AN 5.175 — AN 5:175 The Outcaste | Caṇḍāla Sutta

English translation by Ṭhānissaro Bhikkhu.

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Text

The Outcaste

Caṇḍāla Sutta (AN 5:175)

This discourse lists—first in negative and then in positive form—the basic requirements for being a Buddhist lay follower in good standing.

* * *

“Endowed with these five qualities, a lay follower is an outcaste of a lay follower, a stain of a lay follower, a dregs of a lay follower. Which five? He/she does not have conviction (in the Buddha’s awakening); is unvirtuous; is eager for protective charms & ceremonies; trusts protective charms & ceremonies, not kamma; and searches for recipients of his/her

offerings outside (of the Saṅgha), and gives offerings there first. Endowed with these five qualities, a lay follower is an outcaste of a lay follower, a stain of a lay follower, a dregs of a lay follower.

“Endowed with these five qualities, a lay follower is a jewel of a lay follower, a lotus of a lay follower, a fine flower of a lay follower. Which five? He/she has conviction; is virtuous; is not eager for protective charms & ceremonies; trusts kamma, not protective charms & ceremonies; does not search for recipients of his/her offerings outside (of the Saṅgha), and gives offerings here first. Endowed with these five qualities, a lay follower is a jewel of a lay follower, a lotus of a lay follower, a fine flower of a lay follower.”

Publisher references (not part of the sutta)

See also: SN 3:24; AN 5:179; AN 8:26; AN 8:54; AN 10:176