

0.1 At Kitagiri

1. Thus was heard by me. At one time the Auspicious One was wandering on tour in Kasi with a large Sangha of bhikkhus. There, the Auspicious One did address the bhikkhus: O bhikkhus, I only ever eat apart from evening meals. But I, O bhikkhus, eating apart from evening meals, do perceive that little affliction and that little illness, a lightness and strength and a comfortable abiding. “Come you, O bhikkhus, you too must eat only apart from evening meals. You too, O bhikkhus, eating apart from evening meals, you will nevertheless perceive that little affliction and that little illness, a lightness and strength and a comfortable abiding”. “Yes, Bhante,” those bhikkhus replied to the Auspicious One. Later on, the Auspicious One, wandering on tour by stages in Kasi, arrived at that market town of Kasi named Kitagiri. There the Auspicious One abided in the market town of Kasi at Kitagiri.

2. At that time the bhikkhus named Assaji and Punabbasuka were residents of Kitagiri. So then, by which [way led to] Assaji and Punabbasuka, by that way many bhikkhus approached. Having approached Assaji and Punabbasuka, the bhikkhus said this: “The Auspicious One, friends, and the bhikkhu Sangha only ever eat apart from evening meals. Nevertheless, friends, eating apart from evening meals, they perceive that little affliction and that little illness, a lightness and strength and a comfortable

abiding.” “Come you, friends, you too must only eat apart from evening meals. Eating apart from evening meals, friends, you too will nevertheless perceive that little affliction and that little illness, a lightness and strength and a comfortable abiding”. When thus was said, the bhikkhus Assaji and Punabbasuka said this to those bhikkhus: “We, friends, just ever eat in the evening, morning and during the day at the wrong time. Just eating in the evening, morning and during the day at the wrong time, we perceive that little affliction and that little illness, a lightness and strength and a comfortable abiding. Why should we, having abandoned that which is visible here and now, run after what takes time?” “We will eat only in the evening, morning and during the day at the wrong time”. Since those bhikkhus were unable to convince the bhikkhus Assaji and Punabbasuka, by which [way led to] the Auspicious One, by that way they approached. Having approached the Auspicious One, having paid respects, they sat down to one side. Having sat on one side, those bhikkhus said this to the Auspicious One.

3. Here Bhante, by which [way led to] the bhikkhus Assaji and Punabbasuka, by that way we approached. Having approached the bhikkhus Assaji and Punabbasuka, we said this: “The Auspicious One and the bhikkhu Sangha, friends, only ever eat apart from evening meals. Eating apart from evening meals, friends, they nevertheless perceive that little affliction and that little illness, lightness and strength and a comfortable abiding. Come

you, friends, you too must only eat apart from evening meals. Eating apart from evening meals friends, you too will nevertheless perceive that little affliction and that little illness, a lightness and strength and a comfortable abiding". When thus was said, Bhante, the bhikkhus Assaji and Punabbasuka said this to us: "We, friends, just ever eat in the evening, morning and during the day at the wrong time. We, just eating in the evening, morning and during the day at the wrong time, we perceive that little affliction and that little illness, a lightness and strength and a comfortable abiding. Why, having abandoned that which is visible here and now, should we run after what takes time? We will eat just in the evening, morning and during the day at the wrong time". "Since we, Bhante, were unable to convince the bhikkhus Assaji and Punabbasuka, we inform this matter to the Auspicious One".

4. So then, the Auspicious One addressed a certain bhikkhu: "Come you bhikkhu. Addressed the bhikkhus Assaji and Punabbasuka in my name that the Teacher summons the venerables". "Yes, Bhante". That bhikkhu, having replied to the Auspicious One, by which [way led to] the bhikkhus Assaji and Punabbasuka, by that way he approached. Having approached the bhikkhus Assaji and Punabbasuka, he said this: "The Teacher summons the venerables". "Yes, friend". The bhikkhus Assaji and Punabbasuka, having replied to that bhikkhu, by which [way led to] the Auspicious One was, by that way they

approached. Having approached the Auspicious One, having paid respects, they sat down to one side. Having sat to one side, the Auspicious One said this to the bhikkhus Assaji and Punabbasuka.

5. “Is it true as reported, O bhikkhus, that many bhikkhus, having approached you, said this: “The Auspicious One and the bhikkhu Sangha, friends, only ever eat apart from evening meals. Eating apart from evening meals, friends, they nevertheless perceive that little affliction and that little illness, a lightness and strength and a comfortable abiding. Come you, friends, you too must only eat apart from evening meals. Eating apart from evening meals, friends, you too will nevertheless perceive that little affliction and that little illness, a lightness and strength and a comfortable abiding.” When thus was said, O bhikkhus, apparently you said to those bhikkhus: “We, friends, just ever eat in the evening, morning and during the day at the wrong time. Eating just in the evening, morning and during the day at the wrong time, we perceive that little affliction and that little illness, a lightness and strength and a comfortable abiding. Why should we, having abandoned that which is visible here and now, run after what takes time. We will just eat in the evening, morning and during the day at the wrong time.”” “Yes, Bhante.”

6. Have you, O bhikkhus, known the dhamma taught by me to you thus: “Whatever this individual person

experiences, whether pleasure or pain or neither pain nor pleasure, of that, unwholesome dhammas diminish, wholesome dhammas increase.” “Certainly not, Bhante.” Have you not, O bhikkhus, known the dhamma taught by me to you thus: “Here, of one experiencing such a form of a pleasant feeling, unwholesome dhammas increase, wholesome dhammas diminish. But here, of one experiencing such a form of pleasant feeling, unwholesome dhammas diminish, wholesome dhammas increase. Here, of one experiencing such a form of painful feeling, unwholesome dhammas increase, wholesome dhammas diminish. But here, of one experiencing such a form of painful feeling, unwholesome dhammas diminish, wholesome dhammas increase. Here, of one experiencing such a form of neither painful nor pleasant feeling, unwholesome dhammas increase, wholesome dhammas diminish. But here, of one experiencing such a form of neither painful nor pleasant feeling, unwholesome dhammas diminish, wholesome dhammas increase.” “Yes, Bhante.”

7. Good, O bhikkhus. “If that, O bhikkhus, would have been not understood, unseen, unknown, unrealized, untouched with wisdom by me: “Here, of one experiencing such a form of pleasant feeling, unwholesome dhammas increase, wholesome dhammas diminish.” I, O bhikkhus, not knowing thus, should say “all of you, abandon such a form of pleasant feeling, would this have been appropriate of me?”. “Certainly not, Bhante.” But because, O bhikkhus, this is ever understood, seen, known, realized,

touched with wisdom by me, “here, of one experiencing such a form of pleasant feeling, unwholesome dhammas increase, wholesome dhammas diminish”. Therefore I say: “all of you, abandon such a form of pleasant feeling.

8. “If that, O bhikkhus, would have been not understood, unseen, unknown, unrealized, untouched with wisdom by me: “Here, of one experiencing such a form of pleasant feeling, unwholesome dhammas diminish, wholesome dhammas increase.” I, not knowing thus should say, “all of you, enter upon and abide in such a form of pleasant feeling. Would this too, O bhikkhus, have been appropriate of me? “Certainly not, Bhante.” “But because this, O bhikkhus, is ever understood, seen, known, realized, touched with wisdom by me: “here, of one experiencing such a form of pleasant feeling, unwholesome dhammas diminish, wholesome dhammas increase. Therefore I say, all of you, enter upon and abide in such a form of pleasant feeling.

9. If that, O bhikkhus, would have been not understood, unseen, unknown, unrealized, untouched with wisdom by me: “Here, of one experiencing such a form of painful feeling, unwholesome dhammas increase, wholesome dhammas diminish.” I, not knowing thus should say “all of you, abandon such a form of painful feeling. Would this too, O bhikkhus, have been appropriate of me?” “Certainly not, Bhante.” “But because, O bhikkhus, this is ever understood, seen, known, realized, touched with

wisdom by me: “Here, of one experiencing such a form of painful feeling, unwholesome dhammas increase, wholesome dhammas diminish.” Therefore I say, all of you, abandon such a form of painful feeling.

10. If that, O bhikkhus, would have been not understood, unseen, unknown, unrealized, untouched with wisdom by me: “Here, of one experiencing such a form of painful feeling, unwholesome dhammas diminish, wholesome dhammas increase.” I, not knowing thus should say “all of you, enter upon and abide in such a form of painful feeling. “Would this too, O bhikkhus, have been appropriate of me?” “Certainly not, Bhante.” “But because, O bhikkhus, this is ever understood, seen, known, realized, touched with wisdom by me: “Here, of one experiencing such a form of painful feeling, unwholesome dhammas diminish, wholesome dhammas increase.” Therefore I say, all of you, enter upon and abide in such a form of painful feeling.

11. If that, O bhikkhus, would have been not understood, unseen, unknown, unrealized, untouched with wisdom by me: “Here, of one experiencing such a form of neither painful nor pleasant feeling, unwholesome dhammas increase, wholesome dhammas diminish.” I, not knowing thus should say “all of you, abandon such a form of neither painful nor pleasant feeling. “would this too, O bhikkhus, have been appropriate of me?” Certainly not, Bhante. “But because, O bhikkhus, this is ever

understood, seen, known, realized, touched with wisdom by me: “Here, of one experiencing such a form of neither painful nor pleasant feeling, unwholesome dhammas increase, wholesome dhammas diminish.” Therefore I say, all of you, abandon such a form of neither painful nor pleasant feeling.

12. “If that, O bhikkhus, would have been not understood, unseen, unknown, unrealized, untouched with wisdom by me: “Here, of one experiencing such a form of neither painful nor pleasant feeling, unwholesome dhammas diminish, wholesome dhammas increase.” I, not knowing thus should say “all of you, enter upon and abide in such a form of neither painful nor pleasant feeling. “would this too, O bhikkhus, have been appropriate of me”. “Certainly not, Bhante.” “But because, O bhikkhus, this is ever understood, seen, known, realized, touched with wisdom by me: “Here, of one experiencing such a form of neither painful nor pleasant feeling, unwholesome dhammas diminish, wholesome dhammas increase.” Therefore I say all of you, enter upon and abide in such a form of neither painful nor pleasant feeling”.

13. I do not say, O bhikkhus, of all bhikkhus that what must be done should be done with vigilance. But [by] that I do not say, O bhikkhus, of all bhikkhus that what must be done should not be done with vigilance. Those bhikkhus, O bhikkhus, who are arahant with asavas destroyed, who have lived [the life of purity], done what

must be done, laid down the burden, attained the true advantage, completely destroyed the fetters of being, and liberated by correct final knowledge, such a form of bhikkhu, O bhikkhus, I do not say that what must be done should be done with vigilance. What is the reason for that?: They have done what must be done with vigilance. They are unable to become negligent.

14. But those bhikkhus, O bhikkhus, who are in higher training, of unattained minds, they dwell ever aspiring for the unsurpassed security from bondage. such a form of bhikkhu, O bhikkhus, I say that what must be done should be done with vigilance. What is the reason for that? Indeed it is well if these venerables are making use of suitable lodgings, resorting to noble friends, levelling the differences in the faculties, [then they] may [attain] that unsurpassed consummation of the life of purity for the sake of which sons of clansmen just rightly go forth from the household life into homelessness, and having realized it with their own higher knowledge in just this very life, having entered upon it, dwell in it. Considering this fruit of vigilance, O bhikkhus, I ever say of these bhikkhus that what must be done should be done with vigilance.

15. There are, O bhikkhus, these seven individuals to be found existing in the world. Which seven? Both ends liberated, wisdom liberated, body witness, view attainer, faith liberated, dhamma follower, faith follower.

16. And who, O bhikkhus, is the both ends liberated individual? Here, O bhikkhus a certain individual is one who having contact with the body, abides in those peaceful liberations that are formless, surpassing forms, and having seen for [the sake of] wisdom, his asavas come to be utterly destroyed. This is called, O bhikkhus, both ends liberated individual. I, O bhikkhus, do not ever say of this bhikkhu that what must be done should be done with vigilance. What is the reason for that? He has done [what must be done] with vigilance. He is unable to [become] negligent.

17. And who, O bhikkhus, is the wisdom liberated individual? Here, O bhikkhus, a certain individual is one who does not contact with the body and abides in those peaceful liberations that are formless, surpassing forms. But having seen for [the sake of] wisdom, his asavas come to be utterly destroyed. This is called, O bhikkhus, wisdom liberated individual. I, O bhikkhus, do not ever say of this bhikkhu that what must be done should be done with vigilance. What is the reason for that? He has done [what must be done] with vigilance. He is unable to [become] negligent.

18. And who, O bhikkhus, is the body witness individual? Here, O bhikkhus a certain individual is one who having contact with the body, abides in those peaceful liberations that are formless, surpassing forms, and having seen for [the sake of] wisdom, some of his asavas

come to be utterly destroyed. This is called, O bhikkhus, body witness individual. I ever say, O bhikkhus, of this bhikkhu that what must be done should be done with vigilance. What is the reason for that? Indeed it is well if this venerable is making use of suitable lodgings, resorting to noble friends, levelling the differences in the faculties, [then he] may [attain] that unsurpassed consummation of the life of purity for the sake of which sons of clansmen just rightly go forth from the household life into homelessness, and having realized it with his own higher knowledge in just this very life, having entered upon it, dwell in it. Considering this fruit of vigilance, O bhikkhus, I ever say of this bhikkhu that what must be done should be done with vigilance.

19. And who, O bhikkhus, is the view attainer individual? Here, O bhikkhus, a certain individual is one who does not contact with the body and abides in those peaceful liberations that are formless, surpassing forms. But having seen for [the sake of] wisdom, some of his asavas come to be utterly destroyed, and he has fully understood and penetrated the teachings proclaimed by the Tathagata for [the sake of] wisdom. This is called, O bhikkhus, the view attainer individual. I ever say, O bhikkhus, of this bhikkhu that what must be done should be done with vigilance. What is the reason for that? Indeed it is well if this venerable is making use of suitable lodgings, resorting to noble friends, levelling the differences in the faculties, [then he] may [attain] that

unsurpassed consummation of the life of purity for the sake of which sons of clansmen just rightly go forth from the household life into homelessness having realized it with his own higher knowledge in just this very life and having entered upon it, dwell in it. Considering this fruit of vigilance, O bhikkhus, I ever say of this bhikkhu that what must be done should be done with vigilance.

20. And who, O bhikkhus, is the faith liberated individual? Here, O bhikkhus, a certain individual is one who does not contact with the body and abides in those peaceful liberations that are formless, surpassing forms. But having seen for [the sake of] wisdom, some of his asavas come to be utterly destroyed, and his faith in the Tathagata comes to be settled, rooted, established. This is called, O bhikkhus, the faith liberated individual. I ever say, O bhikkhus, of this bhikkhu that what must be done should be done with vigilance. What is the reason for that? Indeed it is well if this venerable is making use of suitable lodgings, resorting to noble friends, leveling the differences in the faculties, [then he] may [attain] that unsurpassed consummation of the life of purity for the sake of which sons of clansmen just rightly go forth from the household life into homelessness, and having realized it with his own higher knowledge in just this very life, having entered upon it, dwell in it. Considering this fruit of vigilance, O bhikkhus, I ever say of this bhikkhu that what must be done should be done with vigilance.

21. And who, O bhikkhus, is the dhamma follower individual? Here, O bhikkhus, a certain individual is one who does not contact with the body and abides in those peaceful liberations that are formless, surpassing forms. And not having seen for [the sake of] wisdom, some of his asavas are not utterly destroyed. But he has a measure of understanding and approves of the teachings proclaimed by the Tathagata for [the sake of] wisdom. And for him, these dhammas too come to be. That is: the faith faculty, the energy faculty, the mindfulness faculty, the samadhi faculty, the wisdom faculty. This is called, O bhikkhus, the dhamma follower individual. I ever say, O bhikkhus, of this bhikkhu that what must be done should be done with vigilance. What is the reason for that? Indeed it is well if this venerable is making use of suitable lodgings, resorting to noble friends, levelling the differences in the faculties, [then he] may [attain] that unsurpassed consummation of the life of purity for the sake of which sons of clansmen just rightly go forth from the household life into homelessness, and having realized it with his own higher knowledge in just this very life, having entered upon it, dwell in it. Considering this fruit of vigilance, O bhikkhus, I ever say of this bhikkhu that what must be done should be done with vigilance.

22. And who, O bhikkhus, is the faith follower individual? Here, O bhikkhus, a certain individual is one who does not contact with the body and abides in those peaceful liberations that are formless, surpassing forms. And

not having seen for [the sake of] wisdom, some of his asavas are not utterly destroyed. But he has a measure of faith in the Tathagata and a measure of affection. And for him, these dhammas too come to be. That is: the faith faculty, the energy faculty, the mindfulness faculty, the samadhi faculty, the wisdom faculty. This is called, O bhikkhus, the dhamma follower individual. I ever say, O bhikkhus, of this bhikkhu that what must be done should be done with vigilance. What is the reason for that? Indeed it is well if this venerable is making use of suitable lodgings, resorting to noble friends, levelling the differences in the faculties, [then he] may [attain] that unsurpassed consummation of the life of purity for the sake of which sons of clansmen just rightly go forth from the household life into homelessness, and having realized it with his own higher knowledge in just this very life, having entered upon it, dwell in it. Considering this fruit of vigilance, O bhikkhus, I ever say of this bhikkhu that what must be done should be done with vigilance.

23. I, O bhikkhus, do not say that success in final knowledge comes to be all at once. But, O bhikkhus, from gradual training, gradual practice and gradual progress, success in final knowledge comes to be.

24. And how is it, O bhikkhus, that from gradual training, gradual practice and gradual progress, success in final knowledge comes to be? Here, O bhikkhus, faith having come into being, one approaches [the Teacher];

having approached, one pays respects; having paid respects, one lends an ear; having lended an ear, one listens to the Dhamma; having listened to the Dhamma, one bears it in mind; having bore it in mind, one investigates the meaning of the Dhamma; having investigated the meaning, one approves of the Dhamma; having approved of the Dhamma with mindfulness, desire is born; with the birth of desire, [one braces oneself for the] endurance [required]; having braced oneself, one measures up the effort required; having measured up the effort, one strives; resolutely striving, one realizes the highest truth by the body and sees it having penetrated it with wisdom.

25. Indeed, O bhikkhus, that faith has not come to be. Indeed that approach, O bhikkhus has also not come to be. Indeed, that paying respects, O bhikkhus, has also not come to be. Indeed, that lending an ear, O bhikkhus, has also not come to be. Indeed, that hearing the dhamma, O bhikkhus, has also not come to be. Indeed, that bearing the dhamma in mind, O bhikkhus, has also not come to be. Indeed, that investigation of the meaning, O bhikkhus, has also not come to be. Indeed, that approval of the dhamma, O bhikkhus, has also not come to be. Indeed, that desire, O bhikkhus, has also not come to be. Indeed, that endurance, O bhikkhus, has also not come to be. Indeed, that measuring up effort, O bhikkhus, has also not come to be. Indeed, that striving, O bhikkhus, has also not come to be. “You, O bhikkhus, have not

entered upon the path.” You, O bhikkhus, have entered upon a mistaken path”. How far, O bhikkhus have these worthless men strayed from this dhamma and discipline,

26. There is, O bhikkhus, a four-phrased exposition of which, having recited, wise man could in no long [time] understand the meaning with wisdom. I will recite it to you, O Bhikkhus. You must [try to] understand this by me. “But Bhante, who are we to possess understanding of the Dhamma”. O Bhikkhus, for a Teacher so interested in sensual things, an inheritor of sensual things, abides associated with sensual things, abounding of them such a form of haggling is not proper. “If thus suits us, then we would do that. If thus does not suit us, then we would not do that”. What then, O bhikkhus, about the Tathagata who abides dissociated from all sensual things. For a faithful disciple, O bhikkhus, engaged in assimilating the Teacher’s dispensation, this is what accords with the dhamma: “The Auspicious One is the Teacher, I am a disciple.” “The Auspicious One knows, I do not know.” For a faithful disciple, O bhikkhus, engaged in assimilating the Teacher’s dispensation, the Teacher’s dispensation is refreshing and nourishing. For a faithful disciple, O bhikkhus, engaged in assimilating the Teacher’s dispensation, this is what accords with the dhamma: “truly let flesh and blood dry up in the body, and my skin and senews and bones be left over. That energy will not be relaxed having not attained that which can be attained by manly strength, by manly energy, by manly exertion. For a

faithful disciple, O bhikkhus, engaged in assimilating the Teacher's dispensation, of two fruits a certain fruit is to be expected: "in just this very life final knowledge, or non-returning [if] there is residue remaining".

27. This is what the Auspicious One said. Delighted, those bhikkhus rejoiced in the Auspicious One's words.