AN 3.29 — Andha Sutta (The Blind)

English translation by Bhikkhu Candana.

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Text

29. Andha Sutta (The Blind) Bhikkhus, there are these three types of beings found in existence. What three?

The blind; the one with a single eye; and the one with two eyes.

And who, Bhikkhus, is the blind individual?

Here, someone does not possess the eye through which one may obtain riches that have otherwise been un-obtained, and cannot increase his wealth that has already been accumulated.

In addition, such an individual does not possess the eye with which to see and distinguish the unwholesome qualities from those that are wholesome; the blameworthy qualities from those that are blameless; the inferior qualities from those that are superior; as well as to tell apart the differences that exist between dark and bright traits in regards to one's actions and choices. Such is the blind.

And who, Bhikkhus, is the one with a single eye?

Here, someone possesses the eye through which one may obtain riches that have otherwise been un-obtained, and to increase his already accumulated wealth.

Such an individual, however, does not possess the eye with which to see and distinguish the unwholesome qualities from those that are wholesome; the blameworthy qualities from those that are blameless; the inferior qualities from those that are superior; as well as to tell apart the differences that exist between dark and bright traits in regards to one's actions and choices.

Such is the one with a single eye.

And who, Bhikkhus, is the one with two eyes?

Here, someone possesses the eye through which one may obtain riches that have otherwise been un-obtained, and to increase his wealth that has already been accumulated.

Such an individual also possesses the eye with which to see and distinguish the unwholesome qualities from those that are wholesome; the blameworthy qualities from those that are blameless; the inferior qualities from those that are superior; as well as to tell apart the differences that exist between dark and bright traits in regards to one's actions and choices.

Such is the one with two eyes.

Bhikkhus, these are the three types of beings found in existence.

'Not possessing material wealth, And similarly, running empty in his store of good merits, He finds himself unlucky in both throws of the dice. That man is truly born blind, is ruined, having depriving himself of the opportunity to see.

Cheating and stealing, the one who keeps lying, Although may be adding more wealth, while indulging in sense pleasures, Yet, unbeknownst to him, he is rushing on his way from here to hell. This is the one with a single working eye.

Better than both of those two, is the one with eyes that number in two, With riches acquired through his own efforts, And with the righteously earned wealth, he opens up his stores of riches, Sharing all that he has, not only with open hands, But especially, with his heart that opens even wider.

Thus, when it is time, he leaves behind this human birth, To be reborn in heavenly realms, Where he will remain a stranger to sorrow.

So, stay away from the first two, avoiding them altogether: Both the blind and the single-eyed, For truly, it is best to associate with the third, As you go on calling the two-eyed your true friend.'