

Adittapariyaya Sutta: Fire Sermon SN 35:28

This is how I heard it. On one occasion the Blessed One was living at Gaya, at Gayasisa, together with a thousand bhikkhus. There he addressed the bhikkhus.

"Bhikkhus, everything is burning. And what is everything that is burning?"

"The eye is burning, sights are burning, awareness is burning, contact of these three is burning and whatever is experienced as pleasant or unpleasant that arises dependant on contact is burning.

Burning with what? Burning with the fire of attraction, with the fire of aversion, with the fire of delusion. Burning with birth, aging, sickness and death, with sorrow and lamentation, with pain, grief and despair.

"The ear is burning, sounds are burning... "The nose is burning, smell is burning..."

"The tongue is burning, tastes are burning... "The body is burning, sensations are burning..."

"The mind is burning, thinking is burning, awareness is burning, contact is burning, also whatever is experienced as pleasant or unpleasant that arises dependant on contact is burning.

Burning with what? Burning with the fire of attraction, with the fire of aversion, with the fire of delusion. Burning with birth, aging, sickness and death, with sorrow and lamentation, with pain, grief and despair.

"Bhikkhus, a noble disciple who sees the truth, experiences disenchantment in the eye, disenchantment in sights, disenchantment in awareness, disenchantment in contact of these three, and whatever arises in dependence on this contact, experienced as pleasant or unpleasant, in that too they find disenchantment.

"They find disenchantment in the ear... in sounds... "They find disenchantment in the nose... in smells, in the tongue... in tastes, in the body... in sensations, in the mind...in thinking.

"As disenchantment grows passion fades. With the fading of passion, their mind is liberated from the taints. With liberation the understanding arises: 'Birth is ended, the holy life fulfilled, what had to be done has been done, there is no more of 'this'.'"

That is what the Blessed One said. Satisfied the monks delighted in his words. And while this explanation was being given, the hearts of the 1,000 monks, through non clinging, were fully liberated from the taints.