointed Khattiya warrior king recalls throughout his entire life. Which three?

His birthplace; the place where he was anointed as a Khattiya warrior king; and the site where, after a triumphant battle, he arose as the victor on the battlefield.

These are the three special locations that a noble head-anointed Khattiya warrior king remembers throughout his life.

Similarly, Bhikkhus, there are these three special locations that a Bhikkhu recalls throughout his entire life. Which three?

First is the place where he shaved off his head and beard, put on the saffron robes, and went forth from the home life into homelessness.

The second is the place where he first grasped the meaning of the Four Noble Truths, i.e. ‘This is suffering; this is the origin of suffering; this is its cessation; this is The Path to the cessation of suffering.’

Lastly, the third is the site where through the destruction of the contaminants, in this very life, he realized for himself, with direct knowledge, the Unshakeable Freedom of heart, Liberation through wisdom, which he abides and dwells in.

These are the three special locations that a Bhikkhu recalls throughout his entire life.