SN 35.228 — The Ocean (1st)

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
Source: https://suttacentral.net/sn35.228/en/sujato
Source revision: 3bc8665e0e28e70518eba94304a2fafcab80f933
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Text

Linked Discourses 35.228

18. The Ocean

The Ocean (1st)

“Mendicants, an unlearned ordinary person speaks of the ocean. But that’s not the ocean in the training of the Noble One. That’s just a large body of water, a large sea of water. For a person, the eye is an ocean, and its currents are made of sights.

Someone who can prevail over those currents is said to have crossed over the ocean of the eye, with its waves and whirlpools, its saltwater crocodiles and monsters. Crossed over, gone to the far shore, the brahmin stands on solid ground.

For a person, the ear … nose … tongue … body … mind is an ocean, and its currents are made of ideas. Someone who can prevail over those currents is said to have crossed over the ocean of the mind, with its waves and whirlpools, its saltwater crocodiles and monsters. Crossed over, gone to the far shore, the brahmin stands on solid ground.”

That is what the Buddha said. Then the Holy One, the Teacher, went on to say:

“A knowledge master who’s crossed the ocean so hard to cross,

with its saltwater crocodiles and monsters, its waves, whirlpools, and dangers;

they’ve completed the spiritual journey and gone to the end of the world,

they’re called ‘one who has gone beyond’.”