AN 5.73 — One Who Lives by the Teaching (1st)

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
Source: https://suttacentral.net/an5.73/en/sujato
Source revision: 3bc8665e0e28e70518eba94304a2fafcab80f933
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Text

Numbered Discourses 5.73

8. Warriors

One Who Lives by the Teaching (1st)

Then a mendicant went up to the Buddha, bowed, sat down to one side, and said to him:

“Sir, they speak of ‘one who lives by the teaching’. How is a mendicant who lives by the teaching defined?”

“Mendicant, take a mendicant who memorizes the teaching— statements, mixed prose & verse, discussions, verses, inspired exclamations, legends, stories of past lives, amazing stories, and elaborations. They spend too much time studying that teaching. They neglect retreat, and are not committed to internal serenity of heart. That mendicant is called one who studies a lot, not one who lives by the teaching.

Furthermore, a mendicant teaches Dhamma in detail to others as they learned and memorized it. They spend too much time advocating that teaching. They neglect retreat, and are not committed to internal serenity of heart. That mendicant is called one who advocates a lot, not one who lives by the teaching.

Furthermore, a mendicant rehearses the teaching in detail as they learned and memorized it. They spend too much time reciting that teaching. They neglect retreat, and are not committed to internal serenity of heart. That mendicant is called one who rehearses a lot, not one who lives by the teaching.

Furthermore, a mendicant thinks about and considers the teaching in their heart, examining it with the mind as they learned and memorized it. They spend too much time thinking about that teaching. They neglect retreat, and are not committed to internal serenity of heart. That mendicant is called one who thinks a lot, not one who lives by the teaching.

Take a mendicant who memorizes the teaching— statements, mixed prose & verse, discussions, verses, inspired exclamations, legends, stories of past lives, amazing stories, and elaborations. They don’t spend too much time studying that teaching. They don’t neglect retreat, and they’re committed to internal serenity of heart. That’s how a mendicant is one who lives by the teaching.

So, mendicant, I’ve taught you the one who studies a lot, the one who advocates a lot, the one who rehearses a lot, the one who thinks a lot, and the one who lives by the teaching.

Out of sympathy, I've done what a teacher should do who wants what's best for their disciples. Here are these roots of trees, and here are these empty huts. Practice absorption, mendicant! Don't be negligent! Don't regret it later! This is my instruction to you."