

0.0.1 Grass and Wood

1. At one time the Auspicious One was dwelling in Savatthi at Jeta's Grove, Anathapindika's Park. At that place, the Auspicious One addressed the bhikkhus: "Bhikkhus." "Bhante," those bhikkhus replied to the Auspicious One. The Auspicious One said this:

2. This samsara is without a discoverable beginning. A first point is not discerned of beings roaming and wandering on, hindered by ignorance and fettered by thirsting. Suppose, O bhikkhus, that a man having chopped the grass, trunks, branches and leaves on this earth, would collect them into one heap. Having collected them into one heap, having divided each by four inches, he might lay them aside [saying for each one]: "This is my mother, this is my mother's mother.". [The sequence] of that man's mother and grandmother, O bhikkhus, would not finish, [while] the grass, trunks, branches and leaves on this earth would go to exhaustion, used up. What is the reason for that? [Because] this samsara is without a discoverable beginning. A first point is not discerned of beings roaming and wandering on, hindered by ignorance and fettered by thirsting.

3. Just like this, O bhikkhus, for a long time, you have experienced suffering, experienced, anguish, experienced misfortune, swelled the cemeteries. This much, O bhikkhus, is just enough to be estranged in all sankharas,

enough to fade away in them, enough to be liberated in them.