AN 3.141 — Assaparassa Sutta (Stallions)

English translation by Bhikkhu Candana.

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Text

140. Assaparassa Sutta (Stallions) “Bhikkhus, I will teach you about the three types of stallions and their similarity to the three types of people, who are like stallions themselves. Now, listen and attend carefully.”

“Yes, Bhante!” The Bhikkhus replied.

And The Blessed One continued instructing:

“And what, Bhikkhus, are the three types of stallions?

“Here, Bhikkhus, a certain stallion possesses speed, but lacks both the beauty and the necessary correct proportions. Another type of stallion, Bhikkhus, possesses both speed and beauty, but lacks all the necessary correct proportions. Yet another stallion, Bhikkhus, possesses speed, beauty, and the necessary correct proportions.

“Bhikkhus, these are the three types of stallions.

“And what, Bhikkhus, are the three types of people, who are like stallions?

“Here, Bhikkhus, a certain type of person, being like a stallion, possesses speed but lacks both the beauty and the necessary correct proportions. Another type of person, Bhikkhus, possesses both speed and beauty, but lacks the necessary correct proportions. Yet another person, Bhikkhus, possesses speed, beauty, and the necessary correct proportions.

a. “And who, Bhikkhus, is the type of person who, just like a stallion, possesses speed but lacks both the beauty and the necessary correct proportions?

“Here, Bhikkhus, on having eliminated the five lower fetters binding him to the sensual world, a certain Bhikkhu is reborn into The Pure Abodes, where he will attain Full Liberation, without ever returning or falling from that world.

“But, if a deeper question on The Dhamma and The Discipline is to be asked of him, he becomes bewildered and angry, unable to answer. Bhikkhus, I say that this is his lack of

beauty.

“Also, he does not obtain robes, alms food, shelter, and other medicinal requisites when fallen ill. Bhikkhus, I say that this is his lack of necessary correct proportions.

“Bhikkhus, this is the type of person who, just like a stallion, possesses speed but lacks both the beauty and the necessary correct proportions.

b. “And who, Bhikkhus, is the type of person who, just like a stallion, possesses speed and beauty, but lacks the necessary correct proportions?

“Here, Bhikkhus, on having eliminated the five lower fetters binding him to the sensual world, a certain Bhikkhu is reborn into The Pure Abodes, where he will attain Full Liberation, without ever returning or falling from that world.

“Bhikkhus, I say that this is his speed.

“And, if a deeper question on The Dhamma and The Discipline is to be asked of him, he neither becomes bewildered nor gets angry, and is able to answer. Bhikkhus, I say that this is his beauty.

“But he does not obtain robes, alms food, shelter, and other medicinal requisites when fallen ill. Bhikkhus, I say that this is his lack of correct proportions.

“Bhikkhus, this is the type of person who, just like a stallion, possesses speed and beauty, but lacks the necessary correct proportions.

c. “And who, Bhikkhus, is the type of person who, just like a stallion, possesses speed, beauty, and the necessary correct proportions?

“Here, Bhikkhus, on having eliminated the five lower fetters binding him to the sensual world, a certain Bhikkhu is reborn into The Pure Abodes, where he will attain Full Liberation, without ever returning or falling from that world.

“And, if a deeper question on The Dhamma and The Discipline is to be asked of him, he neither becomes bewildered nor gets angry, and is able to answer. Bhikkhus, I say that this is his beauty.

“Also, he easily obtains robes, alms food, shelter, and medicinal requisites when fallen ill. Bhikkhus, I say that this is him possessing the necessary correct proportions.

“Bhikkhus, this is the type of person who, just like a stallion, possesses speed, beauty, and the necessary correct proportions.

“Bhikkhus, these are the three types of people who are like stallions.”