

The Word of the Buddha

An outline of the Teachings of the Buddha
in the Words of the Pali Canon

Compilation based on Nyanatiloka Mahāthera's booklet 'Word of the Buddha'
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The Four Noble Truths

DN 16 Then the Buddha addressed the community thus: ‘It is through not fully understanding and penetrating the Four Noble Truths that I, as well as you, have experienced the cycle of rebirth-and-death for a very long time. Because of not fully understanding the Noble Truth of Suffering we have experienced the cycle of rebirth-and-death; by not fully understanding the Noble Truth of the Origin of Suffering; the Noble Truth of the Cessation of Suffering; and the Noble Truth of the Path Leading to the Cessation of Suffering; that we have for a long time experienced the cycle of rebirth-and-death.

SN 56.11 So long as my penetration and insight into these Four Noble Truths as they really are was not thoroughly complete in their three phases and twelve aspects, then I did not claim to have awakened to the unsurpassed perfect Enlightenment in this world.

But when my penetration and insight into these Four Noble Truths as they really are was thoroughly complete in their three phases and twelve aspects, then did I claim to have awakened to the unsurpassed perfect Enlightenment in this world.

‘This is the Noble Truth of Suffering. Suffering is to be fully understood. Suffering has been fully understood

This is the Noble Truth of the Origin of Suffering: wanting causing rebirth. Wanting (the origin of suffering) is to be abandoned. Wanting (the origin of suffering) has been abandoned.

This is the Noble Truth of the Cessation of Suffering: extinguishing that wanting. The end of wanting (the cessation of suffering) is to be realized. The end of wanting (the cessation of suffering) has been realized

This is the Noble Truth of the Way Leading to the Cessation of Suffering: the Noble Eightfold Path.

The Noble Eightfold Path (the way to the cessation of suffering) is to be developed.

The Noble Eightfold Path (the way to the cessation of suffering) has been developed

Thus, in regard to things unheard before in this generation, there arose in me vision, knowledge, wisdom, true knowledge, and light.

MN 26 I considered: “This Dhamma that has been awakened to is profound, hard to see and hard to understand, peaceful and sublime, unattainable

by mere reasoning, subtle, to be experienced by the wise. But this generation delights in attachment to a self, takes delight in attachment to a self, and rejoices in attachment to a self. It is hard for such a generation to see this truth, namely, the empty process of cause and effect, dependent cessation and origination.

Furthermore, it is hard to embrace this truth, namely, the stilling and disappearance of the will, the relinquishing of everything that has been acquired, the destruction of wanting, everything fading away, cessation, Nibbāna.”

There are beings with little dust in their eyes that are wasting through not hearing this Dhamma. There will be those who will understand this Dhamma.

I. The Noble Truth of Suffering

DN 22

And what is the Noble Truth of Suffering? Rebirth is suffering; ageing is suffering; death is suffering; sorrow, lamentation, pain, negativity and distress are suffering; experiencing what is unpleasant is suffering; missing what is pleasing is suffering; not getting what one wants is suffering. In short, the five components of existence (the 'Five Khandhas' that fully describe your body and mind) are suffering.

And what is rebirth? In whatever type of beings, of whatever species of beings, there is rebirth, coming-to-be, coming forth, the appearance of the khandhas, the acquisition of the senses, that is called rebirth.

And what is ageing? In whatever type of beings, of whatever species of beings, there is ageing, decrepitude, broken teeth, grey hair, wrinkled skin, shrinking with age, decay of the senses, that is called ageing.

And what is death? In whatever type of beings, of whatever species of beings, there is a passing-away, demise, a disappearance, a death, a dying, decease, a destruction of the khandhas, a discarding of the body, that is called death.

And what is sorrow? Whenever, by any kind of misfortune, anyone is affected by something of a painful nature, sorrow, mourning, anguish, grief, unhappiness, that is called sorrow.

And what is lamentation? Whenever, by any kind of misfortune, anyone is affected by something of a painful nature and there is crying out, weeping, making much noise for grief, wailing, that is called lamentation.

And what is pain? Whatever painful feeling results from bodily contact, that is called pain.

And what is unhappiness? Whatever mental painful feeling arises from the mind, that is called unhappiness.

And what is distress? Whenever, by any kind of misfortune, anguish arises from something of a painful or unpleasant nature, that is called distress.

And what is experiencing what is unpleasant? Whoever has unwanted, disliked, unpleasant sights, sounds, smells, tastes, touches or mind-objects, or whoever meets those who wish you harm, cause you discomfort or insecurity, that is called experiencing what is unpleasant.

And what is missing what is pleasing? Whoever has pleasant sights, sounds, smells, tastes, tangibles or mind-objects, or whoever encounters well-wishers, those who provide you with comfort or security, such as family or friends, and then is deprived of such interaction or connection, that is called missing what is pleasing.

And what is not getting what one wants? In beings subject to birth this desire arises: “Oh that we were not subject to birth, that we might never be reborn!” But this cannot be gained by desire. That is not getting what one wants.

In beings subject to ageing, to disease, to death, to sorrow, lamentation, pain, negativity and distress they might want: “Oh that we were not subject to ageing, to disease, to death, to sorrow, lamentation, pain, negativity and distress, that we might not come to these things!” But this cannot be gained by wanting. That is not getting what one wants.

The Five Components of Existence (The Khandha)

DN 22 And how, in particular, are the five components of existence suffering? They are as follows: the body (*rūpa*), experience (*vedanā*), perception (*saññā*) will and other mental formations (*sankhāra*), and consciousness (*viññāna*). These are the five components of existence that are suffering.

And that is called the Noble Truth of Suffering.

MIN 44 “Lady, is that fuel (*upādāna*) the same as these five components of existence, or is the fuel something apart from the five components of existence?”

“Friend Visakha, that fuel is neither the same as the five components of existence, nor is the fuel separate from the five components of existence. It is the desire and wanting that is part of these five components of existence that is the fuel that sustains them.”

SN 22:59 Any kind of body whatever, whether past, future, or present, one’s own or others’, gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near—this is the body component of existence. All bodies should be seen as they really are with correct wisdom thus: ‘This is not mine; this I am not; this is not my permanent essence.’

Any kind of experience (*vedanā*) whatever, whether past, future, or present, one’s own or others’, gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near—this is the experience component of existence. All experience

should be seen as it really is with correct wisdom thus: ‘This is not mine; this I am not; this is not my permanent essence.’

Any kind of perception whatever, whether past, future, or present, one’s own or others’, gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near—this is the perception component of existence. All perception should be seen as it really is with correct wisdom thus: ‘This is not mine; this I am not; this is not my permanent essence.’

Any kind of will (and other mental formations) whatever, whether past, future, or present, one’s own or others’, gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near—this is the will and mental formations component of existence. All will should be seen as they really are with correct wisdom thus: ‘This is not mine; this I am not; this is not my permanent essence.’

Any kind of consciousness whatever, whether past, future, or present, one’s own or others’, gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near—this is the consciousnesses component of existence. All consciousnesses should be seen as it really is with correct wisdom thus: ‘This is not mine; this I am not; this is not my permanent essence.’

The Form (Body) Component of Existence

MN 28

And what is the form component of existence? It is the four great elements and the physical qualities derived from the four great elements.

And what are the four great elements? They are the earth, water, fire and the air element.

The Experience (Vedanā) Component of Existence

SN 36.1

There are these three types of experience (vedanā). What three? Pleasant experience through any of the six senses. Unpleasant experience through any of the six senses. Neither-unpleasant-nor-pleasant experience through any of the six senses. These are the three types of experience (vedanā).

The Perception Component of Existence

SN 22.56

And what is perception? There are these six kinds of perception: perception of sights, sounds, odours, tastes, touches, and perception of mental objects.

The Will (and other mental formations) Component of Existence

And what are volitions? There are these six kinds of volition: will regarding sights, will regarding sounds, will regarding odours, will regarding tastes, will regarding touches, will regarding mental objects.

The Consciousnesses Component of Existence

And what are consciousnesses? There are these six kinds of consciousness: sight-consciousness, hearing-consciousness, smell-consciousness, taste-consciousness, body-consciousness, and mind-consciousness.

Dependent Origination of Consciousnesses

MN 28

If the sense of knowing (mind) is intact but no mind objects come into its range, then there is no manifestation of mind consciousness.

If the sense of knowing is intact, mind objects come into its range, but there's no conscious engagement, then there's no manifestation of mind consciousness.

But when the sense of knowing is intact, mind objects come into its range and there is conscious engagement, then mind consciousness manifests.

And so with the other five sense-consciousnesses.

Consciousness is reckoned by the particular condition dependent upon which it arises. When consciousness arises dependent on sight and visual objects, it is reckoned as sight-consciousness. When consciousness arises dependent on hearing and sounds, it is reckoned as hearing-consciousness. When consciousness arises dependent on smell and odours, it is reckoned as smell-consciousness. When consciousness arises dependent on taste and flavours, it is reckoned as taste-consciousness. When consciousness arises dependent on touch and tangibles, it is reckoned as touch-consciousness. When consciousness arises dependent on the mind and mind-objects, it is reckoned as mind-consciousness.

MN 28

Whatsoever there is of 'form' (*rūpa*), this belongs to the Form Component of Existence. Whatsoever there is of 'experience' (*vedanā*), this belongs to the Experience Component of Existence. Whatsoever there is of 'perception' (*saññā*), this belongs to the Perception Component of Existence. Whatsoever there are of 'will and other mental formations' (*sankhāra*), this belongs to the Will Component of Existence. Whatsoever there is of consciousnesses (*viññāna*), this belongs to the Consciousnesses Component of Existence.

Sankhāra

What is the Sankhāra Component of Existence? The definition of “Sankhāra” is “The six types of will” (*cetana-kaya*): will involved with the objects of the six senses. SN22.56 +57

Dependency of Consciousnesses

SN 22.53 Though someone might say: ‘Apart from the form, apart from experience (*vedanā*), apart from perception, apart from will, I will make known the coming and going of consciousnesses, their passing away and rebirth, their growth, increase, and expansion’—that is impossible.

SN 12.67 Just as two sheaves of reeds might stand leaning against each other, so too, with the objects of consciousnesses (*nāma-rūpa*) as a condition, consciousness comes to be; with consciousness as a condition, the objects of consciousnesses come to be ...

If one were to remove one of those sheaves of reeds, the other would fall. So too, with the cessation of consciousnesses, the objects of consciousness cease to exist; with the cessation of the objects of consciousness, consciousnesses cease to exist.

The Three Characteristics of Existence

AN 3.136 All phenomena that arise from a cause do not persist (*anicca*)...
All phenomena that arise from a cause are suffering ...
All phenomena are without a permanent essence.

SN 22.59 “What do you think: does form (body) persist or disintegrate?”
“It disintegrates, venerable sir.”
“Is what disintegrates suffering or happiness?”
“Suffering, venerable sir.”
“Is what disintegrates, is suffering, and subject to change fit to be regarded thus: ‘This is mine, this I am, this is my permanent essence?’”
“No, venerable sir.”

“Does experience (*vedanā*) persist or disappear?...
“Does perception persist or change...
“Does will stay the same or come, go and alter?...”

“Are consciousnesses constant or changing?”
“Always changing, venerable sir.”
“Is what is always changing suffering or happiness?”
“Suffering, venerable sir.”
“Is what is inconstant, suffering, and subject to change fit to be regarded thus: ‘This is mine, this I am, this is my permanent essence?’”
“No, venerable sir.”

Therefore any kind of form whatsoever, whether past, future, or present, your own or others', gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near—all form should be seen as it really is with correct wisdom thus: 'This is not mine, this I am not, this is not my permanent essence.'

Any kind of experience (*vedanā*) whatsoever, whether past, future, or present, your own or others', gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near—all experience should be seen as it really is with correct wisdom thus: 'This is not mine, this I am not, this is not my permanent essence.'

Any kind of perception whatsoever, whether past, future, or present, your own or others', gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near—all perception should be seen as it really is with correct wisdom thus: 'This is not mine, this I am not, this is not my permanent essence.'

Any kind of will whatsoever, whether past, future, or present, your own or others', gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near—all will should be seen as it really is with correct wisdom thus: 'This is not mine, this I am not, this is not my permanent essence.'

Any kind of consciousness whatsoever, whether past, future, or present, your own or others', gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near—all consciousness should be seen as it really is with correct wisdom thus: 'This is not mine, this I am not, this is not my permanent essence.'

The Anattā Doctrine

SN 22.95

Suppose that this river Ganges was carrying along a great lump of foam. A person with good sight would inspect and carefully investigate it, and it would appear to them to be void, hollow, and insubstantial. For what substance could there be in a mere lump of foam?

So too, whatever kind of form (body) there is, whether past, future, or present, one's own or others', gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near: you inspect and carefully investigate it, and it would appear to you to be void, empty, insubstantial. For what substance could there be in form?

Suppose it were raining and big rain drops are falling, a water bubble arises and bursts on the surface of the water. A person with good sight would inspect and carefully investigate it, and it would appear to them to be void, hollow, and insubstantial. For what substance could there be in a water bubble?

So too, whatever kind of experience there is, whether past, future, or present, one's own or others', gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near: you inspect and carefully investigate it, and it would appear to you to be void, empty, insubstantial. For what substance could there be in experience?

Suppose that in the last month of the hot season, around noon, a shimmering mirage appears. A person with good sight would inspect and carefully investigate it, and it would appear to them to be void, hollow, and insubstantial. For what substance could there be in a mirage?

So too, whatever kind of perception there is, whether past, future, or present, one's own or others', gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near: you inspect and carefully investigate it, and it would appear to you to be void, empty, insubstantial. For what substance could there be in perception?

Suppose a person needing hardwood would take a chainsaw and enter a forest. There they would see the trunk of a large banana tree, straight, fresh, without a fruit-bud core. They would cut it down at the root, cut off the crown, and unroll the coil. As they unroll the coil, they would not find even softwood, let alone hardwood. A person with good sight would inspect and carefully investigate it, and it would appear to them to be void, hollow, and insubstantial. For what substance could there be in the trunk of a banana tree?

So too, whatever kind of will there is, whether past, future, or present, one's own or others', gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near: you inspect it and carefully investigate it. As you investigate them, it appears to you to be void, empty, and insubstantial. For what substance could there be in volition?

Suppose that a magician would perform a trick at a crossroads. A person with good eyesight would inspect it, ponder it, and carefully investigate it, and it would appear to them to be void, hollow, and insubstantial. For what substance could there be in a magical illusion?

So too, whatever kind of consciousness there is, whether past, future, or present, one's own or others', gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near: you inspect and carefully investigate it, and it would appear to you to be void, empty, insubstantial. For what substance could there be in consciousnesses?

SN 22.29

One who seeks satisfaction in form (body) seeks only suffering. One who seeks suffering, I say, is not freed from suffering.
One who seeks satisfaction in experiences seeks only suffering ...
One who seeks satisfaction in perceptions seeks only suffering ...
One who seeks satisfaction in volition seeks only suffering ...
One who seeks satisfaction in consciousnesses seeks only suffering. One who seeks suffering, I say, is not freed from suffering.

Why this laughter, why this joy, when it's ever blazing?
 Shrouded all about in gloom won't you look for the light?
 Look at this well-groomed body:
 A mass of sores propped up, full of illness,
 with nothing stable or lasting.
 This body is worn out— so fragile, a nesting ground for disease.
 When life ends in death, this putrid body dissolves.

The Three Warnings

AN 3.36

But, my friend, didn't you ever see among human beings a man or a woman, eighty, ninety, or a hundred years of age, frail, bent like a roof bracket, crooked, wobbling as they go along leaning on a stick, ailing, youth gone, with broken teeth, with grey and scanty hair or bald, with wrinkled skin and blotched limbs, and forgetful?

My friend, didn't it occur to you, an intelligent and mature person: "I too am subject to old age; I am not exempt from old age. Let me now do good karma by body, speech, and mind"?

But, my friend, didn't you ever see among human beings a man or a woman, sick, afflicted, gravely ill, bed ridden, unable to look after themselves?

My friend, didn't it occur to you, an intelligent and mature person: "I too am subject to illness; I am not exempt from illness. Let me now do good karma by body, speech, and mind"?

But, my friend, didn't you ever see among human beings a man or a woman in a coffin, about to be cremated or buried?

My friend, didn't it occur to you, an intelligent and mature person: "I too am subject to death. I am not exempt from death. Let me now do good karma by body, speech, and mind"?

Samsāra

SN 15.3

This samsāra is without a beginning. A first point is not discerned of beings roaming and wandering on, blinkered by delusion and shackled to wanting.

What do you think, which is more: the stream of tears that you have wept as you roamed and wandered on through these many lives, weeping and wailing because of being united with the disagreeable and separated from the agreeable—this, or the water in all the great oceans?

For a long time you have experienced the death of a father, a brother, a sister, a son or a daughter, the loss of relatives, of wealth, and loss

through illness; as you have experienced this, weeping and wailing because of being united with the disagreeable and separated from the agreeable, the stream of tears that you have wept is more than the water in all the great oceans.

Which do you think is more: the streams of blood that you have shed when you were beheaded as you roamed and wandered on through this long course—this or the water in all the great oceans?

For a long time you have been arrested as murderers, burglars, and adulterers, and when you were beheaded, the stream of blood that you shed is greater than the water in all the great oceans.

For what reason? Because this saṃsāra is without a beginning. A first point is not discerned of beings who, blinkered by delusion and shackled to wanting, are journeying through this round of rebirth and death.

SN 15.10 Even just one person, wandering on through their many lives, blinkered by delusion and shackled by wanting, would leave behind a stack of bones, a heap of bones, a mass of bones as large as Mount Everest if there were someone to collect them all and what was collected would not perish. For what reason? Because this saṃsāra is without a beginning.

SN 15.1 For such a long time you have experienced suffering, agony, and disaster, and swelled the cemeteries with your bones from your many lives. It is enough to experience revulsion towards all volitional formations, enough to let them go, enough to be liberated from them.

II. The Noble Truth of the Origin of Suffering

The Threefold Wanting

SN 56.11

Now this is the noble truth of the origin of suffering: it is this wanting which leads to rebirth, accompanied by enjoyment and desire, seeking delight now here now there; that is, wanting related to the five senses, wanting to be, wanting annihilation.

The Origin of Wanting

DN 22

And where does this wanting arise and become established? Wherever in the world there is anything agreeable and pleasurable, there this wanting arises and becomes established.

Sights, sounds, smells, tastes, tangibles, mind-objects in the world are agreeable and pleasurable, and there this wanting arises and becomes established.

The six consciousnesses (sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch, and mind) are agreeable and pleasurable, and there this wanting arises and becomes established.

Experience of the six senses is agreeable and pleasurable, and there this wanting arises and becomes established.

The perception of sights, sounds, smells, tastes, touches, and mind-objects is agreeable and pleasurable, and there this wanting arises and becomes established.

Will in regard to sights, sounds, smells, tastes, touches, mind-objects is agreeable and pleasurable, and there this wanting arises and becomes established.

The wanting of sights, sounds, smells, tastes, touches, mind-objects is agreeable and pleasurable, and there this wanting arises and becomes established.

Thinking of sights, sounds, smells, tastes, touches, mind-objects is agreeable and pleasurable, and there this wanting arises and becomes established.

Fantatising about sights, sounds, smells, tastes, touches, mind-objects is agreeable and pleasurable, and there this wanting arises and becomes established.

And that is called the Noble Truth of the Origin of Suffering.

Dependent Origination of All Phenomena

MN 38

On seeing a sight, you want it if it is pleasing; you try to get rid of it if it is unpleasing. You abide with mindfulness (and wisdom) of the body unestablished, with a limited mind, and you do not understand as it actually is the deliverance of mind and deliverance by wisdom wherein those corrupt unwholesome states cease without remainder. Engaged as you are in favouring and opposing, whatever experience (*vedanā*) you have—whether pleasant or painful or neutral—you delight in that experience, welcome it, and remain holding to it. As you do so, delight arises in you. Now delight in experience (*vedanā*) is a fuel. With fuel as condition, states of existence develop; with states of existence as condition, rebirth; with rebirth as condition, ageing and death, sorrow, lamentation, pain, negativity, and distress come to be. Such is the origin of this whole mass of suffering.

Kamma

Present Kamma-Result (*Sanditthika*)

MN 13

With the five senses as the cause, the five senses as the source, the five senses as the basis, the culprit being simply the five senses, Presidents quarrel with Prime Ministers, politicians with each other, priests with imams, businessmen with householders; parents quarrel with each other and with their children, sibling with sibling, and friend with friend. And here in their quarrels, brawls, and disputes they attack each other with abuse, fists or lawsuits, whereby they incur death, injury or loss. Now this too is a danger in the case of the five senses, a mass of suffering in this very life ... the cause being simply the five senses.

Again, with the five senses as the cause ... people steal, commit fraud, sleep with other people's partners, abuse children, and when they are caught they are imprisoned and ruined. Now this too is a danger in the case of the five senses, a mass of suffering in this very life ... the cause being simply the five senses.

Future Kamma-Result (*Samparāyika*)

Again, with the five senses as the cause, the five senses as the source, the five sense as the basis, the culprit being simply the five senses, people indulge in misconduct of body, speech, and mind. Having done so, on the dissolution of the body, after death, they reappear in states of deprivation, in an unhappy destination, in perdition, even in hell. Now this is a danger in the case of the five senses, a mass of suffering in the life to come, having the five senses as its cause, the five senses as its source, the five senses as its basis, the cause being simply the five senses.

Dhp 127

You will not find a spot in the world
Not in the sky, not in the ocean,
Not inside a mountain cave
Where you will be free from the consequence your corrupt
kamma.

Kamma as Volition

AN 6.63

‘Volition is kamma’, I say. For having willed, you act by body, speech, or mind.

And what is the diversity of kamma? There is kamma to be experienced in hell; there is kamma to be experienced in the animal realm; there is kamma to be experienced in the realm of afflicted spirits (ghosts); there is kamma to be experienced in the human world; and there is kamma to be experienced in the deva world. This is called the diversity of kamma.

And what is the result of kamma? The result of kamma, I say, is threefold: [to be experienced] in this very life, or in the next life, or in some subsequent life. This is called the result of kamma.

Inheritance of Deeds

AN 10.216

Beings are the owners of their kamma, the heirs of their kamma; they have kamma as their origin, kamma as their property, kamma as their resort; whatever kamma they do, good or bad, they are its heirs.

AN 3.34

Wherever that kamma ripens, it is there that you experience its result, either in this very life, or in the next life, or in some subsequent life.

SN 22.99

There comes a time, when the great oceans dry up and evaporate and no longer exist, but still, I say, there is no making an end of suffering for those beings roaming through rebirth and death, blinkered by delusion and shackled to wanting.

There comes a time, when the Himalaya, the king of mountains, burns up and perishes and no longer exists, but still, I say, there is no making an end of suffering for those beings roaming through rebirth and death, blinkered by delusion and shackled to wanting.

There comes a time, when the planet earth burns up and perishes and no longer exists, but still, I say, there is no making an end of suffering for those beings roaming through rebirth and death, blinkered by delusion and shackled to wanting.

III. The Noble Truth of the Cessation of Suffering

SN 56.11 Now this is the noble truth of the cessation of suffering: it is the remainderless fading away and cessation of that same wanting, (wanting related to the five senses, wanting for existence, wanting for annihilation) the giving up and relinquishing of it, freedom from it, never letting it settle.

DN 22 Wherever in the world there is anything agreeable and pleasurable, there the cessation of wanting comes about. And what is there in the world that is agreeable and pleasurable? Sight in the world is agreeable and pleasurable; hearing, smell, taste, touch, and knowing is agreeable and pleasurable, and there this wanting comes to be abandoned, there its cessation comes about.

SN 12.66 Whatever spiritual seekers in the past regarded pleasant and agreeable things in the world as impermanent, as suffering, as non-self, as a disease, as fearful; they abandoned wanting.

Dependent Cessation of all Phenomena

SN 12.43 But with the remainderless fading away and cessation of that same wanting (*tanhā*) comes cessation of fuel (*upādāna*); with the cessation of fuel, cessation of states of existence (*bhava*); with the cessation of states of existence, cessation of rebirth (*jāti*); with the cessation of rebirth, ageing-and-death, sorrow, lamentation, pain, unhappiness, and distress cease. Such is the cessation of this whole mass of suffering. This is the passing away of suffering.

SN 22.30 The cessation, subsiding, and passing away of form ...of experience (*vedanā*)... of perception ... of will ... of consciousnesses ...is the cessation of suffering, the subsiding of disease, the passing away of ageing-and-death.

Nibbāna with Residue Remaining

AN 3.32 This is peaceful, this is sublime, that is, the stilling (*samatha*) of all will (*sankhāra*), the relinquishing of all acquisitions, the destruction of wanting, fading away, cessation, Nibbāna.

AN 3.55 (1) When excited by wanting, overcome by wanting ...
(2) when full of aversion, overcome by aversion ...
(3) when deluded, overcome by delusion,
with mind obsessed by it—you intend for your own affliction, for the affliction of others, or for the affliction of both, and you experience mental suffering and depression.

But when wanting, aversion and delusion are abandoned, you do not intend for your own affliction, for the affliction of others, or for the affliction of both, and you do not experience mental suffering and depression.

It is in this way that Nibbāna is directly visible.

SN 38.1 The destruction of wanting, the destruction of aversion, the destruction of delusion: this is called Nibbāna (with residue remaining).

The Arahant

AN 6.55 If one is intent on the end of wanting and clarity of mind: when one sees the senses' arising, one's mind is completely free from desire. For one of peaceful mind, one completely liberated, there's nothing further to be done, no [need to] increase what has been done.

As a stone mountain, one solid mass, is not stirred by the wind, so no sights, sounds, odours, tastes, touches or mind-objects, desirable or undesirable, stir the stability of the mind. This mind is steady and freed, and you witness the vanishing of the mind.

Sn 1048 And one who has considered all the contrasts on this earth,
 And is no more disturbed by anything whatever in the world,
 The peaceful One, freed from rage,
 From frustration, and from wanting,
 This stream of consciousnesses will not be reborn.

SN 5.10 Māra asks: "By whom has this being been created? Where is the maker of this being? Where has this being arisen? Where does this being cease?"

The Bhikkhuni Arahant, Vajira, replies:

"Why now do you assume 'a being'? Māra, is that your wrong view? This is a heap of sankhāras. Here no being is found.

"Just as with a coming together of parts, the word 'vehicle' is used, so, when the five components of existence exist, there is the conventional term 'a being'.

"It is only dukkha (suffering) that comes to be, dukkha that stands, and dukkha that falls away. Nothing but dukkha comes to be. Nothing but dukkha ceases."

IV. The Noble Truth of the Way Leading to the Cessation of Suffering

SN 56.11

There are these two extremes that should be avoided. The pursuit of happiness through the five senses, which is low (*hīna*), vulgar, the way of worldlings, ignoble, unbeneficial; and the pursuit of practices that fatigue the body and mind, which is painful, ignoble, unbeneficial. Without going to either of these extremes, the Buddha has awakened to the Middle Way, which gives rise to vision, which gives rise to wisdom, which leads to peace, to direct understanding, to enlightenment, to Nibbāna.

It is this Noble Eightfold Path; right view, right motivation, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right endeavour, right mindfulness, and right stillness.

This is that middle way awakened to by the Buddha, which gives rise to vision, which gives rise to wisdom, which leads to peace, to direct understanding, to enlightenment, to Nibbāna.

MN 139

The pursuit of pleasure that is linked to the five senses—low, vulgar, coarse, ignoble, and unbeneficial—is a state beset by suffering, frustration, despair, and fever, and it is the wrong way. Disengagement from the pursuit of pleasure that is linked to the five senses—low, vulgar, coarse, ignoble, and unbeneficial—is a state without suffering, frustration, despair, and fever, and it is the right way.

Dhp 273-276

The Noble Eightfold Path is the best of all practices ...

This is the only path for purifying insight; **there is no other.**

Follow this path and you will discombobulate Māra.

Listen, the end of dying has been reached. I shall instruct you, I shall teach you the Dhamma. Practising as you are instructed, by realising for yourselves in this very life through direct understanding you will soon enter upon and abide in that supreme goal of the holy life for the sake of which people rightly go forth into monastic life.

1. Right View

How to know Right View from Wrong View

After my Parinibbana, some will think that the Dhamma has ended, and you no longer have a teacher. This is wrong. After the Buddha's Parinibbana, the Dhamma and Vinaya will be your Teacher.

DN 16, 4.8-11

Suppose someone were to say: "Friends, this is the Buddha's teaching, the Dhamma and the Vinaya (discipline), that I heard myself from the

Buddha”. Then you should check this person’s words with the Sutta and with the Vinaya. If they agree, then you should conclude that this is the Teaching of the Buddha. If it disagrees with the Sutta and Vinaya, then you should conclude that this person has wrongly understood the Teaching of the Buddha.

Or, suppose someone were to say: “Friends, I heard this from a community of senior monks with distinguished teachers...” Then you should check this person’s words with the Sutta and the Vinaya. If they agree, then you should conclude that it is the Teaching of the Buddha. If it disagrees with the Sutta and Vinaya, then you should conclude that this community has wrongly understood the Teaching of the Buddha.

Or, suppose someone were to say: “Friends, I heard this from many learned elders who uphold a tradition...” Then you should check this person’s words with the Sutta and the Vinaya. If they agree, then you should conclude that this is the Teaching of the Buddha. If it disagrees with the Sutta and Vinaya, then you should conclude that these elder monks have wrongly understood the Teaching of the Buddha.

Or, suppose someone were to say: “Friends, I heard this from one learned elder...” Then you should check this person’s words with the Sutta and the Vinaya. If they agree, then you should conclude that it is the Teaching of the Buddha. If it disagrees with the Sutta and Vinaya, then you should conclude that this learned elder has wrongly understood the Teaching of the Buddha.

Wrong View

What, now, is wrong view?

DN 1, 2.13

There are some who state: “Whatever is called sight, hearing, smell, taste or touch; that is impermanent, unstable, non-eternal, and liable to change. But what is called ‘mentality’ (*mano*) or ‘mind’ (*citta*) or ‘consciousness’ (*viññāna*), **that** is the permanent essence, stable, eternal, not subject to change, the same forever and ever.”

Right View

DN 22

What now is Right View?

The Four Noble Truths

It is the understanding of the Four Noble Truths: suffering (*dukkha*), the origin of suffering, the cessation of suffering, and the way of practice leading to the cessation of suffering. This is called Right View.

The Good and the Bad

What are the good and the bad and what is their cause?

MN 9 Intentional killing; stealing, sexual misconduct, lying, malicious gossip, harsh speech, useless talk, desire relating to the five senses, ill will and wrong view - these are “the bad”.

Wanting, aversion and delusion, these are the cause of “the bad”. Refraining from intentionally killing living beings; stealing, sexual misconduct, from lying, malicious gossip, harsh speech and from useless speech; contentment, loving kindness and right view is “the good”.

Renunciation, compassion and wisdom are the roots of “the good”.

Right View Regarding the Five Components of Existence

SN 22.51 You view your body as impermanent, suffering and non-self.
You regard experience (vedanā) as impermanent, suffering and non-self.
You regard perception as impermanent, suffering and non-self.
You regard will as impermanent, suffering and non-self.
You regard consciousnesses as impermanent, suffering and non-self.

That is right view.

Unprofitable Questions

MN 63 If anyone should say thus: “I will not become a practising Buddhist until I discover whether this universe is eternal or not, finite or infinite; or whether my permanent essence and my body are the same or my permanent essence is one thing but my body is another; or whether The Buddha persists after death, does not persist after death, both persists and does not persist after death, or neither persists nor does not persist after death”, that person would die before they found out!

Suppose a person were shot with a gun and medics would come to help them. Then that person said “Hang on a minute! Who pulled the trigger? What type of gun did they use and why did they shoot me? Moreover, let me see your medical qualifications first. I will not let you treat me until you answer all these questions!” That person would be considered to have wrong view, and might die before their questions were answered.

Sn 592 Therefore, the one who seeks their own welfare should pull out this bullet – this bullet of unhappiness, pain, and suffering.

MN 63 For one with the view ‘life (the universe) is eternal,’ the holy life is without meaning (there is no end of you); and for one with the view ‘life (the universe) is not eternal,’ again the holy life is without meaning (you are going to end anyway). Whether one has the view ‘the universe is eternal’ or the view ‘the universe is not eternal,’ there is rebirth, there is ageing, there is death, there are sorrow, crying, pain, unhappiness, and distress, the destruction of which I prescribe in this very life.

The Five Basic Fetters

MN 64 Here, one who has not seen the Dhamma (*puṭhujjana*) abides with a mind addicted and attached to a view of a permanent essence, and they do not even seek an escape from the long standing wrong view of a permanent essence. When that wrong view of a permanent essence has become habitual, it is regarded as a “Basic Fetter”.

One who abides with a mind addicted and attached to sceptical doubt ... to a belief that rites and rituals (are sufficient in themselves to reach awakening)... to desire for the five senses ... to aversion..., and they do not even seek an escape from these states. Then when these states have become habitual, they are regarded as the “Five Basic Fetters”.

Unwise Contemplations

MN 2 One who has not seen the Dhamma (*puṭhujjana*) does not understand what things are fit for contemplation and what things are not. Thus, they contemplate on those things unfit for attention and not on those things fit for attention.

This is how you contemplate unwisely: ‘Did my soul exist in the past? Did my soul not exist in the past? What was my soul in the past? How was my soul in the past? Having been what, what did my soul become in the past? Shall my soul be in the future? Shall my soul not be in the future? What shall my soul be in the future? How shall my soul be in the future? Having been what, what shall my soul become in the future?’ Or else you are inwardly perplexed about the present thus: ‘Is this my soul? Is this not my soul? What is this soul? How is this soul? Where has this soul come from? Where will it go?’

The Six Views about the Soul

MN 22 When you attend unwisely in this way, one of six views arises in you.
(1) The view ‘I possess a soul’ arises in you as true and established;
(2) or the view ‘I possess no soul, only a material body whose conscious life is a mere by-product of a brain’ arises in you as true and established;
(3) or the view ‘I know the soul with a soul’ (*I know therefore I am*) arises in you as true and established;
(4) or the view ‘I perceive there is no soul with a soul’ arises in you as

true and established (the soul is but cannot be seen);
(5) or the view ‘I perceive a soul with what is without a soul’ arises in you as true and established (the Five Khandhas can know the Original Mind);
(6) or else you have some such view as this: ‘It is this soul of mine that speaks and feels and experiences here and there the result of good and bad actions; but this soul of mine is permanent, everlasting, eternal, not subject to change, and it will endure as long as eternity.’

The Two Extremes and the Middle Doctrine

SN 12.15

Venerable Sir, it is said ‘Right View, Right View.’ In what way is there Right View?

This world, Kaccana, mostly depends on a duality, upon a theory of existence and a theory of non-existence. But for one who sees the origin of phenomena as it really is, there is no idea of non-existence of the world. And for one who sees the cessation of phenomena as it really is, there is no idea of existence of the world.

Most people are attached to one of these wrong views. But one with right view disengages from such dualistic theories about ‘my soul’. You have no perplexity or doubt that what arises is only suffering arising, what ceases is only suffering ceasing. Your knowledge about this is independent of mere belief and acceptance. In this way there is Right View.

“Phenomena exist” is one extreme. “Phenomena do not exist” is the second extreme. Without veering to either of these extremes, the Buddha teaches the Dhamma by the middle: With delusion as the cause, volition arises...

“If there was a soul (a permanent essence), would there be what belongs to a soul (its attributes)?”

“Yes, venerable sir.”

“Or, if there were what belongs to a soul, would there be a soul?”

“Yes, venerable sir.”

“Since a soul and any attributes of a soul are not apprehended as true and established, then this basic belief, namely, ‘This is the soul, this is the world; after death I shall be permanent, everlasting, eternal, not subject to change; I shall endure as long as eternity’ – would it not be an utterly and completely foolish belief?”

Such speculative beliefs are called the thicket of views, the wilderness of views, the contortion of views, the procrastination of views, the fetter of views. Shackled by the fetter of views, the unenlightened person is not freed from birth, ageing, and death, from sorrow,

lamentation, pain, unhappiness, and distress; they are not freed from suffering, I say.

SN 12.61 The unenlightened worldling might experience revulsion from this body, let its importance fade away and be liberated from it. Why? Because growth and decay are seen in this body, moreover it is born and dies. But, that which is called “mind” or “mentality” or “consciousness”, the unenlightened worldling is unable to experience revulsion towards it, let its importance fade away and be liberated from it. Why? Because for a long time you have held, appropriated and grasped the wrong view: ‘this “citta”, or “mind”, or “consciousness”, whatever you call it, is mine, this I am, this is my permanent essence.’

MN 72 Suppose a fire was burning in front of you, would you know that a fire was burning in front of you? If someone asked you what this fire burned in dependence on, how would you answer? You would answer that the fire was burning in dependence on the fuel of grass and sticks. If the fire was extinguished (*nibbuto*), would you know that the fire was extinguished? Yes.

If someone then asked you where that fire went when it was extinguished, did it go to the East, West, North or South? How would you answer?

That question makes no sense. That fire burnt in dependence on its fuel of grass and sticks. When that was used up, not getting any more fuel, it became extinguished. It didn’t go anywhere.

So too, where does an Enlightened One go after death? This question makes no sense.

Views and Discussions about the Soul

DN 15 Now, one who says: “Experience (Vedanā) is my permanent essence (soul)” should be told: “There are three kinds of experience: pleasant, painful, and neutral. Which of the three do you consider to be your soul?”

When a pleasant experience is felt, no painful or neutral experience is felt, but only pleasant experience. When a painful experience is felt, no pleasant or neutral experience is felt, but only painful experience. And when a neutral experience is felt, no pleasant or painful experience is felt, but only neutral experience.

Pleasant experience is impermanent, conditioned, dependently-arisen, bound to decay, to vanish, to fade away, to cease—and so too are painful experience and neutral experience.

So anyone who, on experiencing a pleasant experience, thinks: “This is my soul”, must, at the cessation of that pleasant experience, think: “My soul has gone!” and the same with painful and neutral experience. Thus whoever thinks: “Experience is my soul” is contemplating something in this present life that is impermanent, a mixture of happiness and unhappiness, subject to arising and passing away. Therefore it is not fitting to maintain: “Experience is my soul.”

But anyone who says: “Experience is not my soul; my soul is, but does not experience anything” should be asked: “If there were no experience at all, could there be the concept: ‘I am’?” [To which one would have to reply:] “No.” Therefore it is not tenable to maintain: “Experience is not my soul; my soul is, but has no experience”.

And anyone who says: “Experience is not my soul; my soul is, but does not experience anything; my soul performs the act of experience, that is its nature,” should be asked: “Well, if all experience absolutely and totally ceased, could there be the concept: ‘I am this’?” [To which one would have to reply:] “No.” Therefore it is not tenable to maintain: “Experience is not my soul; my soul is, but does not experience anything; my soul performs the act of experiencing, for that is its nature”.

From the time when a meditator no longer regards experience as the soul; or that the soul is but does not experience anything; or that the soul is, does not experience anything, but the soul performs the act of experience, that is its nature; now regarding in this way, you cling to nothing in the world; not clinging, you are not excited by anything, and not being excited you gain personal liberation, and you know: “Rebirth is finished, the holy life has been led, done was what had to be done, there is nothing more here.”

MN 148

If anyone says, ‘The mind is the soul’ that is not tenable. The appearance and disappearance of the mind are discerned, and since its appearance and disappearance are discerned, it would follow: ‘My soul appears and then disappears.’

That is why it is not tenable for anyone to say, ‘The mind is the soul.’ Thus the mind is not the soul.

If anyone says, ‘Mind-objects are the soul,’ ... ‘Mind-consciousness is the soul,’ ... ‘Experience is the soul,’ ... ‘Wanting is the soul’ ... That is why it is not tenable for anyone to say, ‘Wanting is the soul.’ Thus the mind is not the soul, mind-objects are not the soul, mind-consciousness is not the soul, mind-objects is not the soul, experience is not the soul, wanting is not the soul.

SN 12.61

It would be better for the uninstructed worldling to take as the soul this body rather than the mind (*citta*). Why? Because this body lasts for up to a hundred years, or even longer.

But that thing that is called ‘mind’ (*citta*), or ‘mentality’ (*mano*), or ‘consciousness’ (*viññāna*), arises as one thing and ceases as another all the time.

Wise Contemplations

MN 2

An Enlightened One, or one on the path to Enlightenment, (*ariyapuggala*), understands what things are fit for attention and what things are unfit for attention. Thus they do not contemplate things unfit for attention, only those things fit for attention.

You contemplate: ‘This is suffering’;
‘This is the origin of suffering’;
‘This is the cessation of suffering’;
‘This is the way leading to the cessation of suffering.’

The Sotāpanna or Stream-Enterer

MN 22

When you contemplate in this way, three fetters are abandoned in you: a view of a permanent essence (soul), sceptical doubt, and belief that rites and rituals (are sufficient in themselves to reach enlightenment). Those who have abandoned three fetters are all stream-enterers, no longer subject to rebirth in a lower realm and headed for full enlightenment.

Dhp 178

Absolute rule over the earth, going to heaven, supreme sovereignty over all worlds—the fruit of stream winning surpasses them all.

The Noble Ones and the Ten Fetters

Bhikkhu Bodhi’s
commentary

On entering the irreversible path to the attainment of Nibbāna, one becomes a noble person (ariyapuggala), the word “noble” (ariya) here denoting spiritual nobility. There are four major types of noble persons. Each stage is divided into two phases: the path (magga) and its fruition (phala). In the path phase, one is said to be practicing for the attainment of a particular fruition, which one is bound to realize within that same life; in the resultant phase, one is said to be established in that fruition. Thus the four major types of noble persons actually comprise four pairs or eight types of noble individuals. As enumerated these are:

- (1) one practicing for the realization of the fruit of stream-entry,*
- (2) the stream-enterer,*
- (3) one practicing for the realization of the fruit of once-returning,*
- (4) the once-returner,*

- (5) one practicing for the realization of the fruit of non-returning,
- (6) the non-returner,
- (7) one practicing for arahantship,
- (8) the arahant.

The first seven persons are collectively known as sekhas, trainees or disciples in the higher training; the arahant is called the asekhā, the one beyond training.

The four main stages themselves are defined in two ways:

- (1) by way of the defilements eradicated by the path leading to the corresponding fruit; and
- (2) by way of the destiny after death that awaits one who has realized that particular fruit.

The suttas group the defilements abandoned into a set of ten fetters (samyojana).

The stream-enterer abandons the first three fetters:

- (1) the view of a soul (sakkāyaditthi), that is, the view of a truly existent permanent essence either as identical with the five components of existence or as existing in some relation to them;
- (2) doubt (vicikicchā) about the Buddha, the Dhamma, the Saṅgha, and the training; and
- (3) the wrong grasp of rules and observances (sīlabbataparāmāsa), the belief that mere external observances, particularly religious rituals and ascetic practices, can lead to liberation.

The stream-enterer (Sotāpanna) is assured of attaining full enlightenment in at most six more existences, which will all take place either in the human realm or the heavenly worlds. The stream-enterer will never undergo an eighth existence (the present existence is counted as the first) and is forever freed from rebirth in the three lower realms—the hells, the realm of afflicted spirits (ghosts), and the animal realm.

The once-returner (sakadāgāmi) does not eradicate any new fetters. He or she has eliminated the three fetters that the stream-enterer has destroyed, and additionally weakens the three unwholesome roots—wanting, aversion, and delusion—so that they do not arise often and, when they do arise, do not become obsessive. As the name implies, the once-returner will come back to this world only one more time and then make an end to suffering.

The non-returner (anāgāmi) eradicates the five “basic fetters.” That is, in addition to the three fetters eliminated by the stream-enterer, the

*non-returner eradicates two additional fetters,
(4) desire for the five senses, and
(5) aversion.*

Because non-returners have eradicated desire for the five sense world, they have no ties binding them to this world. They thus take birth in the “pure abodes” (suddhāvāsa) only for non-returners. They attain final Nibbāna there, without ever returning to (rebirth in) the worlds of the five senses.

*The non-returner, however, is still bound by the five “higher fetters”:
(6) attachment to jhāna,
(7) attachment to the immaterial attainments,
(8) conceit (the thought or perception ‘I am’ sometimes arises: I am better; I am worse; I am the same),
(9) restlessness, and
(10) deluded thoughts or perceptions.*

Those who cut off the five higher fetters have no more ties binding them to existence. These are the arahants, who have destroyed all defilements and are “completely liberated through final knowledge.”

Jhānānāgāmi

AN 3.94

“Just as, in the autumn, when the sky is clear and cloudless, the sun, ascending in the sky, dispels all darkness from space as it shines and beams and radiates, so too, when the dust-free, stainless Dhamma-eye arises in you, then, together with the arising of vision, you abandon three fetters: the view of a permanent essence, doubt, and wrong grasp of behaviour and observances.

“Afterward, when you restrain two states, wanting and aversion, then, totally secluded from the five senses, secluded from the five hindrances, you enter and dwell for a while in the first jhāna, which consists of rapture and pleasure born of freedom from the five senses, accompanied by movements of the mind onto the bliss and holding the bliss. If you should pass away while thus in jhāna, there’s no fetter bound by which you might ever return to this world.”

Bhikkhu Bodhi’s
commentary

This phrase normally denotes the attainment of non-returning. The commentary, however, identifies this disciple as a “jhāna non-returner” (Jhānānāgāmi), that is, a stream-enterer or once-returner who also attains jhāna. Though such a practitioner has not yet eliminated the two fetters of sensual desire and aversion, by attaining jhāna he or she is bound to be reborn in the jhāna realm and attain Nibbāna there, without taking another rebirth in the sense sphere.

Scent of 'I am'

"Friend Khemaka, when you speak of this 'I am' ... what is it that you speak of as 'I am'?"

"Friends, I do not speak of form as 'I am,' nor do I speak of 'I am' apart from form.

I do not speak of experience (vedanā) as 'I am' ...

nor of perception as 'I am' ...

nor of volition as 'I am' ...

nor of consciousnesses as 'I am,' nor do I speak of 'I am' apart from consciousnesses.

Friends, although the thought 'I am' has not yet vanished in me in relation to these five components of existence, still I do not regard anything among them as 'This I am.'

"Suppose, friends, there is the scent of a lotus. Would you be speaking rightly if you were to say, 'the scent belongs to the petals,' or 'the scent belongs to the stalk,' or 'the scent belongs to the pistils'?"

"No."

"And how, friends, should you answer if you were to answer rightly?"

"You should answer: 'The scent belongs to the flower.'"

"So too, friends, I do not speak of form as 'I am,' nor do I speak of 'I am' apart from form. I do not speak of experience (vedanā), of perception, of will, of consciousnesses as 'I am,' nor do I speak of 'I am' apart from consciousnesses.

Friends, although the thought 'I am' has not yet vanished in me in relation to these five components of existence, still I do not regard anything among them as 'This I am.'

"Friends, even though a noble disciple has abandoned the five basic fetters, still, in relation to the five components of existence there lingers in them a residual thought 'I am,' a desire 'I am,' an underlying tendency 'I am' that has not yet been uprooted.

"Sometime later they dwell contemplating dependency on causes of the five components of existence: 'Such is form, such its origin, such its passing away; such is experience ... such is perception ... such is will... such are consciousnesses, such their origin, such their passing away.' As they dwell contemplating dependency on causes of the five components of existence, the residual thought 'I am,' the desire 'I am,' the underlying tendency 'I am' that had not yet been uprooted—this comes to be uprooted.

"Suppose you washed a cloth in a washing machine, rinsed, and spun it, and then put it in a drier. Although that cloth would be clean, still it

might retain the residual smell of the soap powder. Then you would hang it out in the sun to air and, after a while, the residual smell of the soap powder would vanish.”

“So too, friends, even though a noble disciple has abandoned the five lower fetters, still, in relation to the five components of existence, there lingers in them a residual thought ‘I am,’ a desire ‘I am,’ an underlying tendency ‘I am’ that has not yet been uprooted....

As you dwell contemplating dependency on causes of the five components of existence, the residual thought ‘I am,’ the desire ‘I am,’ the underlying tendency ‘I am’ that had not yet been uprooted—this comes to be uprooted.”

Free from All Speculative Views

MN 72

Then does the Buddha hold any speculative belief at all?

‘Speculative belief’ is something that the Buddha has put away. For the Buddha has seen this: ‘Such is form, such its origin, such its disappearance; such is experience (*vedanā*), such its origin, such its disappearance; such is perception, such its origin, such its disappearance; such is will, such its origin, such its disappearance; such are consciousnesses, such their origin, such their disappearance.’

Therefore, I say, with the destruction, fading away, cessation, giving up, and relinquishing of all conceptual proliferations, all philosophising, all I-making, mine-making, and the underlying tendency to assuming a permanent essence, the Buddha is liberated through exhausting the fuel that drives rebirth.

The Three Characteristics

AN 3.136

Whether Buddhas arise or not, there persists that law, that stable Dhamma, that fixed course of the Dhamma: ‘All phenomena that arise from a cause (*sankhāra*) are impermanent, suffering and not a permanent essence.’

A Buddha awakens to this and breaks through to it, and then explains it, teaches it, proclaims it, establishes it, discloses it, analyses it, and elucidates it.

SN 22.94

And what is it that the wise in the world agree upon as not existing, of which I too say that it does not exist?

Form that is permanent, stable, and eternal, not subject to change: this the wise in the world agree upon as not existing, and I too say that it does not exist.

Experience (Vedanā) ... Perception ... Volition ... Consciousness that is permanent, stable, and eternal, not subject to change: this the wise in the world agree upon as not existing, and I too say that it does not exist.

AN 1.15 It is impossible and inconceivable that a person who is enlightened or on the path to enlightenment (*Ariyapuggala*) could consider any phenomena that arises from a cause as permanent, as pleasurable and as a soul—there is no such possibility.

But it is possible that an unenlightened worldling might consider some phenomena that arise from a cause as permanent, as pleasurable and as a soul—there is such a possibility.

SN 22.59 Therefore any kind of form whatsoever ... any kind of experience whatsoever ... any kind of perception whatsoever ... any kind of will whatsoever ... any kind of consciousness whatsoever—whether past, future, or present, one’s own or others’, gross or subtle, inferior or superior, far or near— all form ...experience ... perception ... will... consciousnesses should be seen as it really is with correct wisdom thus: ‘This is not mine, this I am not, this is not my permanent essence.

Vism XVI Mere suffering exists, no sufferer is found.
 The deed is, but no doer of the deed is there.
 Nibbāna is, but not a person who enters it.
 The path is, but no traveller on it is seen.

SN 44.4 It is those who do not understand form as it really is, who do not know and see its origin, its cessation, and the way leading to its cessation, that think: ‘An Enlightened One exists after death, or does not exist after death, or both exists and does not exist after death, or neither exists nor does not exist after death.’

It is those who do not know and see experience as it really is ...
who do not know and see perception as it really is ...
who do not know and see will as it really is ...
who do not know and see consciousnesses as they really are,
who do not know and see their origin, their cessation, and the way leading to their cessation, that think: ‘An Enlightened One exists after death, or does not exist after death, or both exists and does not exist after death, or neither exists nor does not exist after death.’”

But one who knows and sees form ...experience ...perception ... will... consciousnesses as they really are, who knows and sees their origin, their cessation, and the way leading to their cessation, does not think: ‘An Enlightened One exists after death, or does not exist after death, or

both exists and does not exist after death, or neither exists nor does not exist after death.”

SN 22,85

“What do you think, Yamaka”, asks Sariputta, “Do you regard the body, experience (vedanā), perception, will or consciousnesses as an Enlightened One?” “No, Venerable.”

“Do you regard an Enlightened One as in the body, as in experience, as in perception, as in will or as in consciousnesses?” “No, Venerable.”

“Do you regard an Enlightened One as apart from the body, as apart from experience, as apart from perception, as apart from will and as apart from consciousnesses?” “No, Venerable.”

“Do you regard the body, experience, perception, will and consciousnesses taken together as an Enlightened One?” “No, Venerable?”

“Do you take an Enlightened One as one who is without form, without experience, without perception, without will and without consciousnesses?” “No, Venerable.”

“But, Yamaka, when an Enlightened One is not apprehended by you as real and actual here in this very life, is it fitting for you to declare that an Enlightened One is annihilated and perishes with the break-up of the body and does not exist after death?”

“If, Yamaka, they were to ask you what happens to an Enlightened One with the break-up of their body, after death, how would you answer?”

“I would answer that the body is impermanent; what is impermanent is suffering, what is suffering has ceased and passed away. Experience is impermanent; what is impermanent is suffering, what is suffering has ceased and passed away. Perception is impermanent; what is impermanent is suffering, what is suffering has ceased and passed away. Will is impermanent; what is impermanent is suffering, what is suffering has ceased and passed away. Consciousnesses are impermanent; what is impermanent is suffering, what is suffering has ceased and passed away.” “Good, Yamaka. Good!”

SN 12.35

If there is the view, ‘The soul and the body are the same,’ there is no living of the holy life; and if there is the view, ‘The soul is one thing, the body is another,’ there is no living of the holy life. Without veering

towards either of these extremes, the Buddha teaches the Dhamma by the middle: Dependent Origination and Dependent Cessation

MN 28 One who sees dependent origination and cessation sees the Dhamma; one who sees the Dhamma sees dependent origination.

Dependent Origination

SN 12.1 With delusion as cause, volition[comes to be];
with volition as cause, consciousnesses;
with consciousness as the cause, name-and-form (the objects of consciousnesses);
with name-and-form as the cause, the six sense bases;
with the six sense bases as cause, sensory contact;
with sensory contact as cause, experience;
with experience as cause, wanting;
with wanting as cause, fuel;
with fuel as cause, states of existence;
with states of existence as cause, rebirth;
with rebirth as cause, ageing-and-death, sorrow, crying, pain, unhappiness, and distress come to be.

Such is the origin of this whole mass of suffering.

Vism 19 No God, no Brahma can be called the maker of life;
Empty phenomena roll on, dependent on conditions all.

SN 12.51 But when a meditator has abandoned delusion and aroused true knowledge, then, with the fading away of delusion and the arising of true knowledge, you do not generate a meritorious volition, or a demeritorious volition, or a neutral volition.

SN 12.1 But with the remainderless fading away and cessation of delusion comes cessation of will;
with the cessation of will, cessation of consciousnesses;
with the cessation of consciousnesses, cessation of name-and-form;
with the cessation of name-and-form, cessation of the six sense bases;
with the cessation of the six sense bases, cessation of sensory contact;
with the cessation of sensory contact, cessation of experience;
with the cessation of experience, cessation of wanting;
with the cessation of wanting, cessation of fuel;
with the cessation of fuel, cessation of states of existence;
with the cessation of states of existence, cessation of rebirth;
with the cessation of rebirth, ageing-and-death, sorrow, crying, pain, unhappiness, and distress cease.

Such is the cessation of this whole mass of suffering.

- Thag 184 House builder, you have now been seen. You shall build no houses again. Your rafters have been broken and your gables all torn. Thrown off course, the Citta will be destroyed right here (*vipariyadikatam cittam idh'eva vidhamissati*)
- Thag 1144 Without any doubt, Citta, you shall be destroyed (*asamsayam cittam vidhamissati*)

2. Right Motivation

What, now, is right motivation?

- DN 22 Actions of body, speech and mind, coming from a motive of renunciation, coming from a motive of kindness, and coming from a motive of gentleness; this is called right motivation.
- MN 78 What are unwholesome motivations? They are motivations of desire for the world of the five senses, of aversion, and of cruelty.
From what do these unwholesome motivations originate? They arise from perceptions of desire for the world of the five senses, of aversion and of cruelty.
Where do these unwholesome motivations cease without remainder? They cease in the first jhāna.
- What are the wholesome motivations? They are motivations of renunciation, kindness and gentleness.
From where do these wholesome motivations originate? They arise from perceptions of renunciation, kindness and gentleness.
Where do these wholesome motivations cease without remainder? They cease in the second jhāna.

3. Right Speech

- DN 22 What now is Right Speech? Right Speech is refraining from lying, from malicious gossip, from harsh speech, and from useless chatter.

Abstaining from Lying

- AN 10.176 You abandon lying and abstain from false speech. If you are summoned to a court, and questioned as a witness thus: 'So, tell what you know,' then, not knowing, you say, 'I do not know,' or knowing, you say, 'I do know'; not seeing, you say, 'I do not see,' or seeing, you say, 'I do see.' Thus you do not consciously speak falsehood for your own ends, or for another's ends, or for some trifling worldly end.

To be a deliberate lie, you must be aware “I am going to speak falsely”; while speaking be aware that “I am telling a lie” and afterwards be aware that “I have misrepresented the truth”.

Abstaining from Malicious Gossip

You abandon malicious gossip and abstain from talk that causes division. Having heard something, you do not repeat it in order to divide people from one another.

Instead, you are one who reunites those who are divided, a promoter of unity, who enjoys concord, rejoices in concord, delights in concord, a speaker of words that promote concord.

Abstaining from Harsh Speech

Having abandoned harsh speech, you abstain from harsh speech. You speak words that are gentle, pleasing to the ear, and lovable; words that go to the heart, are courteous, desired by many, and agreeable to many.

MN 21

Even if terrorists were to torture you, such as by savagely cutting off your limbs with a two-handled saw, one who gave rise to a mind of hate towards them would not be carrying out my teaching.

Instead you should train yourself thus: ‘My mind will remain unaffected, and I shall speak no bad words; I shall abide compassionate for their welfare, with a mind of loving-kindness, without inner hate. I shall abide pervading them with a mind imbued with loving-kindness; and, starting with them, I shall abide pervading the all-encompassing world with a mind imbued with loving-kindness, abundant, exalted, immeasurable, without hostility and without ill-will.’

That is how you should train.

Abstaining from Useless Chatter

Having abandoned useless chatter, you abstain from unbeneficial talk. You speak at a proper time, speak truth, speak what is beneficial, speak on the Dhamma and the discipline; at a proper time you speak words that are worth recording, reasonable, succinct, and beneficial.

Right Way to Criticise Someone

Before you criticise someone, you should be mindful with respect to five things and carefully establish five things:

1. “Is my bodily behaviour pure? Do I possess bodily behaviour that is pure, flawless and irreproachable? Does this quality exist in me or not?”

If your bodily behaviour is not pure, and you do not possess bodily

behaviour that is pure, flawless and irreproachable, there will be those who say of you: “Please train your own bodily behaviour first.”

2. “Is my behaviour of speech pure? Do I possess behaviour of speech that is pure, flawless and irreproachable? Does this quality exist in me or not?”
If your behaviour of speech is not pure, and you do not possess behaviour of speech that is pure, flawless and irreproachable, there will be those who say of you: “Please train your own speech first.”
3. “Have I established a mind of loving kindness without resentment to my associates? Does this quality exist in me or not?”
If you have not established a mind of loving kindness without resentment to your associates, there will be those who say of you: “Please establish a mind of loving kindness without resentment to your associates first.”
4. “Am I learned, and do I retain and understand what I have learned? Have I learned much about those teachings that are good in the beginning, good in the middle, and good in the end, which proclaim the perfectly complete and pure spiritual life? Have I retained them in mind, mentally investigated them, and understood them properly? Does this quality exist in me or not?”
If not ... there will be those who say of you: “Please learn your own tradition first.”
5. “Have both Monastic Codes been well learned and understood by me? Does this quality exist in me or not?”
If not ... there will be others who say of you: “Please learn the monastic rules first.”
6. You resolve to speak at a proper time, not an improper time.
7. You resolve to speak truthfully, not falsely.
8. You resolve to speak gently, not harshly.
9. You resolve to speak in a beneficial way, not in a way that causes harm.
10. You resolve to speak with a mind of loving kindness, not while harbouring ill will.

4. Right Action

What, now, is right action?

DN 22 Refraining from the destruction of life, refraining from taking what is not given, refraining from sexual misconduct.

AN 10.176 Here, having abandoned the destruction of life, you abstain from the destruction of life. With the rod and weapon laid aside, conscientious and kindly, you dwell compassionate toward all living beings.

Having abandoned the taking of what is not given, you abstain from taking what is not given. You do not steal the wealth and property of others in the village or in the forest.

Having abandoned sexual misconduct, you abstain from sexual misconduct. You do not have sexual relations with those under the age of consent; with those who are unable to give consent (e.g. being mentally disabled); who are not free to refuse consent (such as a student to their teacher); where such conduct would be breaking a law; or even with one already engaged.

5. Right Livelihood

What, now, is right livelihood?

DN 22 Here the noble disciple, having given up wrong livelihood, keeps himself by right livelihood.

AN 5.177 A lay follower should not engage in these five trades. What five? Trading in weapons, trading in living beings, trading in meat, trading in intoxicants, and trading in poisons. A lay follower should not engage in these five trades.

6. Right Endeavour

What, now, is right endeavour?

AN 4.13-14 There are these four right endeavours: restraint, abandonment, development, preservation.

The Endeavour of Restraint

And what is the endeavour of restraint? When you see an object, you do not let yourself get sucked in by marks and features that generate defilements. Since, if you left the faculty of sight unrestrained, unskilful states of wanting and aversion would afflict you. Instead, you practice wisdom when seeing, you guard the faculty of sight, and you undertake the restraint of sight.

Having heard a sound ... Having noticed a smell ... Having sensed a taste ... Having felt a bodily feeling ... Having cognized something in the mind, you do not let yourself get sucked in by marks and features that generate defilements. Since, if you left the mind faculty unrestrained, unskilful states of wanting and aversion would afflict you. Instead, you practice wisdom with the mind, you guard the mind, and you undertake the restraint of the mind.

This is called the endeavour to restrain.

The Endeavour to Abandon

And what is the endeavour to abandon? Here, you do not maintain an arisen thought of wanting; you abandon it, let it go, renounce it, and bring it to cessation.

You do not indulge an arisen thought of aversion ... an arisen thought of harming ... whenever bad, unwholesome states arise; you abandon them, let them go, renounce them, and bring them to cessation.

This is called the endeavour to abandon.

MN 20

When you are mindful of some object, and there arises in you afflicting unwholesome thoughts connected with desire, aversion and delusion, then:

- (1) You should give attention to some other object that generates wholesome mind states. Thus, unwholesome states are abandoned and subside. With their disappearance, your mind becomes internally steady, settled, unified and still.
- (2) You should examine the danger in those unwholesome thoughts ...
- (3) You should try to ignore those unwholesome thoughts and do not give attention to them ...
- (4) You should give attention to stilling the causes of those thoughts ...
- (5) You should clench your teeth with your tongue pressed against the roof of your mouth, and beat down, constrain and crush any such afflicting unwholesome thoughts. With the disappearance of them, your mind becomes internally steady, settled, unified and still.

The Endeavour to Develop

AN 4.13-14

And what is the endeavour to develop? Here, you develop

- (1) the enlightenment factor of mindfulness ...
- (2) the enlightenment factor of exploring the Dhamma ...
- (3) the enlightenment factor of energy ...
- (4) the enlightenment factor of rapture ...
- (5) the enlightenment factor of tranquillity ...
- (6) the enlightenment factor of stillness ...

(7)the enlightenment factor of equanimity,
every one of which is based upon seclusion (physical and mental),
fading away, and cessation, maturing in release.

This is called the endeavour to develop.

The Endeavour to Maintain

And what is the endeavour to maintain? Here, you keep in mind an arisen meditation object that generates stillness: such as recollecting the Buddha, the Dhamma or the Sangha; or a skeleton; or loving kindness; or the breath; or a nimitta.

This is called the endeavour to maintain.

AN 4.14

Restraining and abandoning, developing and maintaining,
These four endeavours were taught by the Buddha.
By these means an diligent meditator in this very life,
Can attain the destruction of suffering.

7. Right Mindfulness

What, now, is right mindfulness?

The Four Focuses of Mindfulness

MN 10

The Four Focuses of Mindfulness lead in one direction only, to the purification of beings, to going beyond sadness and crying, to the disappearance of physical and mental suffering, for the attainment of the true way, for the realisation of Nibbāna. What are the four?

1. Having restrained the five hindrances, you abide aware of the body, energised, knowing the purpose of what you are doing, and mindful.
2. Having restrained the five hindrances, you abide aware of experience (vedanā), energised, knowing the purpose of what you are doing, and mindful.
3. Having restrained the five hindrances, you abide aware of the mind (citta), energised, knowing the purpose of what you are doing, and mindful.
4. Having restrained the five hindrances, you abide aware of mind-objects, energised, knowing the purpose of what you are doing, and mindful.

Mindfulness of Body

And how are you aware of the body?

Mindfulness of Breathing

You go to the wilderness or to the root of a tree or to a secluded place, sit down; having folded your legs crosswise, set your body erect, and give priority to establishing mindfulness. Then, mindful you breathe in, mindful you breathe out.

When the in-breath and out breath are long, you are aware that they are long.

When the in-breath and out breath are short, you are aware that they are short.

Then you learn to experience the whole of the breath as you breathe in and out.

Then you learn to calm the breath (*kaya-sankhāra*) as you breathe in and out.

Just as a skilled painter is aware whether they are making a long brush stroke or a short brush stroke; so too, when the in-breath is long, you are aware that it is long ...

In this way you are aware of your own body, or you are aware that the bodies of others are of the same nature as yours, or you abide aware of the nature of both your own and others' bodies.

Or else you abide aware of what causes the arising of the body, (the four nutriments), or you abide aware that the body will cease (when the four nutriments cease); or you abide contemplating the body's causal nature of both arising and ceasing.

Or else mindfulness that 'it is just a body' (impermanent, suffering and not me, not mine and not a soul) is established in you to the extent necessary for mindfulness and wisdom essential for liberation. And you abide independent, not clinging to anything in the world.

That is one way that you are mindful of the body.

The Four Postures

When walking, you are aware in the present that: 'I am walking'; when standing..., sitting..., or lying down, you are aware in the present that: 'I am lying down'. Thus you maintain present moment awareness of however your body is disposed.

In this way you are aware of your own body, or you are aware that the bodies of others are of the same nature as yours, or you abide aware of both your own and others' bodies.

Or else you abide aware of what causes the arising of the body, (the four nutriments), or you abide aware that the body will cease (when the four nutriments cease); or you abide contemplating the body's causal nature of both arising and ceasing.

Or else mindfulness that 'it is just a body' (impermanent, suffering and not me, not mine and not a soul) is established in you to the extent necessary for mindfulness and wisdom essential for liberation. And you abide independent, not clinging to anything in the world.

That is another way that you are mindful of the body.

Full Comprehension of the Purpose

You act in full comprehension of the purpose when going forward and returning; you act in full comprehension of the purpose when looking ahead and looking away; when flexing and extending your limbs; when wearing your clothes and carrying things; you act in full comprehension of the purpose regarding eating, drinking, defecating and urinating; walking, standing, sitting, sleeping, being awake, talking, and keeping silent.

In this way you are aware of your own body, or you are aware that the bodies of others are of the same nature as yours, or you abide aware of both your own and others' bodies.

Or else you abide aware of what causes the arising of the body, (the four nutriments), or you abide aware that the body will cease (when the four nutriments cease); or you abide contemplating the body's causal nature of both arising and ceasing.

Or else mindfulness that 'it is just a body' (impermanent, suffering and not me, not mine and not a soul) is established in you to the extent necessary for mindfulness and wisdom essential for liberation. And you abide independent, not clinging to anything in the world.

That is another way that you are mindful of the body.

The Bodily Parts

You review your body from head to toe, bounded by skin, as made up of many kinds of parts: blood and bones, tissues and organs... Just as though there were a full shopping bag with many kinds of groceries, such as bread, potatoes, fruit and vegetables. So too, you review this same body ... as full of many parts thus: 'In this body there are hairs, bones ... shit and urine.'

...That is another way that you are mindful of the body

Elements

You review your body by way of elements thus: 'In this body there are the earth element, the water element, the fire element, and the air element.'

...That is another way that you are mindful of the body.

The Nine Charnel Ground Contemplations

(1) You see a corpse thrown aside in a charnel ground, up to three days old, bloated, livid, and oozing matter. Then you reflect that your own body is of the same nature, it may become like that, it is not exempt from that fate.

(2) Or you see a corpse thrown aside in a charnel ground, being devoured by birds, animals or maggots. Then you reflect that your own body is of the same nature, it may become like that, it is not exempt from that fate.

(3) Or you see a corpse thrown aside in a charnel ground, a skeleton with flesh and blood, held together with sinews ...

(4) ... a fleshless skeleton smeared with blood, held together with sinews ...

- (5) ... a skeleton without flesh and blood, held together with sinews ...
 (6) ... disconnected bones scattered in all directions ... (7)...bones bleached white, the colour of shells ...
 (8) ... bones heaped up ...
 (9) ... bones more than a year old, rotted and crumbled to dust.. Then you reflect that your own body is of the same nature, it may become like that, it is not exempt from that fate.

In this way you are aware of your own body, or you are aware that the bodies of others are of the same nature as yours, or you abide aware of both your own and others' bodies.

Or else you abide aware of what causes the arising of the body, (the four nutriments), or you abide aware that the body is of the nature to cease (when the four nutriments cease); or you abide contemplating the body's causal nature of both arising and ceasing.

Or else mindfulness that 'it is just a body' (impermanent, suffering and not me, not mine and not a soul) is established in you to the extent necessary for mindfulness and wisdom essential for liberation. And you abide independent, not clinging to anything in the world.

That is another way that you are mindful of the body.

Benefits of Mindfulness of the Body

MN 119

When mindfulness of the body has been repeatedly practised, and developed, these ten benefits may be expected.

- (1) You overcome delight and discontent.
- (2) You overcome fear and dread.
- (3) You bear cold and heat, hunger and thirst, and contact with flies, mosquitoes, wind, the sun, and creeping things; you endure unwelcome words and arisen bodily feelings that are painful and menacing to life.
- (4) You experience whenever needed, without difficulty, the four jhānas that constitute the higher mind (*adhicitta*) and provide a pleasant abiding in this very life.
- (5) You wield the various kinds of supernormal power: having been one, you become many; having been many, you become one; you appear and vanish; you go unhindered through a wall or through a mountain as though through space; you dive in and out of the earth as though it were water; you walk on water without sinking as though it were earth; seated cross-legged, you travel in space like a bird; you wield bodily mastery even as far as the Brahma-world.
- (6) With clairaudience (the 'divine ear'), you hear sounds both heavenly

and human, those that are far as well as near.

(7) You can read the minds of other persons, having encompassed them with your own mind, especially whether their mind is affected by one of the five hindrances or whether it is experiencing a *jhāna*.

(8) You recollect your past lives, even up to a hundred thousand births, and many aeons of expanding universes, many aeons of decaying universes: ‘There I was so named, of such a family with such an appearance, such was my food, such my experience of pleasure and pain, such my life-term; and passing away from there, I reappeared in this other place; and there too I was so named, of such a family...such my life-term; and passing away from there, I reappeared here.’

Thus with their aspects and particulars you recollect many of your past lives.

(9) With clairvoyance (the ‘divine eye’), you see beings passing away and reappearing, inferior and superior, fair and ugly, fortunate and unfortunate, and one understands how beings are reborn according to their actions (*kamma*).

(10) By realising for yourself with direct experience, in this very life, you enter upon and abide in the deliverance of mind and deliverance by wisdom, you are an Enlightened One

Arising and Passing Away (Rise and Fall)

SN 47,42

I will teach you the origination (*samudaya*) and the passing away (*atthagamana*) of the Four Focuses of Mindfulness. 1. Supported by the Four Nutriments, there is the origination and continuance of the body. With the cessation of the Four Nutriments, the body ceases. (The Four Nutriments are: food, six sense contacts (*phassa*), will and consciousnesses) 2. Supported by the six sense contacts (*phassa*), there is the origination of experience. With the cessation of six sense contacts, experience ceases. 3. Supported by *nāma-rūpa* (objects of consciousness), there is the origination of the citta. With the cessation of *nāma-rūpa*, the citta (mind) ceases. 4. Supported by attention, there is the origination of mind objects. With the cessation of attention, mind objects cease.

Mindfulness of Experience

MN 10

How are you mindful of experience (*vedanā*)?

When feeling a pleasant experience, you are mindful that you feel a pleasant experience; when feeling an unpleasant experience, you are mindful that you feel an unpleasant experience; and when feeling a neutral experience, you are mindful that you feel a neutral experience. When feeling a worldly pleasant experience, a worldly unpleasant experience, or a worldly neutral experience, you are mindful that you feel such a worldly pleasant, unpleasant or neutral experience.

When feeling an unworldly pleasant experience, an unworldly unpleasant experience, or an unworldly neutral experience, you are mindful that you feel such an unworldly pleasant, unpleasant or neutral experience.

In this way you are aware of your own experience (*vedanā*), or you are aware that the experience of others' is of the same nature as yours, or you abide mindful of both your own and others' experience.

Or else you abide aware of what causes the arising of experience, (sensory contact), or you abide aware that experience is of the nature to cease (when sensory contact ceases); or you abide contemplating experience's causal nature of both arising and ceasing.

Or else mindfulness that 'it is just experience' (impermanent, suffering and not me, not mine and not a soul) is established in you to the extent necessary for mindfulness and wisdom essential to liberation.

And you abide independent, not clinging to anything in the world.

That is how a meditator abides mindful of experience (*vedanā*).

Mindfulness of the Citta (Mind)

How are you mindful of the mind?

You understand (*pajanati*) a mind that is affected by wanting as such and a mind that is unaffected by wanting as such.

You understand a mind that is affected by aversion as such, and a mind that is unaffected by aversion as such. You understand a mind that is affected by delusion as such, and a mind that is unaffected by delusion as such. You understand a contracted mind as contracted because of dullness and drowsiness, and distracted mind as distracted because of restlessness and remorse.

You understand an exalted mind, a surpassed mind, a still mind and a liberated mind (all referring to a mind in *jhāna*) as such, and an unexalted, unsurpassed, not still and not liberated mind (not in *jhāna*) as such.

In this way you are aware of your own citta, or you are aware that others' cittas are of the same nature as yours, or you abide aware of both your own and others' cittas.

Or else you abide aware of what causes the arising of the citta, (*nāma-rūpa*), or you abide aware that the citta is of the nature to cease (when *nāma-rūpa* cease); or you abide contemplating the citta's causal nature of both arising and ceasing.

Or else mindfulness that 'it is just a citta' (impermanent, suffering and not me, not mine and not a soul) is established in you to the extent

necessary for mindfulness and wisdom essential to liberation.
And you abide independent, not clinging to anything in the world.

This is how you are mindful of the mind.

Mindfulness of Mind-Objects

How are you mindful of mind-objects?

The Five Hindrances

You are mindful of mind-objects in terms of the five hindrances.

(1)When there was wanting regarding the five senses, you are mindful that there was such wanting. When there is no wanting regarding the five senses, you are mindful that there is no such wanting. You also understand how such wanting arises, how to let go of such wanting, and how such wanting doesn't arise again.

(2)There being aversion in you ...

(3)There being dullness and drowsiness in you ...

(4)There being restlessness and remorse in you ...

(5)When there was doubt in you, you are mindful that there was such doubt. When there is no such doubt, you are mindful that there is no doubt. You also understand how such doubt arises, how to let go of doubt, and how doubt doesn't arise again.

MN 39

Suppose you took out a loan and your business was successful. Then you repaid that loan and there was enough left over for your own enjoyment and for that of your family. As a result, you would be glad and full of joy.

Or suppose you were very ill, you couldn't eat or sleep, and had no strength. Later, however, you recovered, could eat and sleep again, and you regained your strength. As a result, you would be glad and full of joy.

Or suppose you were imprisoned and later were released, safe and secure, with no loss to your property. As a result, you would be glad and full of joy.

Or suppose you were a slave, dependent on others, unable to go where you want. Then, later, you were released from slavery, independent of others, able to go where you want. As a result, you would be glad and full of joy.

Or suppose you had to travel along a dangerous road across a wilderness, but later, you would pass through that wilderness safe and

secure, with no loss to your property. As a result, you would be glad and full of joy.

So too, when these five hindrances were present, you look back on them as: a debt (wanting), a disease (aversion), a prison (dullness and drowsiness), slavery (restlessness and remorse), and a dangerous road across a wilderness (doubt). But when these five hindrances have been abandoned, you regard that as freedom from debt, health, release from a prison, freedom from slavery, and reaching a land of safety.

The Seven Enlightenment Factors

Or, you are mindful of mind-objects in terms of the seven enlightenment factors.

(1) When the enlightenment factor of mindfulness is present in you, you understand that it is present. But when the enlightenment factor of mindfulness was not present in you, you understand that it was absent. You also understand how there comes to be the arising of the absent enlightenment factor of mindfulness, and how it comes to fulfilment by development.

(2) When the enlightenment factor of exploring Dhamma is present in you ...

(3) When the enlightenment factor of energy is present in you ...

(4) When the enlightenment factor of joy is present in you ...

(5) When the enlightenment factor of tranquillity is present in you ...

(6) When the enlightenment factor of stillness is present in you ...

(7) When the enlightenment factor of equanimity is present in you, you understand that it is present. But when the enlightenment factor of equanimity was not present in you, you understand that it was absent. You also understand how there comes to be the arising of the absent enlightenment factor of equanimity, and how it comes to fulfilment by development.

The Five Components of Existence

Or, you are mindful of mind-objects in terms of the five components of existence. You are mindful-

‘Such is form, such its origin, such its disappearance;
such is experience (vedanā), such its origin, such its disappearance;
such is perception, such its origin, such its disappearance;
such is will, such its origin, such its disappearance;
such are consciousnesses, such their origin, such their disappearance.’

The Six Sense Bases

Or, you are mindful of mind-objects in terms of the six internal and external sense bases.

You understand sight; understand forms; understand the fetter (wanting) that arises dependent on both; understand how there comes to be the arising of the unrisen fetter: how there comes to be the abandoning of the arisen fetter; and how there comes to be the future non-arising of the abandoned fetter.

And so with the other five sense bases.

The Four Noble Truths

Or, you are mindful of mind-objects in terms of the Four Noble Truths. You understand as it actually is: This is suffering. This is the origin of suffering. This is the cessation of suffering. This is the way leading to the cessation of suffering.

Summary of Mind-Objects

In these ways you are aware of mind objects, or you are aware that others' mind objects are of the same nature as yours, or you abide aware of both your own and others' mind objects.

Or else you abide aware of what causes the arising of mind objects, (attention), or you abide aware that mind objects are of the nature to cease (when attention ceases); or you abide contemplating mind objects' causal nature of both arising and ceasing.

Or else mindfulness that 'it is just mind objects' (impermanent, suffering and not me, not mine and not a soul) is established in you to the extent necessary for mindfulness and wisdom essential for liberation.

And you abide independent, not clinging to anything in the world.

This is how you are mindful of mind objects.

Summary of Satipatthāna

MN 10

So it was with reference to this that it was said: The Four Focuses of Mindfulness lead in one direction only, to the purification of beings, to going beyond sadness and crying, to the disappearance of physical and mental suffering, for the attainment of the true way, for the realisation of Nibbāna.

Nibbāna through Ānāpānasati

MN 118

When mindfulness of breathing is developed and cultivated, it is of great fruit and great benefit. When mindfulness of breathing is developed and cultivated, it completes the four focuses of mindfulness. When the four focuses of mindfulness are developed and cultivated, they complete the seven enlightenment factors. When the seven

enlightenment factors are developed and cultivated, they complete true knowledge and deliverance (Enlightenment).

Mindfulness of Breathing Completes the Four Focuses of Mindfulness

And how does mindfulness of breathing, developed and cultivated, complete the four focuses of mindfulness?

(1) When the in-breath and out breath are long and you are aware that they are long;

When the in-breath and out breath are short and you are aware that they are short;

When you learn to experience the whole of the breath as you breathe in and out;

When you learn to calm the breath as you breathe in and out;

—on those occasions you are mindful of the body, having restrained the five hindrances, energised, fully aware of the purpose, and mindful. In and out breathing is regarded by the Buddha as a body in the category “bodies”. That is why on that occasion a meditator abides mindful of the body, having restrained the five hindrances, energised, fully aware of the purpose, and mindful,

(2) When you learn to experience joy (*pīti*) as you breathe in and out;

When you learn to experience pleasure (*sukha*) as you breathe in and out;

When you learn to experience the mental formation (of *pīti-sukha*) as you breathe in and out;

When you learn to calm this mental formation (of *pīti-sukha*) as you breathe in and out; —on those occasions you are mindful of experience, having restrained the five hindrances, energised, fully aware of the purpose, and mindful. For being mindful of the pleasure associated with this stage of breath meditation is being mindful of experience (*vedanā*). That is why on that occasion a meditator abides mindful of experience, having restrained the five hindrances, energised, fully aware of the purpose, and mindful,

(3) When you learn to experience the citta (*nimitta*) as you breathe in and out;

When you learn to brighten the nimitta (bring joy to the citta) as you breathe in and out;

When you learn to settle the nimitta (still the citta) as you breathe in and out;

When you learn to enter jhāna (liberate the citta) as you breathe in and out;

—on those occasions you are mindful of the citta, having restrained the five hindrances, energised, fully aware of the purpose, and mindful. I do not say that there is the development of mindfulness of breathing for one who is dull, who is not FULLY aware (reaching a jhāna with the hindrances gone). That is why on that occasion a meditator abides mindful of the mind (citta), having restrained the five hindrances, energised, fully aware of the purpose, and mindful,

(4) When you learn to explore impermanence in breath meditation;
When you learn to explore things fading away in breath meditation;
When you learn to explore things ceasing in breath meditation;
When you learn to explore relinquishing things in breath meditation;
—on these occasions you are mindful of mind-objects (the Dhamma), having restrained the five hindrances, energised, fully aware of the purpose, and mindful. Having seen with wisdom the impermanence, fading away, cessation and relinquishment, of the five hindrances, you are mindful with equanimity. That is why on that occasion you are mindful of mind-objects, having restrained the five hindrances, energised, fully aware of the purpose, and mindful. That is how mindfulness of breathing, developed and cultivated, completes the four focuses of mindfulness.

Four Focuses of Mindfulness Complete the Seven Enlightenment Factors

How do the four focuses of mindfulness, developed and cultivated, complete the seven enlightenment factors?

(1) When you are mindful of the body, having restrained the five hindrances, energised, fully aware of the purpose, and mindful—on that occasion steady mindfulness is established in you. On whatever occasion steady mindfulness is established in you—on that occasion the mindfulness enlightenment factor is aroused in you. You develop it and, by development, it comes to fulfilment in you.

(2) When you are thus mindful, you explore Dhamma with wisdom. On whatever occasion, abiding thus mindful, you explore Dhamma with wisdom —on that occasion the exploration-of-Dhamma enlightenment factor is aroused in you, and you develop it, and by development it comes to fulfilment in you.

(3) When you explore Dhamma with wisdom, and embark upon a full inquiry into it, unflagging energy is aroused. On whatever occasion unflagging energy is aroused as you explore Dhamma with wisdom—on that occasion the energy enlightenment factor is aroused in you, and you develop it, and by development it comes to fulfilment in you.

(4) When you have aroused energy, unworldly joy (*pīti*) arises. On whatever occasion unworldly joy arises—on that occasion the joy enlightenment factor is aroused in you, and you develop it, and by development it comes to fulfilment in you.

(5) When you experience unworldly joy, your body and mind become tranquil. On whatever occasion the body and the mind become tranquil and you experience joy—on that occasion the tranquillity enlightenment factor is aroused in you, and you develop it, and by development it comes to fulfilment in you.

(6) When your body is tranquil and you feel pleasure in the mind, the mind becomes still. On whatever occasion the mind becomes still and joyful—on that occasion the stillness enlightenment factor is aroused in you, and you develop it, and by development it comes to fulfilment in you.

(7) You observe such a still mind with equanimity. On whatever occasion you observe with equanimity the still mind—on that occasion the equanimity enlightenment factor is aroused in you, and you develop it, and by development it comes to fulfilment in you.

That is how the four focuses of mindfulness, developed and cultivated, complete the seven enlightenment factors.

Here, you develop the mindfulness enlightenment factor, which is supported by seclusion (physical and mental), fading away and cessation, and ripens in relinquishment.

You develop the exploration-of-Dhamma enlightenment factor ...

the energy enlightenment factor ...

the joy enlightenment factor ...

the tranquillity enlightenment factor ...

the stillness enlightenment factor ...

the equanimity enlightenment factor, which is supported by seclusion, fading away, and cessation, and ripens in relinquishment.

That is how the seven enlightenment factors, developed and cultivated, complete true knowledge and deliverance (full Enlightenment).

8. Right Stillness (Jhāna)

MN 36

I remembered a time when my father was occupied, while I was sitting in the cool shade of a rose-apple tree, having passed beyond the five senses and free from unwholesome states, I entered and abided in the first Jhāna. I thought “Could that be the path to Enlightenment

(*Bodhi*)?” Then the realisation arose: “That Jhāna is indeed the path to Enlightenment.”

The Four Jhānas

MN 27 (1) Having abandoned the five hindrances, totally free from the five senses, free from unwholesome states (the hindrances), you enter upon and abide in the first Jhāna, wherein the mind moves onto the object and holds on to it, the object being joy and pleasure caused by being totally free from the five senses.

MN 43 In the first Jhāna, five things are absent and five factors are present. When one has entered the first Jhāna, the five hindrances are totally absent; and what is present: (1) the mind moves onto the object (2) holds on to it (3) the object, being joy (4) and pleasure, (5) and there is oneness of mind.

MN 27 (2) When the mind no longer moves onto the object because it lets go of holding on to it, you enter upon and abide in the second Jhāna, which has trust (in the object, the bliss, enough to let go of holding it) and unity of mind without any movement or holding, with joy and pleasure caused by absolute stillness.

(3) With the fading away of joy, you abide mindful and fully aware, experiencing a bliss purified from joy; you enter upon and abide in the third Jhāna, on account of which noble ones announce: ‘One has a pleasant abiding indeed who has such mindfulness and equanimity.’

(4) Having abandoned pleasure and pain (all *vedanā* from the five senses), and with the disappearance of joy and grief (all *vedanā* from the sixth sense except for equanimity), you enter upon and abide in the fourth Jhāna, which has only neutral mental *vedanā*, remaining - just pure mindfulness with equanimity.

MN 108 And what kind of meditation did the Buddha recommend? Totally free from the five senses ...you abide in the first Jhāna. When the mind stops moving onto the joy and pleasure, and stops holding it ... you abide in the second Jhāna. With the fading away of joy ... you abide in the third Jhāna. With the abandoning of all mental pleasant and unpleasant *vedanā* ... you abide in the fourth Jhāna. The Buddha only praised these four kinds of meditation.

DN 29 There are, Cunda, these four kinds of life devoted to pleasure that are entirely conducive to repulsion, to fading away, cessation, peace, realisation, Enlightenment, to Nibbāna. What are they? The four Jhānas. So, if devotees of other sects should say that the Buddhists are

addicted to these four forms of pleasure seeking, they should be told “Yes”, for they would be speaking correctly about you.

Then some people might further ask you what benefits can you expect from a life attached to these four forms of pleasure seeking? You should reply that they can expect only four fruits, four benefits: (1) Stream Winning (2) Once Returning (3) Non Returning or (4) Full Enlightenment. These are the benefits that you can expect from being attached to these four forms of pleasure seeking.

MN 64 There is one path only, Ānanda, one way, to the abandoning of the Five Basic Fetters. It is impossible that anyone can understand or abandon these Five Basic Fetters without relying on that path. No more than it is possible to cut out the hardwood from a tree without cutting through its bark and sapwood. What is that path? The four Jhānas and the first three Immaterial Attainments.

While you still do not experience Jhāna, the five hindrances together with discontent (*arati*) and weariness (*tandi*) invade your mind and remain. But when you do experience a Jhāna, the five hindrances, discontent and weariness do not invade your mind and remain. MN 68

AN 8.81 When you have no Jhāna, for one deficient in Jhāna, the cause for seeing things as they truly are is destroyed.
When you do not see things as they truly are, for one deficient in such wisdom, the cause for repulsion and fading away is destroyed.
When you are not repulsed nor incline to disappearing, for one deficient in these, the cause for knowledge and vision of liberation is destroyed.

SN 22.5 Develop Jhāna. When you experience Jhāna, you can understand things as they really are. And what do you understand as it really is? The origin and passing away of form; the origin and passing away of experience (*vedanā*); the origin and passing away of perception; the origin and passing away of will; the origin and passing away of consciousnesses.

Dhp 372
There is no Jhāna for one without wisdom,
There is no wisdom for one without Jhāna.
For one who has both Jhāna and wisdom,
They are in the presence of Nibbāna!

Summing Up of the Noble Eightfold Path

SN 56.11 This is that middle way awakened to by the Buddha, which gives rise to vision, which gives rise to knowledge, which leads to peace, to direct knowledge, to enlightenment, to Nibbāna.

Dhp 275

Enter then upon this path, you'll make an end of suffering.

Nibbāna

MN 39

When you know and see thus, the mind is no longer pulled out into the world of the five senses (it is liberated from the wanting āsava); it no longer flows out just to be (it is liberated from the being āsava), and it no longer leaks out because of delusion (it is liberated from the delusion āsava). When liberation occurs, the knowledge of liberation invariably follows.

You understand: 'Birth is destroyed, the holy life has been lived, what had to be done has been done, there is no more rebirth or reappearance in any state of existence.'

MN 26

Your deliverance is unshakeable;
This is your last life;
Now there will be no renewal of existence.

For this is the supreme noble wisdom, namely, the knowledge of the destruction of all suffering.

The True Goal

MN 29

So this holy life does not have gain, honour and fame, for its main purpose; or the attainment of virtue for its main purpose; or the attainment of Jhāna as its main purpose; nor insight for its main purpose.

DN 16

The main purpose of the holy life is this unshakeable deliverance of mind, Full Enlightenment. That is the goal of this holy life, its essence and its culmination.

It may be that you will think: "The Teacher's instruction has ceased, now we have no teacher!" It should not be seen like this, for what I have taught and explained to you as Dhamma and discipline will, at my passing, be your teacher.

You should live as islands unto yourselves,
Being your own refuge, with no one else as your refuge,
With the Dhamma as your island,
With the Dhamma as your refuge, with no other refuge.

For this reason those matters that I have discovered and proclaimed should be thoroughly learnt by you, practised, developed and cultivated, so that this holy life may endure for a long time, that it may be for the benefit and happiness of the multitude, out of compassion for the world, for the benefit and happiness of devas and humans.

SN 56,31

“Which do you think are greater, the few leaves that I hold in my hand or all the leaves in the forest?” asked the Buddha. “The leaves in the forest” came the obvious answer. “Likewise, the things that I know but have not taught to you are many, like the leaves in the forest. Whereas, the things that I have taught you are few, like the leaves in my hand.” “The reason that I have not taught you these things is because they are irrelevant to the holy life and do not lead to Enlightenment.”

The Gradual Training

Arising of Buddha & Dhamma

MN 27

A Buddha appears in the world, accomplished (*arahant*), fully awakened (*sammāsambuddho*), perfect in true knowledge and conduct (*vijjā-carana-sampanno*), well liberated (*sugato*), knower of worlds (*lokavidū*), incomparable teacher of those who can be taught (*anuttaropurisadamma-sārathi*), teacher of gods and humans (*sathā deva-manussānam*), the awakened one (*buddho*), the master (*bhagavā*). With his own direct knowledge, he has realized this universe with its gods, this world with all its beings; and he makes it known to others. He teaches the Dhamma good in the beginning, good in the middle, and good in the end, with the right meaning and right phrasing, and he reveals a perfectly complete and pure spiritual life.

Confidence

MN 27

You hear that Dhamma. On hearing the Dhamma you acquire faith in the Buddha. Possessing that faith, you consider thus: ‘Household life is troublesome and busy; life as a monastic is free and relaxed. It is not easy, while living in a house, to lead the holy life utterly perfect and pure. Suppose I shave off my hair, put on the orange robe, and go forth from the worldly life into a monastery.’

On a later occasion, having given away all your wealth, abandoning your circle of relatives and friends, you shave off your hair, put on the orange robe, and go forth from the home life into monastic life.

Virtue

When you have gone forth, you train in the monastic way of life: You abstain from killing living beings; with rod and weapon laid aside, conscientious, merciful, you live compassionate to all living beings. You abstain from taking what is not given; taking only what is given, wanting only what is given, by not stealing you abide in purity. You abstain from all sexual activity, living apart from others, you abstain from the lay practice of sexual intercourse. You abstains from false speech; you speak only the truth, are trustworthy and reliable, you are no deceiver of the world.

You abstain from divisive speech; you do not tell tales in order to divide people, but you are one who reunites those who are divided, a promoter of friendships, who enjoys harmony, rejoices in harmony, delights in harmony, a speaker of words that promote harmony.

You abstain from harsh speech; you speak only words that are gentle, pleasing to the ear, and loveable, words that go to the heart, are

courteous, desired by the many and agreeable to the many.

You abstain from useless speech; you speak at the proper time, speak what is truthful, speak on what is beneficial, speak on the Dhamma and the Training; at the proper time you speak words that are worth treasuring, authoritative, succinct, and beneficial.

You abstain from injuring seeds and plants.

You practise eating only in the morning, abstaining from eating at night and outside the proper time.

You abstain from dancing, singing, music, and movies.

You abstain from wearing adornments, fragrances and cosmetics.

You abstain from using luxurious furnishings.

You abstain from accepting money. You abstain from accepting raw grain and raw meat. You abstain from accepting servants and slaves.

You abstain from accepting livestock. You abstain from accepting fields and land.

You abstain from going on errands and running messages.

You abstain from buying and selling.

You abstain from practising fraud.

You abstain from accepting bribes, deceiving, defrauding, and trickery.

You abstain from wounding, murdering, imprisoning, extortion, plunder, and violence.

Contentment

You become content with patched robes to protect your body and with almsfood to maintain your stomach; and wherever you go, you travel taking only these with you. Just as a bird, wherever it goes, flies with its wings as its only burden, so too you become content with patched robes to protect this body and with almsfood to maintain your stomach; and wherever you go, you travel taking only these with you.

When you follow this noble virtue and contentment, you experiences within yourself a delightful bliss, the joy of being blameless.

Restraint of the Senses

When you see an object, you do not let yourself get sucked in by marks and features that generate defilements. Since, if you left the faculty of sight unrestrained, unskilful states of wanting and aversion would afflict you. Instead, you practice wisdom when seeing, you guard the faculty of sight, and you undertake the restraint of sight.

Having heard a sound ... Having noticed a smell ... Having sensed a taste ... Having felt a bodily feeling ... Having cognized something in the mind, you do not let yourself get sucked in by marks and features that generate defilements. Since, if you left the mind faculty unrestrained,

unskilful states of wanting and aversion would afflict you. Instead, you practice wisdom with the mind, you guard the mind, and you undertake the restraint of the mind.

When you follow this noble restraint of the senses, you experience within yourself an even more delightful the bliss, the joy of being unagitated.

Clear Comprehension

You act in full comprehension of the purpose when going forward and returning; you act in full comprehension of the purpose when looking ahead and looking away; when flexing and extending your limbs; when wearing your clothes and carrying things; you act in full comprehension of the purpose regarding eating, drinking, defecating and urinating; walking, standing, sitting, sleeping, being awake, talking, and keeping silent.

Meditation

When you have developed this noble virtue, this noble restraint of the sense faculties, and this noble clear comprehension, you go to a secluded dwelling place such as the forest, the foot of a tree, a mountain, a ravine, a hillside cave, a charnel ground, a jungle thicket, an open space, a heap of straw.

You sit down, folding your legs crosswise, straightening the body, and establishing mindfulness as a priority.

Abandoning wanting for the world of the five senses, you abide with a mind free from wanting; you purify the mind from desire.

Abandoning aversion, you abide with a mind free from ill-will, compassionate for the welfare of all living beings; you thus purify the mind from aversion.

Abandoning dullness and drowsiness, you abide with a mind free from dullness and drowsiness, bright minded, clearly comprehending; you purify the mind from dullness and drowsiness.

Abandoning restlessness and remorse, you abide unagitated, with a mind inwardly peaceful; you purify the mind from restlessness and remorse.

Abandoning doubt, you abide having gone beyond doubt, unperplexed about wholesome states; you purify the mind from doubt.

The Jhānas

1) Having abandoned the five hindrances, totally free from the five senses, free from unwholesome states (the hindrances), you enter upon and abide in the first Jhāna, wherein the mind moves onto the object

and holds on to it, the object being joy and pleasure caused by being totally free from the five senses.

(2) When the mind stops moving onto the object and stops holding on to it, you enter upon and abide in the second Jhāna, which has trust (in the object, the bliss, enough to let go of holding it) and unity of mind without any movement or holding, with joy and pleasure caused by perfect stillness.

(3) With the fading away of joy, you abide mindful and fully aware, experiencing a bliss purified from joy; you enter upon and abide in the third Jhāna, on account of which noble ones announce: 'One has a pleasant abiding indeed who has such mindfulness and equanimity.'

(4) Having abandoned pleasure and pain (all vedanā from the five senses), and with the disappearance of joy and grief (all vedanā from the sixth sense except for equanimity), you enter upon and abide in the fourth Jhāna, which has only neutral mental vedanā, remaining - just pure mindfulness with equanimity.

Abbreviations

DN	DīghaNikāya, The Long Discourses (the number refers to the sutta)
MN	MajjhimaNikāya, The Middle Length Discourses (the number refers to the sutta)
SN	SamyuttaNikāya, The Connected Discourses, (the first number refers to the division into groups or samyuttas, the second number to the sutta).
AN	AṅguttaraNikāya, The Numerical Discourses (the first number refers to the main division into parts or nipātas, the second number to the sutta)
Dhp	Dhammapada (by verse)
Ud	Udāna, The Inspired Utterances (by chapter and sutta)
Sn	Suttanipāta, Early Buddhist Poems, (by verse)
Vism	Visuddhimagga, The Path of Purification, (by chapter and section)
Thag	Theragāthā (by verse)