AN 2.43 — AN 2.43

English translation by Bhikkhu Candana.

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Text

43. “Bhikkhus, there are two types of gatherings. Which two?

“The divided gathering and the united gathering.

“Now what, Bhikkhus, is the divided gathering?

“Bhikkhus, when a gathering of Bhikkhus finds them quarreling, arguing, fighting with each other, where they keep throwing their sharp words at each other, using verbal daggers to hurt and abuse one another, then that is considered a divided gathering.

“And what, Bhikkhus, is the united gathering?

“Here, Bhikkhus, when a gathering of Bhikkhus finds them being considerate and respectful towards each other; harmoniously using warm gestures and modes of communication where they acknowledge each other; showing appreciation and regard, as they converse with each other joyfully and with respect; looking at each other with kindly eyes, then that is considered a united gathering.”

“Bhikkhus, these are the two types of gatherings. And out of these two, the united gathering is indeed the greatest.”