# AN 3.20 — A Shopkeeper (2nd)

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## Text

Numbered Discourses 3.20

2. The Chariot-Maker

A Shopkeeper (2nd)

“Mendicants, a shopkeeper who has three factors soon acquires great and abundant wealth. What three? It’s when a shopkeeper sees clearly, is indefatigable, and has supporters.

And how does a shopkeeper see clearly? It’s when a shopkeeper knows of a product: ‘This product is bought at this price and is selling at this price. With this much investment, it’ll bring this much profit.’ That’s how a shopkeeper sees clearly.

And how is a shopkeeper indefatigable? It’s when a shopkeeper is skilled in buying and selling products. That’s how a shopkeeper is indefatigable.

And how does a shopkeeper have supporters? It’s when rich, affluent, and wealthy householders or householders’ children know of him: ‘This good shopkeeper sees clearly and is indefatigable. They are capable of providing for their wives and children, and paying us back from time to time.’ They deposit money with the shopkeeper, saying: ‘With this, my good shopkeeper, earn money to provide for your wives and children, and pay us back from time to time.’ That’s how a shopkeeper has supporters.

A shopkeeper who has these three factors soon acquires great and abundant wealth.

In the same way, a mendicant with three qualities soon acquires great and abundant skillful qualities. What three? It’s when a mendicant sees clearly, is indefatigable, and has supporters.

And how does a mendicant see clearly? It’s when a mendicant truly understands: ‘This is suffering’ … ‘This is the origin of suffering’ … ‘This is the cessation of suffering’ … ‘This is the practice that leads to the cessation of suffering’. That’s how a mendicant sees clearly.

And how is a mendicant indefatigable? It’s when a mendicant lives with energy roused up for giving up unskillful qualities and embracing skillful qualities. They are strong, staunchly vigorous, not slacking off when it comes to developing skillful qualities. That’s how a mendicant is indefatigable.

And how does a mendicant have supporters? It’s when from time to time a mendicant goes up to those mendicants who are very learned—inheritors of the heritage, who have

memorized the teachings, the monastic law, and the outlines—and asks them questions: ‘Why, sir, does it say this? What does that mean?’ Those venerables reveal what is hidden, clarify what is unclear, and dispel doubt regarding the many doubtful matters. That’s how a mendicant has supporters.

A mendicant with these three qualities soon acquires great and abundant skillful qualities.”