

0.0.1 Living Beings

1. 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, he would make a stake. Having made stakes, he would impale those large living beings in the great ocean on the large stakes, he would impale those living beings of medium size in the great ocean on the medium-sized stakes, he would impale those small living beings in the great ocean on the small stakes, yet, O bhikkhus, the large living beings in the great ocean would not be exhausted.

2. So from this, the grass, trunks, branches and leaves on this earth would go to exhaustion, used up. Indeed more, O bhikkhus, are the minute living beings in the great ocean who cannot be easily impaled on stakes. What is the reason for that? [Because of] the minuteness, O bhikkhus, of their bodily form. So vast, O bhikkhus, is the woeful plane. The individual accomplished in view, freed from this vast woeful plane, wisely understands as it has come to be: "This is suffering." He wisely understands as it has come to be: "This is the origination of suffering." He wisely understands as it has come to be: "This is the cessation of suffering." He wisely understands as it has come to be: "This is the path leading to the cessation of suffering."

3. Therefore, O bhikkhus, an endeavour should be made [to realize]: “This is suffering;” An endeavour should be made [to realize]: “This is the origination of suffering;” An endeavour should be made [to realize]: “This is the cessation of suffering;” An endeavour should be made [to realize]: “This is the path leading to the cessation of suffering;”