MN 42 — The People of Verañjā

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Text

Middle Discourses 42

The People of Verañjā

So I have heard. At one time the Buddha was staying near Sāvatthī in Jeta's Grove, Anāthapiṇḍika's monastery.

Now at that time the brahmins and householders of Verañjā were residing in Sāvatthī on some business. The brahmins and householders of Verañjā heard:

"It seems the ascetic Gotama—a Sakyan, gone forth from a Sakyan family—is staying near Sāvatthī in Jeta's Grove, Anāthapiṇḍika's monastery. He has this good reputation … It's good to see such perfected ones."

… They said to the Buddha: "What is the cause, worthy Gotama, what is the reason why some sentient beings, when their body breaks up, after death, are reborn in a place of loss, a bad place, the underworld, hell? And what is the cause, worthy Gotama, what is the reason why some sentient beings, when their body breaks up, after death, are reborn in a good place, a heavenly realm?"

"Unprincipled and immoral conduct is the reason why some sentient beings, when their body breaks up, after death, are reborn in a place of loss, a bad place, the underworld, hell. Principled and moral conduct is the reason why some sentient beings, when their body breaks up, after death, are reborn in a good place, a heavenly realm."

"We don't understand the detailed meaning of the worthy Gotama's brief statement. …"

"Householders, a person of unprincipled and immoral conduct is threefold by way of body, fourfold by way of speech, and threefold by way of mind. …" …