

0.0.1 Cunda

1. At one time the Auspicious One was dwelling in Savatthi at Jeta's Grove, Anāthapiṇḍika's Park. At that time the venerable Sariputta was dwelling among the Magadhans at Nalākagama, afflicted, in pain, severely ill. The novice Cunda was the venerable Sariputta's attendant. Then, the venerable Sariputta attained nibbana simply due to his afflictions. So then, the novice Cunda, having taken venerable sārīputta's bowl and robes with him to anāthapiṇḍika's monastery in Jeta's Grove at Savatthi, by which way [led to] the venerable Ananda, by that way he approached. Having approached the venerable Ananda, having bowed down, he sat down to one side. Having sat down to one side, the novice Cunda said this to the venerable Ananda:

2. "Bhante, the venerable Sariputta has attained nibbana. This is his bowl and robes." "This news, friend, is indeed worth telling the Auspicious One, having seen him. By which way [leads to] the Auspicious One, friend Cunda, by that way we must approach. Having approached, we must inform the Auspicious One of this matter." "Yes Bhante." the novice Cunda assented to venerable Ananda. Then, by which way [led to] the Auspicious One, by that way the venerable Ananda and the novice Cunda approached. Having approached the Auspicious One, having paid respects, they sat down to one side. Having sat down to one side, indeed the venerable Ananda said this to the Auspicious One: "This novice

Cunda, O Bhante, has said thus. Bhante, the venerable Sariputta has attained nibbana. This is his bowl and robes.” “Yet having heard: “the venerable Sariputta has attained nibbana”, O Bhante, my body is as if weak and stiff. Even the directions are not clearly visible to me. The teachings too no longer come to my mind.”

3. “O Ananda, did Sariputta attain nibbana having taken your stock of virtue, or attain nibbana having taken your stock of samadhi, or attain nibbana having taken your stock of wisdom, or attain nibbana having taken your stock of liberation, or attained nibbana having taken your stock of knowledge and vision of liberation?” “Bhante, the venerable did not attain nibbana having taken my stock of virtue, or attain nibbana having taken my , stock of samadhi, or attain nibbana having taken my stock of wisdom, or attain nibbana having taken my stock of liberation, or attain nibbana having taken my stock of knowledge and vision of liberation. But Bhante, the venerable Sariputta was an advisor, one who was clever in instruction, one who instructed, one who aroused, one who energized, one who gladdened, untiring in his teaching of the Dhamma, a helper of his companions in the life of purity. We recollect the venerable Sariputta’s nourishment of the Dhamma, wealth of the Dhamma, assistance in the Dhamma.”

4. Has it not been declared by me already, O Ananda, that only becoming parted, becoming separated, becom-

ing otherwise, [results] from all which is dear and pleasing, that of whatever here, O Ananda, is born, has come to be, is conditioned, liable to disintegration, that “alas! O may it not disintegrate,” may be obtained, this possibility is not to be found? Just as, O Ananda, a great tree standing possessed of pith, its greater branch might crumble, it is really just so, O Ananda, the great bhikkhu sangha standing possessed of pith, Sariputta has attained nibbana. That of whatever here, O Ananda, is born, has come to be, is conditioned, liable to disintegration, that “alas! O may it not disintegrate,” may be obtained, this possibility is not to be found. Therefore, O Ananda, dwell with yourselves as your own lamp, with yourselves as your own refuge, with no other refuge; dwell with the Dhamma as your lamp, with the Dhamma as your refuge, with no other refuge.

5. “And how, O Ananda, does a bhikkhu dwell with himself as his own lamp, with himself as his own refuge, with no other refuge; dwell with the Dhamma as his lamp, with the Dhamma as his refuge, with no other refuge: Here O Ananda, having put away worldly covetousness and longing, a bhikkhu abides in the body perceiving in accordance with the body as an ardent, clearly comprehending and mindful one. Having put away worldly covetousness and longing, he abides in feelings perceiving in accordance with feelings as an ardent, clearly comprehending and mindful one. Having put away worldly covetousness and longing, he abides in mind perceiving in accordance with mind as an ardent,

clearly comprehending and mindful one. Having put away worldly covetousness and longing, he abides in dhammas perceiving in accordance with dhammas as an ardent, clearly comprehending and mindful one. It is just so, O Ananda, that a bhikkhu dwells with himself as his own lamp, with himself as his own refuge, with no other refuge; dwell with the Dhamma as his lamp, with the Dhamma as his refuge, with no other refuge. Those who, O Ananda, either at present or after my passing, dwell with themselves as their own lamps, with themselves as their own refuges, with no other refuge; dwell with the Dhamma as their lamp, with the Dhamma as their refuge, with no other refuge, will be for me, O Ananda, those bhikkhus who are desirous of training to the highest degree.”