SN 35.82 — A Question On the World

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

Linked Discourses 35.82

8. Sick

A Question On the World

Then a mendicant went up to the Buddha … and said to him:

“Sir, they speak of this thing called ‘the world’. How is the world defined?”

“It wears away, mendicant, that’s why it’s called ‘the world’. And what is wearing away? The eye is wearing away. Sights … eye consciousness … eye contact is wearing away. The painful, pleasant, or neutral feeling that arises dependent on eye contact is also wearing away.

The ear … nose … tongue … body …. The mind … ideas … mind consciousness … mind contact is wearing away. The painful, pleasant, or neutral feeling that arises dependent on mind contact is also wearing away.

It wears away, mendicant, that’s why it’s called ‘the world’.”