

0.0.1 Channa

1. At one time, many elder bhikkhus were dwelling at Baranasi, in the Dear Park at Isipatana. Then in the evening time, the venerable Channa emerged from seclusion, [and] having taken key, went from dwelling to dwelling.

2. Having approached the elder bhikkhus, he said this: “May the venerable elders advice me. May the venerable elders instruct me. May the venerable elders give me a Dhamma talk in such a way that I can see the Dhamma.”

3. When thus was said, the elder bhikkhus said this to the venerable Channa: “Form, O friend Channa, is impermanent, feeling is impermanent, perception is impermanent, sankharas are impermanent, consciousness is impermanent, form is not self, feeling is not self, perception is not self, sankharas are not self, consciousness is not self, all sankharas are impermanent, all dhammas are not self.”

4. It then occurred to the venerable Channa: “For me too it occurs thus: “Form is impermanent, feeling is impermanent, perception is impermanent, sankharas are impermanent, consciousness is impermanent, form is not self, feeling is not self, perception is not self, sankharas are not self, consciousness is not self, all sankharas are impermanent, all dhammas are not self.” And yet

my mind does not reach out towards the stilling of all sankharas, the relinquishment of all appropriations, the destruction of thirst, fading away, cessation, Nibbana. It does not get pleased in it, does not get steadied in it, does not gain affinity with it. Rather, longing and appropriations arise and return again to the mind [with the thought]: “Then who is my self now?” But such does not happen for one who sees the Dhamma. Who might teach the Dhamma for me, in such a way that I can see the Dhamma.”

5. Then it occurred to the venerable Channa: “Indeed the venerable Ananda dwells at this Kosambi in Ghosita’s park. He is even praised by the Teacher and esteemed by his wise companions in the life of purity. The venerable Ananda is able to teach me the dhamma in such a way that I can see the Dhamma. And for me there is so much love for the venerable Ananda. What if I were to approach the venerable Ananda?”

6. Then the venerable Channa, having set his dwelling place in order, having taken bowl and robes, by which way [led to] the venerable Ananda at Ghosita’s Park in Kosambi, by that way he approached. Having approached the venerable Ananda, they exchanged friendly greetings. Having exchanged friendly greetings and cordial talk, he sat down to one side. Having sat down to one side, the venerable Channa said this to the venerable Ananda: “On one occasion, O friend Ananda, I was

dwelling at Baranasi, in the Dear Park at Isipatana. Then in the evening time, I emerged from seclusion, [and] having taken key, went from dwelling to dwelling. Having approached the elder bhikkhus, I said this: “May the venerable elders advice me. May the venerable elders instruct me. May the venerable elders give me a Dhamma talk in such a way that I can see the Dhamma.”

7. When thus was said, the elder bhikkhus said this to me: “Form, O friend Channa, is impermanent, feeling is impermanent, perception is impermanent, sankharas are impermanent, consciousness is impermanent, form is not self, feeling is not self, perception is not self, sankharas are not self, consciousness is not self, all sankharas are impermanent, all dhammas are not self.”

8. It then occurred to me: “For me too it occurs thus: “Form is impermanent, feeling is impermanent, perception is impermanent, sankharas are impermanent, consciousness is impermanent, form is not self, feeling is not self, perception is not self, sankharas are not self, consciousness is not self, all sankharas are impermanent, all dhammas are not self.”

9. And yet my mind does not reach out towards the stilling of all sankharas, the relinquishment of all appropriations, the destruction of thirst, fading away, cessation, Nibbana. It does not get pleased in it, does not get steadied in it, does not gain affinity with it. Rather,

longing and appropriations arise and return again to the mind [with the thought]: “Then who is my self now?” But such does not happen for one who sees the Dhamma. Who might teach the Dhamma for me, in such a way that I can see the Dhamma.”

10. Then it occurred to me: “Indeed the venerable Ananda dwells at this Kosambi in Ghosita’s park. He is even praised by the Teacher and esteemed by his wise companions in the life of purity. The venerable Ananda is able to teach me the dhamma in such a way that I can see the Dhamma. And for me there is so much love for the venerable Ananda. What if I were to approach the venerable Ananda?” “May the venerable Ananda advice me. May the venerable Ananda instruct me. May the venerable Ananda give me a Dhamma talk in such a way that I can see the Dhamma.”

11. “Even by this much we are pleased with the venerable Channa, satisfied that the venerable Channa, [having] split asunder his barrenness, has made it to [our] presence. Lend an ear, O friend Channa, you are capable of understanding the Dhamma.” Then at that moment, a lofty joy and rapture arose for the venerable Channa [from the thought]: “I am really capable of understanding the Dhamma.”

12. In the presence of the Auspicious One, O friend Channa, this was heard by me and received in his pres-

ence, the admonishing for the bhikkhu Kaccanagotta [thus]: “Indeed, O Kaccana, the majority [view] the world in dependence on the duality of simply existence and non-existence. But for one who is seeing the very arising of the world with right wisdom as it has come to be, O Kaccana, that which is the non-existence in the world, does not come to be. For one who is seeing the very cessation of the world with right wisdom as it has come to be, O Kaccana, that which is the existence in the world, does not come to be. Certainly this world, O Kaccana, is mostly in the bondage of engagement, holding and adherence. But such one’s mind does not engage, does not hold, does not resolve on engagements and holdings, resolutions, underlying tendency to adherence, “my self.” He has no perplexity, no doubt that what arises is only suffering arising, “what ceases is suffering ceasing.” Indeed his knowledge of this is independent of others. It is really to that extent, O Kaccana, that there is right view.

13. “All exists.” Indeed, O Kaccana, this is one extreme. “All do not exist.” This is the second extreme. Not having approached both these extremes, for you O Kaccana, the Tathagata teaches the Dhamma by the middle. “In dependence on ignorance, sankharas come to be. In dependence on sankharas, consciousness comes to be. In dependence on consciousness, name and form come to be. In dependence on name and form, the six sense domains come to be. In dependence on the six sense domains,

contact comes to be. In dependence on contact, feeling comes to be. In dependence on feeling, thirst comes to be. In dependence on thirst, holding comes to be. In dependence on holding, being comes to be. In dependence on being, birth comes to be. In dependence on birth, old age and death, sorrow, lamentation, physical suffering, mental suffering and despair arise. Just so, is the arising of this entire amassment of suffering.

14. From the complete fading away and cessation of this very ignorance comes cessation of sankharas. From the cessation of sankharas comes cessation of consciousness. From the cessation of consciousness comes cessation of name and form. From the cessation of name and form comes cessation of six sense domains. From the cessation of six sense domains comes cessation of contact. From the cessation of contact comes cessation of feeling. From the cessation of feeling comes cessation of thirst. From the cessation of thirst comes cessation of holding. From the cessation of holding comes cessation of being. From the cessation of being comes cessation of birth. From the cessation of birth, old age and death, sorrow, lamentation, physical suffering, mental suffering and despair cease. Just so, is the cessation of this entire stock of suffering.”

15. “Just this comes to be, O friend Ananda, for those venerables who [have] such compassionate ones, well wishers, advisers, instructors as companions in the life of

purity. And now having heard this Dhamma exposition of the venerable Ananda, the breakthrough to the Dhamma [has been made] by me.”