

0.0.1 Sarandada Shrine

1. At one time the Auspicious One was dwelling at Vesali in the Great Wood, at the Hall with the Peaked Roof. Then in the morning, the Auspicious One having dressed, having taken bowl and robe, entered Vesali for alms food.

2. At that time, as much as five hundred Licchavis, having assembled at the Sarandada shrine, this topic of conversation arose as they settled: “The appearance of five gems are rare in the world. Which five? The elephant gem’s appearance is rare in the world. The horse gem’s appearance is rare in the world. The jewel gem’s appearance is rare in the world. The woman gem’s appearance is rare in the world. The head of household gem’s appearance is rare in the world. The appearance of these five gems are rare in the world.”

3. So then, those Licchavis placed a man on the road [and said], “If you, good man, were to see the Auspicious One approaching, then you may inform us.” The man saw the Auspicious One approaching from afar. Having seen, by which way [led to] those Licchavis, by that way he approached. Having approached those Licchavis, he said this: “Honorable, here comes that Auspicious One, the Arahant, the rightly self-awakened One. Now is the time for you to do as you think fit.”

4. So then, by which way [led to] the Auspicious One, by that way those Licchavis approached. Having approached the Auspicious One, having bowed down, they sat down to one side. Having sat down to one side, those Licchavis said this to the Auspicious One: “It would be good, O Bhante, if the Auspicious One would approach the Sarandada shrine, out of compassion.” The Auspicious One consented by silence. So then, by which way [led to] the Sarandada shrine, by that way the Auspicious One approached. Having approached, he sat down on a prepared seat. Having sat down, the Auspicious One said this to those Licchavis:

5. “What discussion, O Licchavis, were you having now as you have settled here? And what was the talk underway that was left unfinished by you?” Here, O Bhante, having assembled, this topic of conversation arose as we settled: “The appearance of five gems are rare in the world. Which five? The elephant gem’s appearance is rare in the world. The horse gem’s appearance is rare in the world. The jewel gem’s appearance is rare in the world. The woman gem’s appearance is rare in the world. The head of household gem’s appearance is rare in the world. The appearance of these five gems are rare in the world.”

6. Surely, intent on sensual pleasures, for you Licchavis, only talk concerning sensual pleasures arose between you.

7. “The appearance of five gems, O Licchavis, are rare in the world. Which five? The appearance of the Tathagata, the arahant, the rightly self-awakened One is rare in the world. An individual who can teach the Dhamma and discipline proclaimed by the Tathagata is rare in the world. When the Dhamma and discipline proclaimed by the Tathagata has been taught, an individual who can understand it is rare in the world. When the Dhamma and discipline proclaimed by the Tathagata has been taught and understood, an individual who practices the Dhamma in accordance with the Dhamma is rare in the world. An appreciative and grateful individual is rare in the world. The appearance of these five gems, O Licchavis, are rare in the world.