SN 36.17 — With Several Mendicants (1st)

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

Linked Discourses 36.17

2. In Private

With Several Mendicants (1st)

Then several mendicants went up to the Buddha, bowed, sat down to one side, and said to him:

“Sir, what is feeling? What’s the origin of feeling? What’s the cessation of feeling? What’s the practice that leads to the cessation of feeling? And what is feeling’s gratification, drawback, and escape?”

“Mendicants, there are these three feelings: pleasant, painful, and neutral. These are called feelings.

Feeling originates from contact. When contact ceases, feeling ceases.

The practice that leads to the cessation of feelings is simply this noble eightfold path, that is: right view, right purpose, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right immersion.

The pleasure and happiness that arise from feeling: this is its gratification. That feeling is impermanent, suffering, and perishable: this is its drawback. Removing and giving up desire and greed for feeling: this is its escape.

But I have also explained the progressive cessation of activities. … For someone who has attained the first absorption, speech has ceased. … For a mendicant who has ended the defilements, greed, hate, and delusion have ceased. And I have also explained the progressive settling of activities. For someone who has attained the first absorption, speech has stilled. … For a mendicant who has ended the defilements, greed, hate, and delusion have stilled. There are these six levels of tranquility. For someone who has attained the first absorption, speech has been tranquilized. For someone who has attained the second absorption, the placing of the mind and keeping it connected have been tranquilized. For someone who has attained the third absorption, rapture has been tranquilized. For someone who has attained the fourth absorption, breathing has been tranquilized. For someone who has attained the cessation of perception and feeling, perception and feeling have been tranquilized.

For a mendicant who has ended the defilements, greed, hate, and delusion have been tranquilized.”