AN 4.100 — With Potaliya the Wanderer

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Text

Numbered Discourses 4.100

10. Titans

With Potaliya the Wanderer

Then the wanderer Potaliya went up to the Buddha, and exchanged greetings with him. When the greetings and polite conversation were over, he sat down to one side, and the Buddha said to him:

“Potaliya, these four individuals are found in the world. What four?

One individual criticizes those deserving of criticism at the right time, truthfully and correctly. But they don’t praise those deserving of praise at the right time, truthfully and correctly.

Another individual praises those deserving of praise … But they don’t criticize those deserving of criticism …

Another individual doesn’t praise those deserving of praise … Nor do they criticize those deserving of criticism …

Another individual criticizes those deserving of criticism at the right time, truthfully and correctly. And they praise those deserving of praise at the right time, truthfully and correctly.

These are the four individuals found in the world. Of these four individuals, who do you believe to be the finest?”

“Worthy Gotama, of these four individuals, it is the individual who neither praises those deserving of praise at the right time, truthfully and correctly; nor criticizes those deserving of criticism at the right time, truthfully and correctly. That is the individual I believe to be the finest. Why is that? Because, worthy Gotama, equanimity is the best.”

“Potaliya, of these four individuals, it is the individual who criticizes those deserving of criticism at the right time, truthfully and correctly; and praises those deserving of praise at the right time, truthfully and correctly. That is the individual I consider to be the finest. Why is that? Because, Potaliya, understanding of time and context is the best.”

“Worthy Gotama, of these four individuals, it is the individual who criticizes those deserving of criticism at the right time, truthfully and correctly; and praises those deserving of praise at the right time, truthfully and correctly. That is the individual I believe

to be the finest. Why is that? Because, worthy Gotama, understanding of time and context is the best.

Excellent, worthy Gotama! Excellent! As if he were righting the overturned, or revealing the hidden, or pointing out the path to the lost, or lighting a lamp in the dark so people with clear eyes can see what's there, worthy Gotama has made the teaching clear in many ways. I go for refuge to the worthy Gotama, to the teaching, and to the mendicant Saṅgha. From this day forth, may the worthy Gotama remember me as a lay follower who has gone for refuge for life."