AN 9.19 — A Deity

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
Source: https://suttacentral.net/an9.19/en/sujato
Source revision: 3bc8665e0e28e70518eba94304a2fafcab80f933
License: CC0-1.0 — https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/

Text

Numbered Discourses 9.19

2. The Lion's Roar

A Deity

"Mendicants, tonight, several glorious deities, lighting up the entire Jeta's Grove, came to me, bowed, stood to one side, and said to me: 'Sir, formerly when we were human beings, renunciates came to our homes. We politely rose for them, but we didn't bow. And so, having not fulfilled our duty, full of remorse and regret, we were reborn in a lesser realm.'

Then several other deities came to me and said: 'Sir, formerly when we were human beings, renunciates came to our homes. We politely rose for them and bowed, but we didn't offer a seat. And so, having not fulfilled our duty, full of remorse and regret, we were reborn in a lesser realm.'

Then several other deities came to me and said: 'Sir, formerly when we were human beings, renunciates came to our homes. We politely rose for them, bowed, and offered a seat, but we didn't share as best we could. …'

'… we didn't sit nearby to listen to the teachings. …'

'… we didn't actively listen to the teachings. …'

'… we didn't memorize the teachings. …'

'… we didn't examine the meaning of teachings we'd memorized. …'

'… not having understood the meaning and the teaching, we didn't practice in line with the teaching. And so, having not fulfilled our duty, full of remorse and regret, we were reborn in a lesser realm.'

Then several other deities came to me and said: 'Sir, formerly when we were human beings, renunciates came to our homes. We politely rose, bowed, and offered them a seat. We shared as best we could. We sat nearby to listen to the teachings, lent an ear, memorized them, and examined their meaning. Understanding the teaching and the meaning we practiced in line with the teaching. And so, having fulfilled our duty, free of remorse and regret, we were reborn in a superior realm.'

Here, mendicants, are these roots of trees, and here are these empty huts. Practice absorption, mendicants! Don't be negligent! Don't regret it later, like those former deities."