AN 10.68 — At Naḷakapāna (2nd)

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
Source: https://suttacentral.net/an10.68/en/sujato
Source revision: 3bc8665e0e28e70518eba94304a2fafcab80f933
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Text

Numbered Discourses 10.68

7. Pairs

At Naḷakapāna (2nd)

At one time the Buddha stayed near Naḷakapāna in the grove of flame-of-the-forest trees.

Now, at that time it was the sabbath, and the Buddha was sitting surrounded by the Saṅgha of monks. The Buddha spent much of the night educating, encouraging, firing up, and inspiring the monks with a Dhamma talk. Then he looked around the Saṅgha of monks, who were so very silent. He addressed Venerable Sāriputta, "Sāriputta, the Saṅgha of monks is rid of dullness and drowsiness. Give them some Dhamma talk as you feel inspired. My back is sore, I'll stretch it."

"Yes, sir," Sāriputta replied.

And then the Buddha spread out his outer robe folded in four and laid down in the lion's posture—on the right side, placing one foot on top of the other—mindful and aware, and focused on the time of getting up.

There Sāriputta addressed the monks: "Reverends, monks!"

"Reverend," they replied. Sāriputta said this:

"Reverends, whoever has no faith, conscience, prudence, energy, and wisdom; who doesn't want to listen, doesn't memorize the teachings, examine their meaning, or practice accordingly, and is negligent when it comes to skillful qualities can expect decline, not growth, in skillful qualities, whether by day or by night. It's like the moon in the waning fortnight. Whether by day or by night, its beauty, roundness, luminosity, and diameter and circumference only decline. In the same way, whoever has no faith, conscience, prudence, energy, and wisdom; who doesn't want to listen, doesn't memorize the teachings, examine their meaning, or practice accordingly, and is negligent when it comes to skillful qualities can expect decline, not growth, in skillful qualities, whether by day or by night.

Whoever has faith, conscience, prudence, energy, and wisdom; who wants to listen, memorizes the teachings, examines their meaning, practices accordingly, and is diligent when it comes to skillful qualities can expect growth, not decline, in skillful qualities, whether by day or by night. It's like the moon in the waxing fortnight. Whether by day or by night, its beauty, roundness, luminosity, and diameter and circumference only grow. In the same way, whoever has faith, conscience, prudence, energy, and wisdom; who wants

to listen, memorizes the teachings, examines their meaning, and practices accordingly, and is diligent when it comes to skillful qualities can expect growth, not decline, in skillful qualities, whether by day or by night."

Then the Buddha got up and said to Venerable Sāriputta:

"Good, good, Sāriputta! Whoever has no faith, conscience, prudence, energy, and wisdom; who doesn't want to listen, doesn't memorize the teachings, examine their meaning, or practice accordingly, and is negligent when it comes to skillful qualities can expect decline, not growth, in skillful qualities, whether by day or by night. It's like the moon in the waning fortnight. Whether by day or by night, its beauty, roundness, luminosity, and diameter and circumference only decline. In the same way, whoever has no faith … and is negligent when it comes to skillful qualities can expect decline, not growth, in skillful qualities, whether by day or by night.

Whoever has faith, conscience, prudence, energy, and wisdom; who wants to listen, memorizes the teachings, examines their meaning, practices accordingly, and is diligent when it comes to skillful qualities can expect growth, not decline, in skillful qualities, whether by day or by night. It's like the moon in the waxing fortnight. Whether by day or by night, its beauty, roundness, luminosity, and diameter and circumference only grow. In the same way, whoever has faith … and is diligent when it comes to skillful qualities can expect growth, not decline, in skillful qualities, whether by day or by night."