AN 4.178 — Billabong

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Text

Numbered Discourses 4.178

18. Intention

Billabong

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

Take a mendicant who enters and remains in a peaceful release of the heart. They focus on the cessation of substantial reality, but on that their mind does not leap forth, gain confidence, settle down, and become decided. You wouldn’t expect that mendicant to realize the cessation of substantial reality. Suppose a person were to grab a branch with a glue-smeared hand. Their hand would stick, hold, and bind to it. In the same way, take a mendicant who enters and remains in a peaceful release of the heart. They focus on the cessation of substantial reality, but on that their mind does not leap forth, gain confidence, settle down, and become decided. You wouldn’t expect that mendicant to realize the cessation of substantial reality.

Next, take a mendicant who enters and remains in a peaceful release of the heart. They focus on the cessation of substantial reality, and on that their mind leaps forth, gains confidence, settles down, and becomes decided. You would expect that mendicant to realize the cessation of substantial reality. Suppose a person were to grab a branch with a clean hand. Their hand wouldn’t stick, hold, or bind to it. In the same way, take a mendicant who enters and remains in a peaceful release of the heart. They focus on the cessation of substantial reality, and on that their mind leaps forth, gains confidence, settles down, and becomes decided. You would expect that mendicant to realize the cessation of substantial reality.

Next, take a mendicant who enters and remains in a peaceful release of the heart. They focus on smashing ignorance, but on that their mind does not leap forth, gain confidence, settle down, and become decided. You wouldn’t expect that mendicant to smash ignorance. Suppose there was a billabong that had been stagnant for many years. And someone was to close off the inlets and open up the drains, and the heavens didn’t provide enough rain. You wouldn’t expect that billabong to break its banks. In the same way, take a mendicant who enters and remains in a certain peaceful release of the heart. They focus on smashing ignorance, but on that their mind does not leap forth, gain confidence, settle down, and become decided. You wouldn’t expect that mendicant to smash ignorance.

Next, take a mendicant who enters and remains in a peaceful release of the heart. They focus on smashing ignorance, and on that their mind leaps forth, gains confidence, settles

down, and becomes decided. You would expect that mendicant to smash ignorance. Suppose there was a billabong that had been stagnant for many years. And someone was to open up the inlets and close off the drains, and the heavens provided plenty of rain. You would expect that billabong to break its banks. In the same way, take a mendicant who enters and remains in a certain peaceful release of the heart. They focus on smashing ignorance, and on that their mind leaps forth, gains confidence, settles down, and becomes decided. You would expect that mendicant to smash ignorance.

These are the four individuals found in the world."