



Sūtra on the Reception of Defilement of Dharmas

Sūtra on the Reception of Defilement of Dharmas, Spoken by the Buddha

Taishō no. 792

*Translated into Chinese by the Parthian Trepitaka,
Ān Shìgāo, (c. 143–170) in the latter Han Dynasty*

Translated into English by Shaku Shingan

Thus have I heard: At one time the Buddha was travelling to Anāthapiṇḍada's Park in Jeta's Grove in Śrāvastī. The Buddha said:

❶ O bhikṣus!

The bhikṣus said:

O bhikṣus! Ordinary people, for the sake of a single dharma, receive defilement and pollute themselves; their delusion and sorrow have no limit, and I see that they cannot attain the unexcelled noble path.

Thus, as a man who desires to see a woman's form: such a man attracted to her form becomes defiled, drunk, greedy, polluted, confused, attached, fixated, and fettered. Due to following the words of a lustful woman, he will proceed to transmigrate back and forth for a long time, receiving suffering. Due to his ears always desiring to hear the voice of a lustful woman; his nose desiring to smell her scent; his tongue desire to taste her; his body desiring to touch her skin, he will proceed to transmigrate back and forth for a long time, receiving suffering. Therefore, you must not be defiled by the form, voice, scent, taste, or touch of the skin of a woman, and you should awaken to this.

Again, O bhikṣus! Ordinary people, for the sake of a single dharma, receive defilement and pollute themselves; their delusion and sorrow have no limit, and I see that they cannot attain the unexcelled noble path.

Thus, as a woman who desires to see a man's form: such a woman attracted to his form becomes defiled, drunk, greedy, polluted, confused, attached, fixated, and fettered. Due to following the words of a man, she will proceed to transmigrate back and forth for a long time, receiving suffering. Due to her ears always desiring to hear the voice of a man; her nose desiring to smell his scent; her tongue desire to taste him; her body desiring to touch his skin, she will proceed to transmigrate back and forth for a long time, receiving suffering. Therefore, you must not be defiled by the form, voice, scent, taste, or touch of the skin of a man, and you should awaken to this.

After the Buddha said this, they all rejoiced, accepted, and practised it.

Note: This sūtra bears resemblance, for instance, to the Cittapariyādānavagga AN 1.1.1-10 and Ekottarikāgama 9.7-8 (T125, fascicle 4).

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