AN 7.31 — Downfalls for a Lay Follower

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

Numbered Discourses 7.31

3. The Vajji Seven

Downfalls for a Lay Follower

“Mendicants, there are these seven downfalls for a lay follower … There are these seven successes for a lay follower. What seven?

They don’t miss out on seeing the mendicants.

They don’t neglect listening to the true teaching.

They train in higher ethical conduct.

They’re very confident about mendicants, whether senior, junior, or middle.

They don’t listen to the teaching with a hostile, fault-finding mind.

They don’t seek outside of the Buddhist community for those worthy of religious donations.

And they serve the Buddhist community first.

These are the seven successes for a lay follower.

A lay follower misses out on seeing

those who are evolved

and listening to the teachings of the Noble One.

They don’t train in higher ethical conduct,

and their suspicion about mendicants

just grows and grows.

They want to listen to the true teaching

with a fault-finding mind.

They seek outside the Buddhist community

for someone else worthy of religious donations,

and that lay follower
serves them first.
These seven principles leading to decline
have been well taught.
A lay follower who practices these
falls away from the true teaching.
A lay follower doesn’t miss out on seeing
those who are evolved
and listening to the teachings of the Noble One.
They train in higher ethical conduct,
and their confidence in mendicants
just grows and grows.
They want to listen to the true teaching
without a fault-finding mind.
They don’t seek outside the Buddhist community
for someone else worthy of religious donations,
and that lay follower
serves the Buddhist community first.
These seven principles that prevent decline
have been well taught.
A lay follower who practices them
doesn’t fall away from the true teaching.”