AN 4.23 — The World

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

Numbered Discourses 4.23

3. At Uruvelā

The World

“Mendicants, the world has been understood by the Realized One; and he is detached from the world. The origin of the world has been understood by the Realized One; and he has given up the origin of the world. The cessation of the world has been understood by the Realized One; and he has realized the cessation of the world. The practice that leads to the cessation of the world has been understood by the Realized One; and he has developed the practice that leads to the cessation of the world.

In this world—with its gods, Māras, and divinities, this population with its ascetics and brahmins, its gods and humans—whatever is seen, heard, thought, known, attained, sought, and explored by the mind, all that has been understood by the Realized One. That’s why he’s called the ‘Realized One’.

From the night when the Realized One awakens to the supreme perfect awakening until the night he becomes fully extinguished—in the element of extinguishment with no residue—everything he speaks, says, and expresses is real, not otherwise. That’s why he’s called the ‘Realized One’.

The Realized One does as he says, and says as he does. Since this is so, that’s why he’s called the ‘Realized One’.

In this world—with its gods, Māras, and divinities, this population with its ascetics and brahmins, gods and humans—the Realized One is the vanquisher, the unvanquished, the universal seer, the wielder of power. That’s why he’s called the ‘Realized One’.

Directly knowing the whole world as it is,

and everything in it,

he is detached from the whole world,

uninvolved with the whole world.

That attentive one is the vanquisher of all

who is released from all ties.

He has reached ultimate peace:

extinguishment, fearing nothing from any quarter.
He is the Buddha, with defilements ended,
untroubled, with doubts cut off.
He has attained the end of all deeds,
freed with the ending of attachments.
That Blessed One is the Buddha,
he is the supreme lion,
in all the world with its gods,
he turns the divine wheel.
And so those gods and humans,
who have gone to the Buddha for refuge,
come together and revere him,
great of heart and intrepid:
‘Tamed, he is the best of tamers,
peaceful, he is the seer among the peaceful,
liberated, he is the foremost of liberators,
crossed over, he is the most excellent of guides across.’
And so they revere him,
great of heart and intrepid.
In the world with its gods,
he has no rival.”