SN 3.10 — Shackles

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
Source: https://suttacentral.net/sn3.10/en/sujato
Source revision: 3bc8665e0e28e70518eba94304a2fafcab80f933
License: CC0-1.0 — https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/

Text

Linked Discourses 3.10

1. Shackles

Shackles

Now at that time a large group of people had been put in shackles by King Pasenadi of Kosala—some in ropes, some in manacles, some in chains.

Then several mendicants robed up in the morning and, taking their bowls and robes, entered Sāvatthī for alms. Then, after the meal, when they returned from almsround, they went up to the Buddha, bowed, sat down to one side, and told him what was happening.

Then, understanding this matter, on that occasion the Buddha recited these verses:

“The attentive say that shackle is not strong

that’s made of iron, wood, or knots.

But obsession with jeweled earrings,

concern for your partners and children:

this, say the attentive, is a strong shackle

dragging the indulgent down, hard to escape.

Having cut this one too they go forth,

unconcerned, having given up sensual pleasures.”