AN 3.99 — Jute

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Text

Numbered Discourses 3.99

10. A Lump of Salt

Jute

“Jute canvas is ugly, unpleasant to touch, and worthless whether it’s new, worn in, or worn out. They use worn out jute canvas for scrubbing cauldrons, or else they just throw it away on the rubbish heap.

In the same way, if a junior mendicant is unethical, of bad character, this is how they’re ugly, I say. That individual is just as ugly as jute canvas. If you associate with, accompany, and attend to them, following their example, it’ll be for your lasting harm and suffering. This is how they’re unpleasant to touch, I say. That individual is just as unpleasant to touch as jute canvas. Any robes, almsfood, lodgings, and medicines and supplies for the sick that they receive are not very fruitful or beneficial for the donor. This is how they’re worthless, I say. That individual is just as worthless as jute canvas.

If a middle mendicant is unethical, of bad character, this is how they’re ugly, I say. …

If a senior mendicant is unethical, of bad character, this is how they’re ugly, I say. … If you associate with, accompany, and attend to them, following their example, it’ll be for your lasting harm and suffering. …

If such a senior mendicant speaks among the Saṅgha, the mendicants say: ‘What’s an incompetent fool like you got to say? How on earth could you imagine you’ve got something worth saying!’ They become angry and upset, and blurt out things that make the Saṅgha throw them out, as if they were throwing jute canvas away on the rubbish heap.

Cloth from Kāsi is beautiful, pleasant to touch, and valuable whether it’s new, worn in, or worn out. They use worn out cloth from Kāsi for wrapping, or else they place it in a fragrant casket.

In the same way, if a junior mendicant is ethical, of good character, this is how they’re beautiful, I say. That individual is just as beautiful as cloth from Kāsi. If you associate with, accompany, and attend to such an individual, following their example, it will be for your lasting welfare and happiness. This is how they’re pleasant to touch, I say. That individual is just as pleasant to touch as cloth from Kāsi. Any robes, almsfood, lodgings, and medicines and supplies for the sick that they receive are very fruitful and beneficial for the donor.

This is how they're valuable, I say. That individual is just as valuable as cloth from Kāsi.

If a middle mendicant is ethical, of good character, this is how they're beautiful, I say. …

If a senior mendicant is ethical, of good character, this is how they're beautiful, I say. …

If such a senior mendicant speaks in the midst of the Saṅgha, the mendicants say: 'Venerables, be quiet! The senior mendicant is speaking on the teaching and training.'

So you should train like this: 'We will be like cloth from Kāsi, not like jute canvas.' That's how you should train."