SN 21.4 — A Junior Mendicant

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
Source: https://suttacentral.net/sn21.4/en/sujato
Source revision: 3bc8665e0e28e70518eba94304a2fafcab80f933
License: CC0-1.0 — https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/

Text

Linked Discourses 21.4

1. Monks

A Junior Mendicant

At Sāvatthī.

Now at that time a certain junior monk, after his meal, on his return from almsround, entered his dwelling, where he adhered to passivity and silence. And he didn't help the mendicants out when it was time to sew robes. Then several mendicants went up to the Buddha, bowed, sat down to one side, and told him what had happened.

So the Buddha addressed one of the monks, "Please, monk, in my name tell that monk that the Teacher summons him."

"Yes, sir," that monk replied. He went to that monk and said to him, "Reverend, the Teacher summons you."

"Yes, reverend," that monk replied. He went to the Buddha, bowed, and sat down to one side. The Buddha said to him:

"Is it really true, monk, that after your meal, on your return from almsround, you entered your dwelling, where you adhered to passivity and silence, and you didn't help the mendicants out when it was time to sew robes?"

"Sir, I am doing my own work."

Then the Buddha, knowing that monk's train of thought, addressed the mendicants: "Mendicants, don't complain about this monk. This monk gets the four absorptions—blissful meditations in this life that belong to the higher mind—when he wants, without trouble or difficulty. He has realized the supreme culmination of the spiritual path in this very life, and lives having achieved with his own insight the goal for which gentlemen rightly go forth from the lay life to homelessness."

That is what the Buddha said. Then the Holy One, the Teacher, went on to say:

"Not by being slack,

or with little strength

may this be realized—extinguishment,

the release from all suffering.

This young monk,

this best of men,

bears his final body,

having vanquished Māra with his legions.”