

0.0.1 The Net of Brahma

1. Thus was heard by me. At one time the Auspicious One entered upon the high road between Rajagaha and Nalanda with a large Sangha of bhikkhus, with about five hundred bhikkhus. The wanderer Suppiya, had also entered upon the high road between Rajagaha and Nalanda with his pupil, the brahmin youth Brahmadata. There, the wanderer Suppiya, in various ways, only spoke in dispraise of the Buddha, spoke in dispraise of the Dhamma, spoke in dispraise of the Sangha. However, the wanderer Suppiya's pupil, the brahmin youth Brahmadata, in various ways, spoke in praise of the Buddha, spoke in praise of the Dhamma, spoke in praise of the Sangha. Thus indeed, both teacher and pupil spoke directly opposing one another as they followed behind the Auspicious One and the Bhikkhu Sangha.

2. Later on, the Auspicious One entered the King's Cottage at Ambalatthika with the Bhikkhu Sangha to spend one night. The wanderer Suppiya also entered the King's Cottage at Ambalatthika with his pupil, brahmin youth Brahmadata, to spend one night. There too, the wanderer Suppiya, in various ways, only spoke in dispraise of the Buddha, spoke in dispraise of the Dhamma, spoke in dispraise of the Sangha. However, the wanderer Suppiya's pupil, the brahmin youth Brahmadata, in various ways, spoke in praise of the Buddha, spoke in praise of the Dhamma, spoke in praise of the Sangha. Thus indeed, both teacher and pupil spoke directly opposing

one another as they dwelled.

3. Then, as the night [turned to] early morning, many bhikkhus having arisen, having assembled at the round pavilion, this topic of conversation arose as they settled: “It is marvellous, O friends. It is unprecedented, O friends, in so far as the Auspicious One who knows and sees, the Arahant, the rightly self-awakened One, has well known the diverse dispositions of beings. Indeed, this wanderer Suppiya, in various ways, spoke in dispraise of the Buddha, spoke in dispraise of the Dhamma, spoke in dispraise of the Sangha. However, the wanderer Suppiya’s pupil, the brahmin youth Brahmadata, in various ways, spoke in praise of the Buddha, spoke in praise of the Dhamma, spoke in praise of the Sangha. Thus indeed, both teacher and pupil spoke directly opposing one another as they followed behind the Auspicious One and the Bhikkhu Sangha.”

4. Then the Auspicious One, having known the topic of conversation of those bhikkhus, went to the round pavilion. Upon arrival, he sat down on a prepared seat. Having sat down, the Auspicious One addressed the bhikkhus: “What form of conversation, O bhikkhus, were you having now as you have settled here, having assembled? And what was the talk underway that was left unfinished by you?” When thus was said, those bhikkhus said this to the Auspicious One: “Here, O Bhante, as the night turned to early morning, we, having arisen,

having assembled at the round pavilion, this topic of conversation arose as we settled: "It is marvellous, O friends. It is unprecedented, O friends, in so far as the Auspicious One who knows and sees, the Arahant, the rightly self-awakened One, has well known the diverse dispositions of beings. Indeed, this wanderer Suppiya, in various ways, spoke in dispraise of the Buddha, spoke in dispraise of the Dhamma, spoke in dispraise of the Sangha. However, the wanderer Suppiya's pupil, the brahmin youth Brahmadatta, in various ways, spoke in praise of the Buddha, spoke in praise of the Dhamma, spoke in praise of the Sangha. Thus indeed, both teacher and pupil spoke directly opposing one another as they followed behind the Auspicious One and the Bhikkhu Sangha." This, O Bhante, was the talk underway that was left unfinished by us. Then the Auspicious One arrived."

5. "O bhikkhus, should others speak in dispraise of me, or should speak in dispraise of the Dhamma, or should speak in dispraise of the Sangha, no malice, no discontentment, no resentment in the mind is to be done by you. O bhikkhus, should others speak in dispraise of me, or should speak in dispraise of the Dhamma, or should speak in dispraise of the Sangha, if there is annoyance or displeasure in you therein, that is a hindrance for you alone. O bhikkhus, should others speak in dispraise of me, or should speak in dispraise of the Dhamma, or should speak in dispraise of the Sangha, if there is annoyance or displeasure in you therein, would you understand

of others [what is] well-spoken and badly-spoken?” “Certainly not, Bhante.” O bhikkhus, should others speak in dispraise of me, or should speak in dispraise of the Dhamma, or should speak in dispraise of the Sangha, you should unravel the false from the false therein: “Such as this is false. Such as this is untrue. But there is not this in us. On the contrary, this is not to be found in us.”

6. “O bhikkhus, should others speak in praise of me, or should speak in praise of the Dhamma, or should speak in praise of the Sangha, no rejoicing, no mental pleasure, no elation in the mind is to be done by you. O bhikkhus, should others speak in praise of me, or should speak in praise of the Dhamma, or should speak in praise of the Sangha, if there is rejoicing or gladness in you therein, that is a hindrance for you alone. O bhikkhus, should others speak in praise of me, or should speak in praise of the Dhamma, or should speak in praise of the Sangha, you should acknowledge the truth from the truth therein: “Such as this is true. Such as this is correct. And there is this in us. And still, this is to be found in us.”

7. “But this, O bhikkhus, is a trifling, insignificant, mere virtue, by which one who is a puthujjana might say when speaking in praise of the Tathagata.” “And which, O bhikkhus, is that trifling, insignificant, mere virtue by which one who is a puthujjana might say when speaking in praise of the Tathagata?”

8. “Having abandoned the killing of living beings, the samana Gotama abstains from the killing of living beings. Having buried the rod, having buried the sword, he dwells conscientious, with kindness and sympathy, compassionate for the welfare for all living beings.” It is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

9. “Having abandoned the taking of what is not given, the samana Gotama abstains from taking what is not given, accepting what is given, expecting what is given. By not thieving, he dwells having become pure himself.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

10. “Having abandoned unchastity, the samana Gotama is a celibate one, living apart, abstaining from sexual intercourse, the villager’s habit.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

11. “Having abandoned false speech, the samana Gotama abstains from false speech. He speaks the truth. He is dependable, reliable, trustworthy, not a deceiver of the world.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

12. “Having abandoned divisive speech, the samana Gotama abstains from divisive speech. Having heard from here, he does not tell there to divide these [from those], or having heard from there, he does not tell here to divide those [from these]. Thus is he, a reconciler of the divided, a bestower of togetherness. He delights in harmony, is delighted with harmony, rejoices in harmony, utters speech that creates harmony.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

13. “Having abandoned harsh speech, the samana Gotama abstains from harsh speech. That speech which is gentle, pleasant to the ear, endearing, heartwarming, polite, pleasing to many, agreeable to many, that form of speech he utters.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

14. “Having abandoned senseless prattle, the samana Gotama abstains from senseless prattle. He speaks at the proper time, [speech that is] truthful, meaningful, in accordance with the Dhamma, in accordance with the Vinaya, speech worth treasuring, at the proper time he utters speech that is reasonable, speech worth remembering, speech connected with profit.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

15. “The samana Gotama abstains from injuring seed life and vegetation. The samana Gotama eats his meal in one sitting, refraining from eating in the evening, abstaining from eating outside the proper time. The samana Gotama abstains from dancing, singing, music and watching shows. The samana Gotama abstains from the establishment of wearing adornments and decorations with garlands, fragrances and ointments. The samana Gotama abstains from high and large beds and seats. The samana Gotama abstains from accepting gold and silver. The samana Gotama abstains from accepting uncooked grains. The samana Gotama abstains from accepting uncooked meat. The samana Gotama abstains from accepting women and girls. The samana Gotama abstains from accepting male and female slaves. The samana Gotama abstains from accepting goat and sheep. The samana Gotama abstains from accepting chicken and pigs. The samana Gotama abstains from the acquisition of elephants, cows, horses and mares. The samana Gotama abstains from the acquisition of fields and lands. The samana Gotama abstains from the practice of going on errands and going as a messenger. The samana Gotama abstains from buying and selling. The samana Gotama abstains from dealing in false weighing, dealing in fake metals, dealing in false measures, bribery, cheating and fraud. The samana Gotama abstains from the crooked ways of slaughtering, imprisoning, execution and robbery. The samana Gotama abstains from plunder and violence.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might

say.

16. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, dwell engaged in such forms of injuring seed life and vegetation, such as: root seeds, stem seeds, joint seeds, bud seeds and actual seeds as the fifth. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of injuring seed life and vegetation.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

17. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, dwell engaged in such forms of storing up things for use, such as: storing up boiled rice; storing up drinks; storing up cloths; storing up vehicles; storing up beds; storing up fragrances; storing up meats. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of storing up things for use.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

8. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, dwell engaged in such forms of the watching of shows, such as: dancing; singing; music; theatrical performances; story telling; instrumentals; pictured houses; drumming; shows of the heavenly musicians; acrobatic performances by Candalas; elephant battles; horse battles; stick fights; fist fights; wrestling; sham fights; battle arrays; army battles and

regimental reviews. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of the watching of shows.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

19. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, dwell engaged in such forms of indulging in gambling that are the bases for negligence, such as: eight-row chess; ten-row chess; checkers in the air; hopscotch; spillikins; board-games; tip-cat; drawing straws; dice; leaf-flutes; toy plows; somersaults; pinwheels; toy measures; toy carts; toy bows; guessing words from syllables; and guessing another’s thoughts. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of indulging in gambling that are the bases for negligence.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

20. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, dwell engaged in such forms of high and large beds and seats, such as: spacious couches; thrones with animal figures carved on the supports; long-haired coverlets; multi-coloured patchwork coverlets; white woollen coverlets; woollen coverlets embroidered with flowers; quilts stuffed with cotton; woollen coverlets embroidered with animal figures; woollen coverlets with hair on both sides or on one side; bedspreads embroidered with gems; silk cover-

lets; dance-hall carpets; elephant, horse or chariot rugs; rugs of antelope-skins; choice spreads made of kadali-deer hides; spreads with red awnings overhead; couches with red cushions for the head and feet. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of high and large beds and seats.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

21. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, dwell engaged in such forms of indulging in the establishment of wearings, decorations and adornments, such as: rubbing fragrances on the body; massaging with oils; being bathed by others; kneading the limbs; using mirrors; collyrium (for the eyes); garlands; scents; unguents; face-powders; make-up; bracelets; head-bands; decorated walking sticks; ornamented medicine-tubes; rapiers; sunshades; embroidered sandals; turbans; diadems; yaktail whisks; and long-fringed white robes. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of indulging in the establishment of wearings, decorations and adornments.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

22. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, dwell engaged in such forms of animal talk, such as: talk about kings, talk about thieves, talk about ministers, talk about armies,

talk about dangers, talk about battles, talk about food, talk about drinks, talk about garments, talk about lodgings, talk about garlands, talk about perfumes, talk about lineages, talk about vehicles, talk about villages, talk about towns, talk about cities, talk about countries, talk about women, talk about heroes, talk about streets, talk about wells, talk about those of former days who are dead, talk about diverse topics, speculate about the world, speculate about the sea, talk about being or non-being as such. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of animal talks.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

23. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, dwell engaged in such forms of quarrelsome talk, such as: “You don’t understand this dhamma and discipline. I understand this dhamma and discipline. How can you understand this dhamma and discipline? You have entered the wrong path. I have entered the right path. I’m consistent. You are inconsistent. What should have been said first, you said last, what should have been said last, you said first. That practice of yours has been overturned. Your doctrine has been invalidated. You are defeated. Go on and save your doctrine, or disentangle yourself now if you can.” The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of quarrelsome talk.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the

Tathagata might say.

24. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, dwell engaged in such forms of the practice of going on errands and going as a messenger, such as: running errands for kings, king’s ministers, khattiyas, brahmins, householders, or young men who say: “Go here, go to such and such a place. Take this, bring that from such and such a place.” The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of practice of going on errands and going as a messenger.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

25. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, having strong desires, [engage in] hinting, muttering holy words for pay, fortune-telling, belittling others good qualities, and pursuing gain with gain. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of hinting and flattering.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

26. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, they earn their living by such forms of wrong livelihood of animal sciences such as: [interpreting:] signs on limbs, unusual events, dreams, characteristic marks, cloths gnawed by mice; [offering:] fire oblations, oblations from a ladle, grain husk

oblations, broken rice oblations, rice-grain oblations, ghee oblations, oil oblations, oblations from the mouth, blood oblations; palmistry, the science of identifying auspicious sites for building, the science of identifying auspicious fields, the science of interpreting the cries of jackals, the science of exorcism, the science of earthen house, the science of snakes, the science of poisons, the science of scorpions, the science of rats, the science of birds, the science of crows, predicting the number of years left to live, protective charms against arrows, commanding animals. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of wrong livelihood.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

27. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, they earn their living by such forms of wrong livelihood of animal sciences such as: telling a person’s fortune from the characteristics of gems, characteristics of a walking stick, characteristics of a garment, characteristics of a sword, characteristics of an arrow, characteristics of a bow, characteristics of a weapon, characteristics of a woman, characteristics of a man, characteristics of a boy, characteristics of a girl, characteristics of a male slave, characteristics of a female slave, characteristics of an elephant, characteristics of a horse, characteristics of a buffalo, characteristics of a bull, characteristics of a cow, characteristics of a goat, characteristics of a sheep, characteristics of a cock,

characteristics of a quail, characteristics of an iguana, characteristics of a rabbit, characteristics of a turtle, characteristics of a deer. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of wrong livelihood.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

28. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, they earn their living by such forms of wrong livelihood of animal sciences such as: the king will march forth; the king will not march forth; our king will attack and the foreign king will retreat; the foreign king will attack and our king will retreat; our king will triumph and the foreign king will be defeated; the foreign king will triumph and our king will be defeated; thus there will be victory for one and defeat for the other. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of wrong livelihood.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

29. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, they earn their living by such forms of wrong livelihood of animal sciences such as: there will be an eclipse of the moon, there will be an eclipse of the sun, there will be an eclipse of a constellation; the sun and the moon will stay on their proper courses; the sun and the moon will deviate from their proper courses; the constellations will stay on their

proper courses; the constellations will deviate from their proper courses; there will be a fall of meteors; there will be a blaze in the quarters; there will be an earthquake; there will be an earth-tremor; there will be a thundering of the [rain] devas; there will be a rising and setting, a darkening and brightening, of the moon, sun, and constellations; such will be the results of an eclipse of the moon, such will be the results of an eclipse of the sun, such will be the results of an eclipse of a constellation; such will be the results of the sun and the moon staying on their proper courses; such will be the results of the sun and the moon deviating from their proper courses; such will be the results of the constellations staying on their proper courses; such will be the results of the constellations deviating from their proper courses; such will be the results of a fall of meteors; such will be the results of a blaze in the quarters; such will be the results of an earthquake; such will be the results of an earth-tremor; such will be the results of a thundering of the [rain] devas; such will be the results of a rising and setting, a darkening and brightening, of the moon, sun, and constellations. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of wrong livelihood.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

30. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, they earn their living by such forms of wrong livelihood of animal sciences such

as: there will be abundant rain; there will be a drought; there will be abundant food; there will be a famine; there will be security; there will be danger; there will be sickness; there will be health; or they earn their living by accounting, computation, calculation, the composing of poetry, and moral philosophy. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of wrong livelihood.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

31. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, they earn their living by such forms of wrong livelihood of animal sciences such as: getting a wife for a young man; getting a husband for a young woman; arranging engagements; arranging divorces; advising on times for savings; advising on times for spending; invoking good luck; invoking bad luck; reviving fetuses; [reciting:] incantations to bind the tongue; incantations to cause dumbness; incantations to cause vomiting; incantations to bind the jaw; whispering in the ear; questioning a mirror as an oracle; questioning a girl as an oracle; questioning a deva as an oracle; worshipping the sun; worshipping the Great Brahma; spitting out fire; invoking the goddess of luck. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of wrong livelihood.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

32. “Whereas some honorable samanas and brahmanas, having eating food offered in faith, they earn their living by such forms of wrong livelihood of animal sciences such as: [performing:] rituals for peace, rituals for aspirations, rituals for wisdom, rituals for rainfall, rituals for infertility, rituals for sites, ceremonies for sites, consecration of sites, ceremonial rinsing of the mouth, ceremonial bathing, offering of sacrifices, administering emetics, administering purgatives, administering up-going purgatives, administering down-going purgatives, administering head purgatives, administering ear ointments, administering eye restoratives, administering nasal medicine, administering ointments and counter-ointments; practising fine surgery; practising general surgery; practising as a children’s doctor; the application of medicinal roots; the binding on of medicinal herbs and remedies. The samana Gotama abstains from such or such forms of wrong livelihood.” Or it is indeed thus, O bhikkhus, that a puthujjana speaking in praise of the Tathagata might say.

33. This, O bhikkhus, is the trifling, insignificant, mere virtue, by which one who is a puthujjana might say when speaking in praise of the Tathagata.

34. There are, O bhikkhus, also other dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tatha-

gata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say. And which, O bhikkhus, are those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say?

35. There are, O bhikkhus, some samanas and brahmanas who are past world-cycle theorists, who [hold] views in line with the past, who assert various theories concerning the past by eighteen grounds. Owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas who are past world-cycle theorists, who [hold] views in line with the past, assert various theories concerning the past by these eighteen grounds?

36. There are, O bhikkhus, some samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is eternalism, who declare the self and the world [to be] eternal by four grounds. Owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas declare the self and the world [to be] eternal by four grounds?

37. "Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, mentally touches such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, he recollects his manifold past abodes, that is: one birth, two births, three births, four births, five births, ten births, twenty births, thirty births, forty births, fifty births, a hundred births, a thousand births, a hundred thousand births, many hundreds of births, many thousands of births, many hundreds of thousands of births. "There I was so named, of such a clan, with such an appearance, such was my nutriment, such my experience of pleasure and pain, such my life span; and passing away from there, I appeared elsewhere; and there too I was so named, of such a clan, with such an appearance, such was my nutriment, such my experience of pleasure and pain, such my life span; and passing away from there, I appeared here." Thus with their aspects and particulars, he recollects his manifold past abodes. He says thus: The self and the world are eternal, barren, permanent, as stable as a pillar, immovable. It is just beings that run through, move about continuously, passing away and re-arising. There is only this forever and ever. What is the reason for that? Because I, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, mentally touch such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, I recollect my manifold past abodes, that is: one birth, two births, three births, four births,

five births, ten births, twenty births, thirty births, forty births, fifty births, a hundred births, a thousand births, a hundred thousand births, many hundreds of births, many thousands of births, many hundreds of thousands of births. "There I was so named, of such a clan, with such an appearance, such was my nutriment, such my experience of pleasure and pain, such my life span; and passing away from there, I appeared elsewhere; and there too I was so named, of such a clan, with such an appearance, such was my nutriment, such my experience of pleasure and pain, such my life span; and passing away from there, I appeared here." Thus with their aspects and particulars, I recollect my manifold past abodes. In this way I understand this: Whereas the self and the world are eternal, barren, permanent, as stable as a pillar, immovable, beings run through, move about continuously, passing away and re-arising, there is only this forever and ever." This, O bhikkhus, is the first ground owing to which, having regard for which, some samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is eternalism declare the self and the world to be eternal.

38. And in the second place, owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is eternalism, declare the self and the world to be eternal? "Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right atten-

tion, mentally touches such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, he recollects his manifold past abodes, that is: one world-contraction and expansion, two world-contraction and expansion, three world-contraction and expansion, four world-contraction and expansion, five world-contraction and expansion, ten world-contraction and expansion. "There I was so named, of such a clan, with such an appearance, such was my nutriment, such my experience of pleasure and pain, such my life span; and passing away from there, I appeared elsewhere; and there too I was so named, of such a clan, with such an appearance, such was my nutriment, such my experience of pleasure and pain, such my life span; and passing away from there, I appeared here." Thus with their aspects and particulars, he recollects his manifold past abodes. He says thus: The self and the world are eternal, barren, permanent, as stable as a pillar, immovable. It is just beings that run through, move about continuously, passing away and re-arising. There is only this forever and ever. What is the reason for that? Because I, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, mentally touch such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, I recollect my manifold past abodes, that is: one world-contraction and expansion, two world-contraction and expansion, three world-contraction and expansion, four world-contraction and expansion, five world-contraction and expansion, ten world-contraction and expansion. "There I was so named, of such a clan, with such an appearance, such

was my nutriment, such my experience of pleasure and pain, such my life span; and passing away from there, I appeared elsewhere; and there too I was so named, of such a clan, with such an appearance, such was my nutriment, such my experience of pleasure and pain, such my life span; and passing away from there, I appeared here.” Thus with their aspects and particulars, I recollect my manifold past abodes. In this way I understand this: Whereas the self and the world are eternal, barren, permanent, as stable as a pillar, immovable, beings, run through, move about continuously, passing away and re-arising, there is only this forever and ever.” This, O bhikkhus, is the second ground owing to which, having regard for which some samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is eternalism declare the self and the world to be eternal.

39. And in the third place, owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is eternalism, declare the self and the world to be eternal? “Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, mentally touches such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, he recollects his manifold past abodes, that is: ten world-contraction and expansion, twenty world-contraction and expansion, thirty world-contraction and expansion, forty world-contraction and

expansion. "There I was so named, of such a clan, with such an appearance, such was my nutriment, such my experience of pleasure and pain, such my life span; and passing away from there, I appeared elsewhere; and there too I was so named, of such a clan, with such an appearance, such was my nutriment, such my experience of pleasure and pain, such my life span; and passing away from there, I appeared here." Thus with their aspects and particulars, he recollects his manifold past abodes. He says thus: The self and the world are eternal, barren, permanent, as stable as a pillar, immovable. It is just beings that run through, move about continuously, passing away and re-arising. There is only this forever and ever. What is the reason for that? Because I, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, mentally touch such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, I recollect my manifold past abodes, that is: ten world-contraction and expansion, twenty world-contraction and expansion, thirty world-contraction and expansion, forty world-contraction and expansion. "There I was so named, of such a clan, with such an appearance, such was my nutriment, such my experience of pleasure and pain, such my life span; and passing away from there, I appeared elsewhere; and there too I was so named, of such a clan, with such an appearance, such was my nutriment, such my experience of pleasure and pain, such my life span; and passing away from there, I appeared here." Thus with their aspects and particulars, I recollect my manifold past abodes. In this

way I understand this: Whereas the self and the world are eternal, barren, permanent, as stable as a pillar, immovable, beings, run through, move about continuously, passing away and re-arising, there is only this forever and ever.” This, O bhikkhus, is the third ground owing to which, having regard for which some samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is eternalism declare the self and the world to be eternal.

40. And in the fourth place, owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is eternalism, declare the self and the world to be eternal? “Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana is a logician, an investigator. Having hammered out by argumentations accompanied by investigation according to his own intelligence, he says thus: The self and the world are eternal, barren, permanent, as stable as a pillar, immovable. It is just beings that run through, move about continuously, passing away and re-arising. There is only this forever and ever.” This, O bhikkhus, is the fourth ground owing to which, having regard for which some samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is eternalism declare the self and the world to be eternal.

41. Indeed, it is these, O bhikkhus, by which those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is eternalism declare the self and the world [to be] eternal by four grounds. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or

brahmanas, whose teaching is eternalism, who declare the self and the world [to be] eternal, all those [do so] by only these four grounds or by a certain one [among] these. Aside from these there is none.

42. That, O bhikkhus, the Tathagata understands this: “These standpoint for views, thus welcome, thus held on to, thus grasped, they will lead to such after death state.” And that the Tathagata understands what transcends that understanding, and not being attached to that understanding, and not holding to it, he has just known personal extinguishing by final knowledge. And having known as they have come to be the arising, the extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of feelings, not having appropriated, the Tathagata, O bhikkhus, is liberated.

43. These, O bhikkhus, are really those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, most excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say.

44. There are, O bhikkhus, some samanas and brahmanas who are partial eternal and partial non-eternal

theorizers, who declare the self and the world [to be] partially eternal and partially non-eternal by four grounds. Owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas declare the self and the world [to be] partially eternal and partially non-eternal by four grounds?

45. At some time or other, O bhikkhus, there comes to be a long lapse of time which this world contracts. In a contracting world, the majority of beings are mostly Abhassara [brahma world] bound. There they are mind-made, feeding on happiness, self-luminous, roaming through the air, ever beautiful, and they remain like that for a very long time. At some time or other, O bhikkhus, there comes to be a long lapse of time which this world expands. In an expanding world, an empty brahma palace appears. Then a certain being, having passed away from the Abhassara group [due to] the exhaustion of life or exhaustion of merits, arises in the empty brahma palace. There he is mind-made, feeding on happiness, self-luminous, roaming through the air, ever beautiful, and he remains like that for a very long time. Of him being alone in that place for a long time, an uneasiness, discontent and perturbation arises: "O, that other beings too were to come to this state." Then certain beings too, having passed away from the Abhassara group [due to] the exhaustion of life or exhaustion of merits, arise in the brahma palace in companionship of that being. Those too are mind-made, feeding on happiness, self-luminous, roaming through

the air, ever beautiful, and they remain like that for a very long time. There, O bhikkhus, the being who arose first, it occurs to him thus: "I am Brahmā, the Great Brahmā, the Conqueror, the Unconquered, the All Seeing, the Wielder of Power, the Master, the Maker and Creator, the Foremost, the Ordainer, the Almighty, the Father of all that are and are to be. These beings are created by me. What is the reason for that? Formerly this occurred to me: "O, that other beings too were to come to this state;" and because of such mental aspiration of mine, these beings have come to this state." Those beings too who arose afterwards, it occurs to those too: "This is Brahmā, the Great Brahmā, the Conqueror, the Unconquered, the All Seeing, the Wielder of Power, the Master, the Maker and Creator, the Foremost, the Ordainer, the Almighty, the Father of all that are and are to be. In this way we were created by Brahma. What is the reason for that? Because we see that he arose here first. However, we arose afterwards."

46. There, O bhikkhus, the being who arose first is longer lived, more beautiful and possesses greater power. However, those beings who arose afterwards are shorter lived, less beautiful and possess less power. But it is possible, O bhikkhus, it is to be found that a certain being, having passed away from that group comes to this state of existence. Having come to this state of existence, he is one who goes forth from the house [life] into homelessness. Being one who has gone forth from the house [life]

into homelessness, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, he mentally touches such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, he recollects his former abode, [but apart] from there, he does not recollect others. He says thus: "He who is Brahmā, the Great Brahmā, the Conqueror, the Unconquered, the All Seeing, the Wielder of Power, the Master, the Maker and Creator, the Foremost, the Ordainer, the Almighty, the Father of all that are and are to be, we were created by Brahma. He is permanent, stable, eternal, not liable to degenerate. He just remains thus forever and ever. However, we who were created by Brahma, we are impermanent, unstable, short lived, liable to fall away and come to this state of existence." This, O bhikkhus, is the first ground owing to which, having regard for which some samanas and brahmanas who are partial eternal and partial non-eternal theorists declare the self and the world to be partially eternal and partially non-eternal.

47. And in the second place, owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas who are partial eternal and partial non-eternal theorists, declare the self and the world [to be] partially eternal and partially non-eternal? There are, O bhikkhus, devas named amusement revelers. They dwell excessively engaged in the habit of laughter and enjoyment. Of those dwelling excessively engaged in the habit

of laughter and enjoyment, [their] mindfulness become muddled. With muddled mindfulness those devas pass away from that group. But it is possible, O bhikkhus, it is to be found, that a certain being from that group, having passed away, comes to this state of existence. Having come to this state of existence, he is one who goes forth from the house [life] into homelessness. Being one who has gone forth from the house [life] into homelessness, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, he mentally touches such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, he recollects his former abode, [but apart] from there, he does not recollect others. He says thus: "Those honorable devas who are not amusement revelers, they do not dwell excessively engaged in the habit of laughter and enjoyment. For those not dwelling excessively engaged in the habit of laughter and enjoyment, their mindfulness is not muddled. With mindfulness not muddled, those devas do not pass away from that group. They are permanent, stable, eternal, not liable to degenerate. They just remain thus forever and ever. However, we who were amusement revelers, dwelling excessively engaged in the habit of laughter and enjoyment, [our] mindfulness became muddled. With muddled mindfulness we passed away from that group. We are impermanent, unstable, short lived, liable to fall away and come to this state of existence." This, O bhikkhus, is the second ground owing to which, having regard for which some samanas and brahmanas who are partial eternal and partial non-

eternal theorists declare the self and the world to be partially eternal and partially non-eternal.

48. And in the third place, owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas who are partial eternal and partial non-eternal theorists, declare the self and the world [to be] partially eternal and partially non-eternal? There are, O bhikkhus, devas named corrupted in mind. They excessively reflect upon one another. Those excessively reflecting upon one another, they cause to corrupt one another's minds. Those who corrupt one another's minds, their bodies become tired and their minds become tired. Those devas pass away from that group. But it is possible, O bhikkhus, it is to be found, that a certain being from that group, having passed away, comes to this state of existence. Having come to this state of existence, he is one who goes forth from the house [life] into homelessness. Being one who has gone forth from the house [life] into homelessness, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, he mentally touches such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, he recollects his former abode, [but apart] from there, he does not recollect others. He says thus: "Those honorable devas who are not corrupted in mind, they do not excessively reflect upon one another. Those not excessively reflecting upon one another, they do not cause to corrupt one another's minds. Those who do not corrupt

one another's minds, their bodies do not become tired and their minds do not become tired. Those devas do not pass away from that group. They are permanent, stable, eternal, not liable to degenerate. They just remain thus forever and ever. However, we who were corrupted in mind, we excessively reflected upon one another. Excessively reflecting upon one another, we caused to corrupt one another's minds. We who corrupted one another's minds, our bodies became tired and our minds became tired. We passed away from that group. We are impermanent, unstable, short lived, liable to fall away and come to this state of existence." This, O bhikkhus, is the third ground owing to which, having regard for which some samanas and brahmanas who are partial eternal and partial non-eternal theorizers declare the self and the world to be partially eternal and partially non-eternal.

49. And in the fourth place, owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas who are partial eternal and partial non-eternal theorizers, declare the self and the world [to be] partially eternal and partially non-eternal? Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana is a logician, an investigator. Having hammered out by argumentations accompanied by investigation according to his own intelligence, he says thus: "That which is said to be this: the eyes, the ears too, the nose too, the tongue too, the body too," this self is impermanent, unstable, not eternal, liable to degenerate. "And that which is the mental or the mind

or consciousness, this self is permanent, stable, eternal, not liable to degenerate. It just remains thus forever and ever.” This, O bhikkhus, is the fourth ground owing to which, having regard for which some samanas and brahmanas who are partial eternal and partial non-eternal theorizers declare the self and the world to be partially eternal and partially non-eternal.

50. Indeed, it is these, O bhikkhus, by which those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is partial eternal and partial non-eternal theorizers declare the self and the world [to be] partially eternal and partially non-eternal by four grounds. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or brahmanas are partial eternal and partial non-eternal theorizers, who declare the self and the world [to be] partially eternal and partially non-eternal, all those [do so] by only these four grounds or by a certain one [among] these. Aside from these there is none.

51. That, O bhikkhus, the Tathagata understands this: “These standpoint for views, thus welcome, thus held on to, thus grasped, they will lead to such after death state.” And that the Tathagata understands what transcends that understanding, and not being attached to that understanding, and not holding to it, he has just known personal extinguishing by final knowledge. And having known as they have come to be the arising, the extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of feelings, not having appropriated, the Tathagata,

O bhikkhus, is liberated.

52. These, O bhikkhus, are really those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, most excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say.

53. There are, O bhikkhus, some samanas and brahmanas who are finite or infinite world theorists, who declare the world to be finite or infinite from four grounds. Owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas declare the self and the world [to be] finite or infinite by four grounds?

54. Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, mentally touches such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, he abides percipient of the world as finite. He says thus: "This world is finite and bounded. What is the reason for that? Because I, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, mentally touch such a form of samadhi where

in that state of mind, I abide percipient of the world as finite. In this way I understand just how this world is finite and bounded.” This, O bhikkhus, is the first ground, owing to which, having regard for which some samanas and brahmanas who are finite or infinite world theorists declare the world [to be] finite or infinite.

55. And in the second place, owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas who are finite or infinite world theorists declare the world [to be] finite or infinite? Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, mentally touches such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, he abides percipient of the world as infinite. He says thus: “This world is infinite and boundless. What is the reason for that? Because I, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, mentally touch such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, I abide percipient of the world as infinite. In this way I understand just how this world is infinite and boundless.” This, O bhikkhus, is the second ground, owing to which, having regard for which some samanas and brahmanas who are finite or infinite world theorists declare the world [to be] finite or infinite.

56. And in the third place, owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas who are finite or infinite world theorists declare the world [to be] finite or infinite? Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, mentally touches such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, he abides percipient of the world as finite above and below and as infinite across. He says thus: "This world is both finite and infinite. Those samanas and brahmanas who say thus: "This world is finite and bounded" lie. Those samanas and brahmanas who also say thus: "This world is infinite and boundless" also lie. This world is both finite and infinite. What is the reason for that? Because I, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, mentally touch such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, I abide percipient of the world as finite above and below and as infinite across. In this way I understand just how this world is both finite and infinite." This, O bhikkhus, is the third ground, owing to which, having regard for which some samanas and brahmanas who are finite or infinite world theorists declare the world [to be] finite or infinite.

57. And in the fourth place, owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brah-

manas who are finite or infinite world theorists declare the world [to be] finite or infinite? Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana is a logician, an investigator. Having hammered out by argumentations accompanied by investigation according to his own intelligence, he says thus: "This world is neither finite nor infinite. Those samanas and brahmanas who say thus: "This world is finite and bounded" lie. Those samanas and brahmanas who also say thus: "This world is infinite and boundless" also lie. Those samanas and brahmanas who say thus: "This world is both finite and infinite" also lie. This world is neither finite nor infinite." This, O bhikkhus, is the fourth ground, owing to which, having regard for which some samanas and brahmanas who are finite or infinite world theorists declare the world [to be] finite or infinite.

58. Indeed, it is these, O bhikkhus, by which those samanas and brahmanas who are finite or infinite world theorists declare the world [to be] finite or infinite by four grounds. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or brahmanas are finite or infinite world theorists, who declare the world [to be] finite or infinite, all those [do so] by only these four grounds or by a certain one [among] these. Aside from these there is none.

59. That, O bhikkhus, the Tathagata understands this: "These standpoint for views, thus welcome, thus held on to, thus grasped, they will lead to such after death

state.” And that the Tathagata understands what transcends that understanding, and not being attached to that understanding, and not holding to it, he has just known personal extinguishing by final knowledge. And having known as they have come to be the arising, the extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of feelings, not having appropriated, the Tathagata, O bhikkhus, is liberated.

60. These, O bhikkhus, are those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say.

61. There are, O bhikkhus, some samanas and brahmanas who give evasive answers [when] so and so questions are brought up. They set about confusing statements and endless equivocation by four grounds. Owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas give evasive answers [when] so and so questions are brought up, and set about confusing statements and endless equivocation by four grounds?

62. Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana does not understand as it has come to be, “this is whole-

some." He does not understand as it has come to be, "this is unwholesome." It occurs to him thus: "I do not understand as it has come to be, "this is wholesome." I do not understand as it has come to be, "this is unwholesome." But [if] I, simply not understanding as it has come to be, "this is wholesome," not understanding as it has come to be, "this is unwholesome," were to declare: "This is wholesome" or were to declare: "This is unwholesome," there might be a desire or lust or hate or aversion for me therein. Wherein there might be a desire or lust or hate or aversion for me, that is a lie of mine. That which is a lie of mine, that is a vexation for me. That which is a vexation for me, that is an obstacle for me." Thus, for fear of speaking a lie, disgust with speaking a lie, he neither declares: "This is wholesome," and yet nor declares: "This is unwholesome." [When] so and so question is asked, he sets about confusing statements and endless equivocation: Thus, is not [declared] by me. "Just so" too, is not [declared] by me. "Otherwise" too, is not [declared] by me. "Not so" too, is not [declared] by me. "Not not so" too, is not [declared] by me." This, O bhikkhus is the first ground, owing to which, having regard for which some honorable samanas and brahmanas give evasive answers [when] so and so questions are brought up, and set about confusing statements and endless equivocation.

63. And in the second place, owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas give evasive answers [when] so and so ques-

tions are brought up, and set about confusing statements and endless equivocation? Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana does not understand as it has come to be, "this is wholesome." He does not understand as it has come to be, "this is unwholesome." It occurs to him thus: "I do not understand as it has come to be, "this is wholesome." I do not understand as it has come to be, "this is unwholesome." But [if] I, simply not understanding as it has come to be, "this is wholesome," not understanding as it has come to be, "this is unwholesome," were to declare: "This is wholesome" or were to declare: "This is unwholesome," there might be a desire or lust or hate or aversion for me therein. Wherein there might be a desire or lust or hate or aversion for me, that is an undertaking of mine. That which is an undertaking of mine, that is a vexation for me. That which is a vexation for me, that is an obstacle for me." Thus, for fear of undertaking, disgust with undertaking, he neither declares: "This is wholesome," and yet nor declares: "This is unwholesome." [When] so and so question is asked, he sets about confusing statements and endless equivocation: Thus, is not [declared] by me. "Just so" too, is not [declared] by me. "Otherwise" too, is not [declared] by me. "Not so" too, is not [declared] by me. "Not not so" too, is not [declared] by me." This, O bhikkhus is the second ground, owing to which, having regard for which some honorable samanas and brahmanas give evasive answers [when] so and so questions are brought up, and set about confusing statements and endless equivocation.

64. And in the third place, owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas give evasive answers [when] so and so questions are brought up, and set about confusing statements and endless equivocation? Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana does not understand as it has come to be, "this is wholesome." He does not understand as it has come to be, "this is unwholesome." It occurs to him thus: "I do not understand as it has come to be, "this is wholesome." I do not understand as it has come to be, "this is unwholesome." But [if] I, simply not understanding as it has come to be, "this is wholesome," not understanding as it has come to be, "this is unwholesome," were to declare: "This is wholesome" or were to declare: "This is unwholesome," there are indeed samanas and brahmanas who are ever so wise, clever, accomplished in other's doctrines. One would think they roam about splitting by wisdom [the views of] those who are well-settled in views, like archers who can split hairs. [We] might converse together, those might cross question me, therein might asks for reasons, of those I might not be able to explain. Of which I might not be able to explain, that is a vexation for me. That which is a vexation for me, that is an obstacle for me." Thus, for fear of inquiry, disgust with inquiry, he neither declares: "This is wholesome," and yet nor declares: "This is unwholesome." [When] so and so question is asked, he sets about confusing statements and endless equivocation: Thus, is not [declared] by me. "Just so" too, is not [declared] by me. "Otherwise" too, is not [declared] by me. "Not so"

too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” This, O bhikkhus is the third ground, owing to which, having regard for which some honorable samanas and brahmanas give evasive answers [when] so and so questions are brought up, and set about confusing statements and endless equivocation.

65. And in the fourth place, owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas give evasive answers [when] so and so questions are brought up, and set about confusing statements and endless equivocation? Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana is stupid and dull. [Due to] his stupidity and dullness, [when] so and so question is asked, he sets about confusing statements and endless equivocation: “Is there another world?” If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: “There is another world,” “there is another world,” would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. “Just so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Otherwise” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” “Is there not another world?” If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: “There is not another world,” “there is not another world,” would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. “Just so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Otherwise” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” “Is there both another world and not another world?”

If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: “There is both another world and not another world,” “there is both another world and not another world,” would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. “Just so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Otherwise” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” “Is there neither another world nor not another world?” If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: “There is neither another world nor not another world,” “there is neither another world nor not another world,” would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. “Just so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Otherwise” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” “Are there beings born spontaneously?” If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: “There are beings born spontaneously,” “There are beings born spontaneously,” would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. “Just so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Otherwise” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” “Are there not beings born spontaneously?” If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: “There are not beings born spontaneously,” “There are not beings born spontaneously,” would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. “Just so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Otherwise” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” “Are there both beings born spon-

taneously and not beings born spontaneously?" If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: "There are both beings born spontaneously and not beings born spontaneously," "There are both beings born spontaneously and not beings born spontaneously," would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. "Just so" too, is not [declared] by me. "Otherwise" too, is not [declared] by me. "Not so" too, is not [declared] by me. "Not not so" too, is not [declared] by me." "Are there neither beings born spontaneously nor not beings born spontaneously?" If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: "There are neither beings born spontaneously nor not beings born spontaneously," "There are neither beings born spontaneously nor not beings born spontaneously," would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. "Just so" too, is not [declared] by me. "Otherwise" too, is not [declared] by me. "Not so" too, is not [declared] by me. "Not not so" too, is not [declared] by me." "Are there fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done?" If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: "There are fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done," "There are fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done," would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. "Just so" too, is not [declared] by me. "Otherwise" too, is not [declared] by me. "Not so" too, is not [declared] by me. "Not not so" too, is not [declared] by me." "Are there not fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done?" If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: "There are

not fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done,” “There are not fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done,” would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. “Just so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Otherwise” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” “Are there both fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done and not fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done?” If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: “There are both fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done and not fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done,” “There are both fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done and not fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done,” would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. “Just so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Otherwise” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” “Are there neither fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done nor not fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done?” If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: “There are neither fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done nor not fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done,” “There are neither fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done nor not fruits and results of kamma, of what is well done and badly done,” would be declared

for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. “Just so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Otherwise” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” “Does the Tathagata exists after death?” If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: “The Tathagata exists after death,” “the Tathagata exists after death,” would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. “Just so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Otherwise” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” “Does the Tathagata not exist after death?” If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: “The Tathagata does not exist after death,” “the Tathagata does not exist after death,” would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. “Just so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Otherwise” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” “Does the Tathagata both exists and not exist after death?” If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: “The Tathagata both exists and not exist after death,” “the Tathagata both exists and not exist after death,” would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. “Just so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Otherwise” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” “Does the Tathagata neither exists nor not exist after death?” If you ask of me thus, if of me thus [occurs]: “The Tathagata neither exists nor not exist after death,” “the Tathagata neither exists nor not exist

after death,” would be declared for you thus. [But] thus, is not [declared] by me. “Just so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Otherwise” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not so” too, is not [declared] by me. “Not not so” too, is not [declared] by me.” This, O bhikkhus is the fourth ground, owing to which, having regard for which some honorable samanas and brahmanas give evasive answers [when] so and so questions are brought up, and set about confusing statements and endless equivocation.

66. Indeed, it is these, O bhikkhus, by which those samanas and brahmanas who give evasive answers [when] so and so questions are brought up, set about confusing statements and endless equivocation by four grounds. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or brahmanas give evasive answers [when] so and so questions are brought up and set about confusing statements and endless equivocation, all those [do so] by only these four grounds or by a certain one [among] these. Aside from these there is none.

67. That, O bhikkhus, the Tathagata understands this: “These standpoint for views, thus welcome, thus held on to, thus grasped, they will lead to such after death state.” And that the Tathagata understands what transcends that understanding, and not being attached to that understanding, and not holding to it, he has just known personal extinguishing by final knowledge. And having known as they have come to be the arising, the

extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of feelings, not having appropriated, the Tathagata, O bhikkhus, is liberated.

68. These, O bhikkhus, are those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say.

69. There are, O bhikkhus, some samanas and brahmanas who are fortuitous origination theorists, who declare the self and the world to have originated fortuitously by two grounds. Owing to what, having regard for what, do those honorable samanas and brahmanas who are fortuitous origination theorists, declare the self and the world to have originated fortuitously by two grounds?

70. There are indeed, O bhikkhus, devas who are non-percipient beings. However, those devas pass away from that group upon the coming into existence of perception. But it is possible, O bhikkhus, it is to be found, that a certain being, having passed away from that group, comes to this state of existence. Having come to this state of existence, he is one who goes forth from the house [life]

into homelessness. Being one who has gone forth from the house [life] into homelessness, in consequence of ardour, in consequence of endeavour, in consequence of application, in consequence of vigilance, in consequence of right attention, he mentally touches such a form of samadhi where in that state of mind, he recollects his former abode [but apart] from there, he does not recollect others. He says thus: "The self and the world have arisen without a cause. What is the reason for that? Because formerly, I was not. At present, I am. Not having been, [I] was transformed into the state of having existence." This, O bhikkhus, is the first ground owing to which, having regard for which some samanas and brahmanas declare the self and the world to have originated fortuitously.

71. And in the second place, owing to what, having regard for what, [do] those honorable samanas and brahmanas who are fortuitous origination theorists, declare the self and the world to have originated fortuitously. Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana is a logician, an investigator. Having hammered out by argumentations accompanied by investigation according to his own intelligence, he says thus: "The self and the world have arisen without a cause." This, O bhikkhus, is the second ground owing to which, having regard for which some samanas and brahmanas declare the self and the world to have originated fortuitously.

72. Indeed, it is these, O bhikkhus, by which those samanas and brahmanas who are fortuitous origination theorists, declare the self and the world to have originated fortuitously by two grounds. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or brahmanas are fortuitous origination theorists, declare the self and the world to have originated fortuitously, all those [do so] by only these two grounds or by a certain one [among] these. Aside from these there is none.

73. That, O bhikkhus, the Tathagata understands this: “These standpoint for views, thus welcome, thus held on to, thus grasped, they will lead to such after death state.” And that the Tathagata understands what transcends that understanding, and not being attached to that understanding, and not holding to it, he has just known personal extinguishing by final knowledge. And having known as they have come to be the arising, the extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of feelings, not having appropriated, the Tathagata, O bhikkhus, is liberated.

74. These, O bhikkhus, are those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the

truth might say.

75. Indeed, it is these, O bhikkhus, by which those samanas and brahmanas who are past world-cycle theorists, who [hold] views in line with the past, assert various theories concerning the past by these eighteen grounds. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or brahmanas are past world-cycle theorists, who [hold] views in line with the past, assert various theories concerning the past, all those [do so] by only these eighteen grounds or by a certain one [among] these. Aside from these there is none.

76. That, O bhikkhus, the Tathagata understands this: “These standpoint for views, thus welcome, thus held on to, thus grasped, they will lead to such after death state.” And that the Tathagata understands what transcends that understanding, and not being attached to that understanding, and not holding to it, he has just known personal extinguishing by final knowledge. And having known as they have come to be the arising, the extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of feelings, not having appropriated, the Tathagata, O bhikkhus, is liberated.

77. These, O bhikkhus, are those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata,

having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say.

78. There are, O bhikkhus, some samanas and brahmanas who are future world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the future, who assert various theories concerning the future by these forty four grounds. Owing to what, having regard for what, do those honorable samanas and brahmanas who are future world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the future, assert various theories concerning the future by these forty four grounds?

79. There are, O bhikkhus, some samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is percipient [immortality], who declare the self to be immortal and percipient after death by sixteen grounds. Owing to what, having regard for what, do those honorable samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is percipient [immortality], declare the self to be immortal and percipient after death by sixteen grounds?

80. They declare: "The self is possessed of form, percipient and free from sickness after death." They declare: "The self is formless, percipient and free from sickness after death." They declare: "The self is [both] possessed of

form and formless, percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is neither possessed of form nor formless, percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is finite, percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is infinite, percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is both finite and infinite, percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is neither finite nor infinite, percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is of unified perception and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is of diversified perception and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is of limited perception and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is of boundless perception and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is percipient of only pleasure and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is percipient of only pain and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is percipient of both pleasure and pain and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is percipient of neither pleasure nor pain and free from sickness after death.”

81. Indeed, it is these, O bhikkhus, by which those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorists, whose teaching is percipient [immortality], declare the self to be immortal and percipient after death by sixteen grounds. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever

samanas or brahmanas are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is percipient [immortality], declare the self to be immortal and percipient after death, all those [do so] by only these sixteen grounds or by a certain one [among] these. Aside from these there is none.

82. That, O bhikkhus, the Tathagata understands this: “These standpoint for views, thus welcome, thus held on to, thus grasped, they will lead to such after death state.” And that the Tathagata understands what transcends that understanding, and not being attached to that understanding, and not holding to it, he has just known personal extinguishing by final knowledge. And having known as they have come to be the arising, the extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of feelings, not having appropriated, the Tathagata, O bhikkhus, is liberated.

83. These, O bhikkhus, are those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say.

84. There are, O bhikkhus, some samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is non-percipient [immortality], who declare the self to be immortal and non-percipient after death by eight grounds. Owing to what, having regard for what, do those honorable samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is non-percipient [immortality], declare the self to be immortal and non-percipient after death by eight grounds?

85. They declare: “The self is possessed of form, non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is formless, non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is [both] possessed of form and formless, non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is neither possessed of form nor formless, non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is finite, non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is infinite, non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is both finite and infinite, non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is neither finite nor infinite, non-percipient and free from sickness after death.”

86. Indeed, it is these, O bhikkhus, by which those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is non-percipient [immortal-

ity], declare the self to be immortal and non-percipient after death by eight grounds. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or brahmanas are immortality after death theorists, whose teaching is non-percipient [immortality], declare the self to be immortal and non-percipient after death, all those [do so] by only these eight grounds or by a certain one [among] these. Aside from these there is none.

87. That, O bhikkhus, the Tathagata understands this: “These standpoint for views, thus welcome, thus held on to, thus grasped, they will lead to such after death state.” And that the Tathagata understands what transcends that understanding, and not being attached to that understanding, and not holding to it, he has just known personal extinguishing by final knowledge. And having known as they have come to be the arising, the extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of feelings, not having appropriated, the Tathagata, O bhikkhus, is liberated.

88. These, O bhikkhus, are those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say.

89. There are, O bhikkhus, some samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is neither percipient nor non-percipient [immortality], who declare the self to be immortal and neither percipient nor non-percipient after death by eight grounds. Owing to what, having regard for what, do those honorable samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is neither percipient nor non-percipient [immortality], declare the self to be immortal and non-percipient after death by eight grounds?

90. They declare: “The self is possessed of form, neither percipient nor non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is formless, neither percipient nor non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is [both] possessed of form and formless, neither percipient nor non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is neither possessed of form nor formless, neither percipient nor non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is finite, neither percipient nor non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is infinite, neither percipient nor non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is both finite and infinite, neither percipient nor non-percipient and free from sickness after death.” They declare: “The self is neither finite nor infinite, neither percipient nor non-percipient

and free from sickness after death.”

91. Indeed, it is these, O bhikkhus, by which those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorists, whose teaching is neither percipient nor non-percipient [immortality], declare the self to be immortal and neither percipient nor non-percipient after death by eight grounds. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or brahmanas are immortality after death theorists, whose teaching is neither percipient nor non-percipient [immortality], declare the self to be immortal and neither percipient nor non-percipient after death, all those [do so] by only these eight grounds or by a certain one [among] these. Aside from these there is none.

92. That, O bhikkhus, the Tathagata understands this: “These standpoint for views, thus welcome, thus held on to, thus grasped, they will lead to such after death state.” And that the Tathagata understands what transcends that understanding, and not being attached to that understanding, and not holding to it, he has just known personal extinguishing by final knowledge. And having known as they have come to be the arising, the extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of feelings, not having appropriated, the Tathagata, O bhikkhus, is liberated.

93. These, O bhikkhus, are those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful,

excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say.

94. There are, O bhikkhus, some samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is the annihilation of an existing being, who declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being by seven grounds. Owing to what, having regard for what, do those honorable samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is the annihilation of an existing being, declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being by seven grounds?

95. Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana is of such doctrine, such view: "Really, Sir, since this self, possessed of form, [composed] of the four great elements, originating from father and mother, at the break up of the body, will be annihilated, destroyed and does not exist after death, it is really to this extent, sir, that this self is rightly well-annihilated." In this way, some declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being of an existing being.

96. To him, another says thus: "Sir, there exists that self which you speak of. I do not say it does not exist. But sir, it is not to this extent that this self is rightly

well-annihilated. Sir, there exists another self which is divine, possessed of form, belonging to the sensual realm, subsisting on food taking in lumps. You don't know it, you don't see it. I know it, I see it. Sir, since, with the breakup of the body, that self becomes annihilated and destroyed and does not exist after death, it is to this extend, sir, that this self is rightly well-annihilated." In this way, some declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being of an existing being.

97. To him, another says thus: "Sir, there exists that self which you speak of. I do not say it does not exist. But sir, it is not to this extend that this self is rightly well-annihilated. Sir, there exists another self which is divine, possessed of form, mind-made, not defective of any sense-organ, complete in all its parts. You don't know it, you don't see it. I know it, I see it. Sir, since, with the breakup of the body, that self becomes annihilated and destroyed and does not exist after death, it is to this extend, sir, that this self is rightly well-annihilated." In this way, some declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being of an existing being.

98. To him, another says thus: "Sir, there exists that self which you speak of. I do not say it does not exist. But sir, it is not to this extend that this self is rightly well-annihilated. Sir, there exists another self which, from the complete surmounting of perceptions of form, from the extinguishing of perceptions of resistance, from non-

attention to perceptions of diversity, “space is infinite,” reaches the domain of infinite space. You don’t know it, you don’t see it. I know it, I see it. Sir, since, with the breakup of the body, that self becomes annihilated and destroyed and does not exist after death, it is to this extend, sir, that this self is rightly well-annihilated.” In this way, some declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being of an existing being.

99. To him, another says thus: “Sir, there exists that self which you speak of. I do not say it does not exist. But sir, it is not to this extend that this self is rightly well-annihilated. Sir, there exists another self which, having completely surmounted the domain of infinite space, “consciousness is infinite,” reaches the domain of infinite consciousness. You don’t know it, you don’t see it. I know it, I see it. Sir, since, with the breakup of the body, that self becomes annihilated and destroyed and does not exist after death, it is to this extend, sir, that this self is rightly well-annihilated.” In this way, some declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being of an existing being.

100. To him, another says thus: “Sir, there exists that self which you speak of. I do not say it does not exist. But sir, it is not to this extend that this self is rightly well-annihilated. Sir, there exists another self which, having completely surmounted the domain of infinite consciousness, “there is nothing,” reaches the domain

of nothingness. You don't know it, you don't see it. I know it, I see it. Sir, since, with the breakup of the body, that self becomes annihilated and destroyed and does not exist after death, it is to this extend, sir, that this self is rightly annihilated." In this way, some declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being of an existing being.

101. To him, another says thus: "Sir, there exists that self which you speak of. I do not say it does not exist. But sir, it is not to this extend that this self is rightly well-annihilated. Sir, there exists another self which, having completely surmounted the domain of nothingness, reaches the domain of neither perception nor non-perception. You don't know it, you don't see it. I know it, I see it. Sir, since, with the breakup of the body, that self becomes annihilated and destroyed and does not exist after death, it is to this extend, sir, that this self is rightly well-annihilated." In this way, some declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being of an existing being.

102. Indeed, it is these, O bhikkhus, by which those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is the annihilation of an existing being, declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being by seven grounds. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or brahmanas, whose teaching is the annihilation of an existing being, declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being, all those [do so] by only these seven grounds or by a certain one [among] these. Aside from these there is none.

103. That, O bhikkhus, the Tathagata understands this: “These standpoint for views, thus welcome, thus held on to, thus grasped, they will lead to such after death state.” And that the Tathagata understands what transcends that understanding, and not being attached to that understanding, and not holding to it, he has just known personal extinguishing by final knowledge. And having known as they have come to be the arising, the extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of feelings, not having appropriated, the Tathagata, O bhikkhus, is liberated.

104. These, O bhikkhus, are really those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, most excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say.

105. There are, O bhikkhus, some samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is nibbana in this life, who declare the supreme nibbana of an existing being in this life by five grounds. Owing to what, having regard for what, do those honorable samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is nibbana in this life, declare the supreme nibbana of an existing being in this life by five grounds?

106. Here, O bhikkhus, a certain samana or brahmana is of such doctrine, such view: "Really, sir, from the time this self, causes to amuse itself furnished and provided with the five cords of sensual pleasure, it is to this extend, sir, that this self has attained supreme nibbana in this life." In this way, some declare the supreme nibbana of an existing being in this life.

107. To him, another says thus: "Sir, there exists that self which you speak of. I do not say it does not exist." But sir, it is not to this extend that this self attains supreme nibbana in this life. What is the reason for that? Because sir, sensual pleasures are impermanent, suffering and liable to degenerate. Their changing and becoming otherwise give rise to sorrow, lamentation, physical suffering, mental suffering and despair. Sir, from the time this self, quite secluded from sense-desires, secluded from unwholesome dhammas, enters upon and abides in the happiness and pleasure born of seclusion connected with thinking and pondering, the first jhana, it is to this extend, sir, that this self has attained supreme nibbana in this life." In this way, some declare the supreme nibbana of an existing being in this life.

108. To him, another says thus: "Sir, there exists that self which you speak of. I do not say it does not exist." But sir, it is not to this extend that this self attains supreme nibbana in this life. What is the reason for that? Because sir, it is just the thinking and pondering therein,

that is declared coarse. “Sir, from the time this self, from the subsiding of thinking and pondering, with the internal tranquilization and unification of mind [due to] the absence of thinking and pondering, enters upon and abides in the happiness and pleasure born of samadhi, the second jhana, it is to this extend, sir, that this self has attained supreme nibbana in this life.” In this way, some declare the supreme nibbana of an existing being in this life.

109. To him, another says thus: “Sir, there exists that self which you speak of. I do not say it does not exist.” But sir, it is not to this extend that this self attains supreme nibbana in this life. What is the reason for that? Because sir, it is just the elation of mind well-settled in happiness therein, that is declared coarse. “Sir, from the time that with detachment from happiness, dwelling mindful and contemplative, this self [while] looking on with equanimity experiences pleasure in the body, of which the Noble Ones say: “He is a mindful one who [looks on with] equanimity, one who dwells in pleasure,” enters upon and abides in the third jhana, it is to this extend, sir, that this self has attained supreme nibbana in this life.” In this way, some declare the supreme nibbana of an existing being in this life.

110. To him, another says thus: “Sir, there exists that self which you speak of. I do not say it does not exist.” But sir, it is not to this extend that this self attains

supreme nibbana in this life. What is the reason for that? Because sir, it is just the mental concern, “I am in pleasure” therein, that is declared coarse. “Sir, from the time this self, from the abandoning of [physical] pleasure and pain, from the extinction of former mental pleasure and mental pain, enters upon and abides in the utter purity of mindfulness and equanimity without pain and pleasure, the fourth jhana, it is to this extend, sir, that this self has attained supreme nibbana in this life.” In this way, some declare the supreme nibbana of an existing being in this life.

111. Indeed, it is these, O bhikkhus, by which those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is nibbana in this life, declare the supreme nibbana of an existing being in this life by five grounds. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or brahmanas, whose teaching is nibbana in this life, declare the supreme nibbana of an existing being in this life, all those [do so] by only these five grounds or by a certain one [among] these. Aside from these there is none.

112. That, O bhikkhus, the Tathagata understands this: “These standpoint for views, thus welcome, thus held on to, thus grasped, they will lead to such after death state.” And that the Tathagata understands what transcends that understanding, and not being attached to that understanding, and not holding to it, he has just known personal extinguishing by final knowledge. And

having known as they have come to be the arising, the extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of feelings, not having appropriated, the Tathagata, O bhikkhus, is liberated.

113. These, O bhikkhus, are really those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, most excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say.

114. Indeed, it is these, O bhikkhus, by which those samanas and brahmanas who are future world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the future, assert various theories concerning the future by these forty four grounds. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or brahmanas, who are future world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the future, assert various theories concerning the future, all those [do so] by only these forty four grounds or by a certain one [among] these. Aside from these there is none.

115. That, O bhikkhus, the Tathagata understands this: "These standpoint for views, thus welcome, thus held on to, thus grasped, they will lead to such after death

state.” And that the Tathagata understands what transcends that understanding, and not being attached to that understanding, and not holding to it, he has just known personal extinguishing by final knowledge. And having known as they have come to be the arising, the extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of feelings, not having appropriated, the Tathagata, O bhikkhus, is liberated.

116. These, O bhikkhus, are those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say.

117. Those samanas and brahmanas, O bhikkhus, who are past world-cycle theorizers, future world-cycle theorizers, and past and future world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the past and the future, they assert various theories concerning the past and the future by these sixty-two grounds. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or brahmanas are past world-cycle theorizers, and future world-cycle theorizers, and past and future world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the past and the future, assert various theories concerning the past and the future, all those [do so] by

only these sixty-two grounds, or a certain one [among] these. Aside from these there is none.

118. That, O bhikkhus, the Tathagata understands this: “These standpoint for views, thus welcome, thus held on to, thus grasped, they will lead to such after death state.” And that the Tathagata understands what transcends that understanding, and not being attached to that understanding, and not holding to it, he has just known personal extinguishing by final knowledge. And having known as they have come to be the arising, the extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of feelings, not having appropriated, the Tathagata, O bhikkhus, is liberated.

119. These, O bhikkhus, are really those dhammas that are deep, difficult to see, difficult to awaken to, peaceful, most excellent, not within the sphere of reasoning, subtle, to be directly experienced by the wise, which the Tathagata, having realized by himself with supreme knowledge, causes to make them known, by which those who rightly speak in praise of the Tathagata in conformity with the truth might say.

120. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is eternalism, who declare the self and the world to be eternal by four grounds, that is only [expressing] the experience of disturbance and perturbation of those honourable samanas and brahmanas who,

not knowing, not seeing, are well-settled in thirsting.

121. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are partial eternal and partial non-eternal theorists, who declare the self and the world [to be] partially eternal and partially non-eternal by four grounds, that too is only [expressing] the experience of disturbance and perturbation of those honourable samanas and brahmanas who, not knowing, not seeing, are well-settled in thirsting.

113. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are finite or infinite world theorists, who declare the world to be finite or infinite by four grounds, that too is only [expressing] the experience of disturbance and perturbation of those honourable samanas and brahmanas who, not knowing, not seeing, are well-settled in thirsting.

113. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who give evasive answers when so and so questions are brought up, who set about confusing statements and endless equivocation by four grounds, that too is only [expressing] the experience of disturbance and perturbation of those honourable samanas and brahmanas who, not knowing, not seeing, are well-settled in thirsting.

114. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who assert that things originate fortuitously, who

declare the self and the world to be fortuitously originated by two grounds, that too is only [expressing] the experience of disturbance and perturbation of those honourable samanas and brahmanas who, not knowing, not seeing, are well-settled in thirsting.

115. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are past world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the past, who assert various theories concerning the past by these eighteen grounds, that too is only [expressing] experience of disturbance and perturbation of those honourable samanas and brahmanas who, not knowing, not seeing, are well-settled in thirsting.

116. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is percipient [immortality], who declare the self to be immortal and percipient after death by sixteen grounds, that too is only [expressing] the experience of disturbance and perturbation of those honourable samanas and brahmanas who, not knowing, not seeing, are well-settled in thirsting.

117. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is percipient [immortality], who declare the self to be immortal and percipient after death by eight grounds, that too is only [expressing] the experience of disturbance and perturbation of those honourable

samanas and brahmanas who, not knowing, not seeing, are well-settled in thirsting.

118. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is neither percipient nor non-percipient [immortality], who declare the self to be immortal and neither percipient nor non-percipient after death by eight grounds, that too is only [expressing] the experience of disturbance and perturbation of those honourable samanas and brahmanas who, not knowing, not seeing, are well-settled in thirsting.

119. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is the annihilation of an existing being, who declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being by seven grounds, that too is only [expressing] the experience of disturbance and perturbation of those honourable samanas and brahmanas who, not knowing, not seeing, are well-settled in thirsting.

120. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is nibbana in this life, who declare the supreme nibbana of an existing being in this life by five grounds, that too is only [expressing] the experience of disturbance and perturbation of those honourable samanas and brahmanas who, not knowing, not seeing, are well-settled in thirsting.

121. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are future world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the future, who assert various theories concerning the future by these forty four grounds, that too is only [expressing] the experience of disturbance and perturbation of those honourable samanas and brahmanas who, not knowing, not seeing, are well-settled in thirsting.

122. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are past world-cycle theorizers and future world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the past and future, who assert various theories concerning the past and the future by these sixty-two grounds, that too is only [expressing] the experience of disturbance and perturbation of those honourable samanas and brahmanas who, not knowing, not seeing, are well-settled in thirsting.

123. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is eternalism, who declare the self and the world to be eternal by four grounds, that is in dependence on contact.

124. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are partial eternal, and partial non-eternal theorizers, who declare the self and the world to be partially eternal and partially non-eternal by four grounds, that too is in dependence on contact.

125. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are finite or infinite world theorizers, who declare the world to be finite or infinite by four grounds, that too is in dependence on contact.

126. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who give evasive answers when so and so questions are brought up, who set about confusing statements and endless equivocation by four grounds, that too is in dependence on contact.

127. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who assert that things originate fortuitously who declare the self and the world to be fortuitously originated by two grounds, that too is in dependence on contact.

128. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are past world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the past, who assert various theories concerning the past by these eighteen grounds, that too is in dependence on contact.

129. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is percipient [immortality], who declare the self to be immortal and percipient after death by sixteen grounds, that too is in dependence on contact.

130. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is non-percipient [immortality], who declare the self to be immortal and non-percipient after death by eight grounds, that too is in dependence on contact.

131. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is neither percipient nor non-percipient [immortality], who declare the self to be immortal and neither percipient nor non-percipient after death by eight grounds, that too is in dependence on contact.

132. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is the annihilation of an existing being, who declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being by seven grounds, that too is in dependence on contact.

133. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is nibbana in this life, who declare the supreme nibbana of an existing being in this life by five grounds, that too is in dependence on contact.

134. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are future world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the future, who assert various theories concerning future, by these forty four grounds, that too is in dependence on contact.

135. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are past world-cycle theorizers and future world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the past and future, who assert various theories concerning the past and the future by these sixty-two grounds, that too is in dependence on contact.

136. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is eternalism, who declare the self and the world to be eternal by four grounds, “indeed, that they will experience apart from contact,” this possibility is not to be found.

137. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are partial eternal and partial non-eternal theorizers, who declare the self and the world to be partially eternal and partially non-eternal by four grounds, “indeed, that they will experience apart from contact,” this possibility is not to be found.

138. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are finite or infinite world theorizers, who declare the world to be finite or infinite by four grounds, “indeed, that they will experience apart from contact,” this possibility is not to be found.

139. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who give evasive answers when so and so questions are brought up, who set about confusing statements

and endless equivocation by four grounds, “indeed, that they will experience apart from contact,” this possibility is not to be found.

140. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who assert that things originate fortuitously who declare the self and the world to be fortuitously originated by two grounds, “indeed, that they will experience apart from contact,” this possibility is not to be found.

141. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are past world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the past, who assert various theories concerning the past by these eighteen grounds, “indeed, that they will experience apart from contact,” this possibility is not to be found.

142. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is percipient [immortality], who declare the self to be immortal and percipient after death by sixteen grounds, “indeed, that they will experience apart from contact,” this possibility is not to be found.

143. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is non-percipient [immortality], who declare the self to be immortal and non-percipient after death by

eight grounds, “indeed, that they will experience apart from contact,” this possibility is not to be found.

144. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is neither percipient nor non-percipient [immortality], who declare the self to be immortal and neither percipient nor non-percipient after death by eight grounds, “indeed, that they will experience apart from contact,” this possibility is not to be found.

145. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is the annihilation of an existing being, who declare the annihilation, destruction, non-being by seven grounds, “indeed, that they will experience apart from contact,” this possibility is not to be found.

146. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is nibbana in this life, who declare the supreme nibbana of an existing being in this life by five grounds, “indeed, that they will experience apart from contact,” this possibility is not to be found.

147. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are future world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the future, who assert various theories concerning future by these forty four grounds, “indeed,

that they will experience apart from contact,” this possibility is not to be found.

148. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas who are past world-cycle theorizers and future world-cycle theorizers, who [hold] views in line with the past and future, who assert various theories concerning the past and future, by these sixty-two grounds, “indeed, that they will experience apart from contact,” this possibility is not to be found.

149. Therein, O bhikkhus, those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is eternalism, who declare the self and the world to be eternal by four grounds, also those samanas and brahmanas who are partial eternal and partial non-eternal theorizers, also those samanas and brahmanas who are finite or infinite world theorizers, also those samanas and brahmanas who give evasive answers, when so and so questions are brought up, also those samanas and brahmanas who assert that things originate fortuitously, also those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is percipient [immortality], also those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is non-percipient [immortality], also those samanas and brahmanas who are immortality after death theorizers, whose teaching is neither percipient nor non-percipient [immortality], also those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is the annihilation of an

existing being, also those samanas and brahmanas whose teaching is nibbana in this life, also those samanas and brahmanas who are future world-cycle theorists, also those samanas and brahmanas who are past world-cycle theorists and future world-cycle theorists, who [hold] views in line with the past and future, who assert various theories concerning the past and future by these sixty-two grounds, all those are caused to experience by contacting again and again the six domains of contact. In dependence on feeling, there is thirsting. In dependence on thirsting, there is undertaking. In dependence on undertaking, there is being. In dependence on being, there is birth. In dependence on birth, old age and death, sorrow, lamentation, physical suffering, mental suffering and despair arise. From when, O bhikkhus, a bhikkhu wisely understands the arising, the extinction, the gratification, the liability and the stepping out of the six domains for contact as it has come to be, he wisely understands what simply transcends all these [views].

150. Indeed, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or brahmanas are past world-cycle theorists or future world-cycle theorists or past and future world-cycle theorists, who [hold] views in line with the past and the future, assert various theories concerning the past and the future, all those are caught in the net of just these sixty-two grounds. Emerging, they emerge certainly trapped here. Emerging, they emerge certainly caught in the net, included within [the net] here. Just as, O bhikkhus, a

skilled fisherman or fisherman's apprentice might spread a fine-mesh net over a small pool of water, whichever of those large living beings are in this pool of water, all those emerging emerge caught in the net, certainly trapped here, emerging, they emerge certainly caught in the net, included within [the net] here, it is really just so, O bhikkhus, whichever samanas or brahmanas are past world-cycle theorists or future world-cycle theorists or past and future world-cycle theorists, who [hold] views in line with the past and the future, who assert various theories concerning the past and the future, all those are caught in the net of just these sixty-two grounds. Emerging, they emerge certainly trapped here. Emerging, they emerge certainly caught in the net, included within [the net] here.

151. The body of the Tathagata stands, O bhikkhus, with the conduit to being cut. For as long as the body remains, for that long, devas and humans [will] see him. With the breakup of the body, after the exhaustion of life, devas and humans [will] see him no longer.

“Just as, O bhikkhus, when a bunch of mangoes on a stalk is cut, that which is the mango fruit bound to the stalk, all those follow, it is really just so, O bhikkhus, the body of the Tathagata stands with the conduit to being cut. For as long as the body remains, for that long, devas and humans [will] see him. With the breakup of the body, after the exhaustion of life, devas and humans [will] see

him no longer.”

152. When thus was said, the venerable Ananda said this to the Auspicious One: “It is marvellous, O Bhante. It is unprecedented, O Bhante. What is the name of this dhamma discourse, O Bhante?” “Well then, O Ananda, you bear in mind this Dhamma discourse as the net of meaning; also bear it in mind as the net of Dhamma; also bear it in mind as the net of Brahma; also bear it in mind as the net of views; also bear it in mind as the unsurpassed victory in battle.”

153. This is what the Auspicious One said. Delighted, those bhikkhus rejoiced in the Auspicious One’s words. “And while this exposition was being expounded, the ten thousand world system quaked.”