

SN 14.32

Saṃyutta Nikāya
The Connected Discourses

Nidānavagga Saṃyutta
The Groups on Causation

Dhātu Saṃyutta
Connected Discourses on The Elements

Catuttha Vagga
The Fourth Section

Acarin Sutta
“Quest for Gratification”

Translated by Bhikkhu Candana

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Once, while The Blessed One was dwelling in Sāvathī, He addressed the Bhikkhus and said:

“Bhikkhus!”

“Yes, Bhante!” replied the Bhikkhus.

The Blessed One then continued by saying:

1. “Bhikkhus, I went in search of gratification within the earth element. And whatever gratification there is to be found within the earth element, *that* I have found out. Thus, whatever happens to be the spectrum of gratification of the earth element, that I have fully understood and wisely discerned.

“Bhikkhus, I went in search of the perilous danger within the earth element. And whatever perilous danger there is to be encountered within the earth element, *that* I have found out, as well. Thus, whatever happens to be the spectrum of danger of the earth element, that I have fully understood and wisely discerned.

“Bhikkhus, I went in search of the way to entirely escape by stepping out from the earth element. And whatever way of escape by stepping out that there is from the earth element, *that* I have found out. Thus, whatever happens to be the spectrum of the stepping out and escape from the earth element, that I have fully understood and wisely discerned.

2. “Bhikkhus, I went in search of gratification within the water element. And whatever gratification there is to be found within the water element, *that* I have found out. Thus, whatever happens to be the spectrum of gratification of the water element, that I have fully understood and wisely discerned.

“Bhikkhus, I went in search of the perilous danger within the water element. And whatever perilous danger there is to be encountered within the water element, *that* I have found out, as well. Thus, whatever happens to be the spectrum of danger of the water element, that I have fully understood and wisely discerned.

“Bhikkhus, I went in search of the way to entirely escape by stepping out from the water element. And whatever way of escape there is by stepping out from the water element, *that* I have found out. Thus, whatever happens to be the spectrum of the stepping out and escape from the water element, that I have fully understood and wisely discerned.

3. “Bhikkhus, I went in search of gratification within the fire element. And whatever gratification there is to be found within the fire element, *that* I have found out. Thus, whatever happens to be the spectrum of gratification of the fire element, that I have fully understood and wisely discerned.

“Bhikkhus, I went in search of the perilous danger within the fire element. And whatever perilous danger there is to be encountered within the fire element, *that* I have found out, as well. Thus, whatever happens to be the spectrum of danger of the fire element, that I have fully understood and wisely discerned.

“Bhikkhus, I went in search of the way to entirely escape by stepping out from the fire element. And whatever way of escape there is by stepping out of the fire element, *that* I have found out. Thus, whatever happens to be the spectrum of the stepping out and escape from the fire element, that I have fully understood and wisely discerned.

4. “Bhikkhus, I went in search of gratification within the air element. And whatever gratification there is to be found within the air element, *that* I have found out. Thus, whatever happens to be the spectrum of gratification of the air element, that I have fully understood and wisely discerned.

“Bhikkhus, I went in search of the perilous danger within the air element. And whatever perilous danger there is to be encountered within the air element, *that* I have found out, as well. Thus, whatever happens to be the spectrum of danger of the air element, that I have fully understood and wisely discerned.

“Bhikkhus, I went in search of the way to entirely escape by stepping out from the air element. And whatever way of escape there is by stepping out from the air element, *that* I have found out. Thus, whatever happens to be the spectrum of the stepping out and escape from the air element, that I have fully understood and wisely discerned.

“Now, Bhikkhus, so long as I had not yet fully understood, nor wisely discerned, the full range and spectrum of seeking that gratification, the perilous dangers, and the escape to be experienced by stepping out from these four elements, I did not declare My Perfect and Full Awakening in existence, this world with all its Gods, Māras, and Brahma Gods, along with its populations of recluses, religious practitioners, and brahmins, as well as the human and non-human beings found within it.

“Therefore, Bhikkhus, it was *only after* I fully understood and wisely discerned the full range and spectrum of seeking that gratification, the perilous dangers, and the escape to be experienced by stepping out from these four elements, that I *did* declare My Perfect and Full Awakening in existence, this world with all its Gods, Māras, and Brahma Gods, along with its populations of recluses, religious practitioners, and brahmins, as well as the human and non-human beings found within it.

“And it was right then, that the direct understanding and unmistakable knowledge arose within me, and I saw that –

*‘Unshakable is my Liberation!
This is indeed my very last birth,
For, truly there is no more rebirths left for me now,
Nor is even possible, into any future life, at all!’*

Sādhu

Sādhu

Sādhu