

0.0.1 Foremost confidence

1. “There are, O bhikkhus, these four foremost confidences. What four?

2. To whatever extent, O bhikkhus, that there are beings, whether footless, two-footed, four-footed or many-footed, with form or formless, percipient, non-percipient or neither-percipient-nor-non-percipient, the Tathagata is declared to be the foremost of them all, the Arahant, the rightly self-awakened one. Those who have confidence in the Buddha, O bhikkhus, have confidence in the foremost. And for those with confidence in the foremost, the results are foremost.

3. To whatever extent, O bhikkhus, that there are dhammas that are conditioned, the noble eightfold path is declared to be the foremost of them all. Those who have confidence in the noble eightfold path, O bhikkhus, have confidence in the foremost. And for those with confidence in the foremost, the results are foremost.

4. To whatever extent, O bhikkhus, that there are dhammas whether conditioned or unconditioned, the dhamma of fading away is declared to be the foremost of them all. That is, the sobering from intoxication, the removal of thirst, the eradication of attachment, the cutting off of the round, the obliteration of thirsting, fading away, cessation, nibbana. Those who have confidence in the

Dhamma, O bhikkhus, have confidence in the foremost. And for those with confidence in the foremost, the results are foremost.

5. To whatever extent, O bhikkhus, that there are communities or groups, the community of the Tathagata's disciples is declared to be the foremost of them all. That is, the four pairs of persons, the eight types of individuals. This Sangha of the Auspicious One's disciples is worthy of gifts, worthy of hospitality, worthy of offerings, worthy of reverential salutation, the unsurpassed field of merit for the world. Those who have confidence in the Sangha, O bhikkhus, have confidence in the foremost. And for those with confidence in the foremost, the results are foremost.

6. These, O bhikkhus, are the four foremost confidences."

80. "Truly from the foremost confidence [springs]

the discriminative understanding of the foremost dhamma;

Confidence in the foremost is the Buddha,
the unsurpassed one worthy of offerings.

81. Confidence in the foremost is the Dhamma,

the pleasure of the peace of fading away;
Confidence in the foremost is the Sangha,

the unsurpassed field of merit.

82. Bestowing gifts in the foremost [field],
the foremost merit increases;
the foremost lifespan and beauty,
glory, fame, happiness and power.

83. The wise having given for the foremost,
endowed with the foremost dhamma,
Having become a deva or human,
rejoices having attained the foremost.”