AN 4.47 — Very Far Apart

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

Numbered Discourses 4.47

5. With Rohitassa

Very Far Apart

“Mendicants, these four things are very far apart. What four? The firmament and the earth. … The near and the far shore of the ocean. … Where the dazzling sun rises and where it sets. … The teaching of the virtuous and the teaching of the wicked. … These are the four things very far apart.

The firmament is far from the earth;

they say the other shore of the ocean is far;

and where the dazzling sun rises is far

from where that beacon sets.

But even further apart than that, they say,

is the teaching of the virtuous from the wicked.

The company of the virtuous is reliable;

as long as it remains, it stays the same.

But the company of the wicked is fickle,

and so the teaching of the virtuous is far from the wicked.”