AN 7.7 — With Ugga

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

Numbered Discourses 7.7

1. Wealth

With Ugga

Then Ugga the government chief minister went up to the Buddha, bowed, sat down to one side, and said to him, “It’s incredible, sir, it’s amazing! Migāra of Rohaṇa is so rich, so very wealthy.”

“But Ugga, how rich is he?”

“He has a hundred thousand gold coins, not to mention the silver coins!”

“Well, Ugga, that is wealth, I can’t deny it. But fire, water, rulers, thieves, and unloved heirs all take a share of that wealth. There are these seven kinds of wealth that they can’t take a share of. What seven? The wealth of faith, ethics, conscience, prudence, learning, generosity, and wisdom. There are these seven kinds of wealth that fire, water, rulers, thieves, and unloved heirs can’t take a share of.

Faith and ethical conduct are kinds of wealth,

as are conscience and prudence,

learning and generosity,

and wisdom is the seventh kind of wealth.

When a woman or man

has these kinds of wealth,

they’re really rich in the world,

invincible among gods and humans.

So let the wise devote themselves

to faith, ethical behavior,

confidence, and insight into the teaching,

remembering the instructions of the Buddhas.”