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Naḷaka,pāna Sutta

The Discourse at Naḷaka,pāna | M 68/1:462-468

Theme: The destinies of true disciples and the purpose of the holy life

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1 Places and names1.1 NAḶAKA,PĀNA

1.1.1 The village's name. Naḷaka,pāna was a village in Kosala. Its name came from the Naḷaka,pāna (“cane-drinking”) lotus lake (*pokkharāṇī*).¹ The fascinating story behind the lake's name is given in **the Naḷa,pāna Jātaka** (J 20). Once when the Bodhisattva was born as the king of a troop of 80,000 monkeys, he warned them never to eat or drink in any strange places in the forest without his consent.

One day, the thirsty monkeys arrived at a lake, but would not drink until the leader arrived. On arriving, he carefully examined the area and waters, and learned that it was inhabited by an ogre. He provided each of the monkeys with very long reeds (*naḷaka*). By the power of his virtue, the reed became hollow. Using this helpful device, they sat down beside the lake at a safe distance and drank to their hearts' content. By the power of the monkey-king's virtue, the reeds in that area became hollow thenceforth.²

1.1.2 Palāsa,vana. There are two groves near the village, that is, the *ketaka,vana* and the *palāsa,vana* (*vana* means “forest”). The *ketaka* is a screwpine with the botanic name of *Pandanus odoratissimus*, called kedgi or kedva in Hindi.³ The palash (*palāsa*), according to the Majjhima Commentary, is the *kiṃsuka* tree (MA 3:180).⁴ Its botanic name is *Butea monosperma* or *Butea frondosa*. In Bengali and Hindi, it is called “kimshuka” or “palash,” and in Tamil, “porasum,” that is, the parrot tree or flame of the forest.⁵

The palash forest is the venue for at least three discourses, all called **Naḷaka,pāna Sutta** (M 68; A 10.67).⁶ In the former (M 68), the Buddha speaks on the spiritual destinies of his true disciples and the purpose of the holy life.⁷ As for the latter (A 10.67), there are actually two suttas of the same name, both give by Sāriputta—the **Naḷaka,pāna Suttas 1 & 2** (A 10.67+68)—at the Buddha's request. Both Suttas are on the five qualities for wholesome growth, that is, faith (*saddhā*), moral shame (*hiri*), moral fear (*ottappa*), effort (*virīya*), and wisdom (*paññā*).⁸

The palash tree is also the subject of **the Palāsa Jātaka** (J 307), a rather uncharacteristic story said to be related by the Buddha in connection with Ānanda's weeping at the door-bolt of the garden shed (*uyyāna,ovarake kapi,sīsam*), grieving that the Buddha would pass away soon. The story is about how a poor brahmin faithfully worships a tree-deity, who rewards him with hidden treasure.⁹ The moral of the story clearly alludes to Ānanda's devotion to the Buddha.

1.2 THE SONS OF FAMILY

1.2.0 The Naḷaka,pāna Sutta (M 68) is a straightforward discourse on the purpose of Buddhist training, or more specifically, the celibate holy life (*brahma,cariya*). Like the opening of **the Ānāpāna,sati Sutta** (M 118),¹⁰ the Naḷaka,pāna Sutta, too, is the occasion for the Buddha to reflect on the presence of a

¹ MA 3:180; AA 5:44.

² J 20/1:170-172. Referred to MA 3:178.

³ It is a perennial shrub that grows up to 5 m high, with long leaves and aerial stilt roots: further see <http://ayurvedicmedicinalplants.com/plants/2169.html>.

⁴ For a *kiṃsuka* simile, see **Kiṃsuka S** (S 35.245/4:191-195) = SD 53.10.

⁵ For pictures, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trees_of_India; for details & refs, see http://wiki.encyclopaediaindica.com/~encyclo3/wiki/index.php?title=PARROT_TREE

⁶ M 68/1:462-468; A 10.67+68/5:122-128.

⁷ M 68/1:462-468 = SD 37.4.

⁸ *Vuddhi kusala,dhamma* (A 10.67/5:122). See **Udakūpama S** (A 7.15/4:11-15) = SD 28.6 (2.1). Cf *ariya,vaddhi*, [§10c] n.

⁹ J 307/3:23-25.

¹⁰ M 118.2/3:79 = SD 7.13.

number of prominent young monks, namely,¹¹ **Anuruddha**,¹² **Bhaddiya**¹³ [**Nandiya**],¹⁴ **Kimbila** [Kimi-la],¹⁵ **Bhagu**,¹⁶ **Kuṇḍa,dhana**¹⁷ [**Koṇḍañña**],¹⁸ **Revata**,¹⁹ and **Ānanda**²⁰ [§2].

1.2.1 Anuruddha is Mahānāma's brother, from whom he hears of the endless rounds of household chores, and so decides to renounce the world. His mother, however, only consents after his cousin Bhaddiya renounces with him. During the 2nd year of the Buddha's ministry, Anuruddha, Bhaddiya, Kimbila, Bhagu, Ānanda, Devadatta, and their barber, Upāli, approach the Buddha at the Anupiya Mango Grove, where they are ordained.²¹ Before the rains residence is over, Anuruddha gains the "divine eye" or clairvoyance (*dibba,cakkhu*), for which he is declared to be foremost amongst the monks (A 1:23; AA 1:135).²²

1.2.2 Koṇḍañña

1.2.2.1 AÑÑĀ KOṆḌAÑÑĀ. The best known of the Buddha's disciples named Koṇḍañña is clearly Aññā Koṇḍañña, the first of the group of five monks who attends to the Buddha before his awakening. As such, he is *the seniormost of all the monks*. It is said that he sits in the assembly of monks behind the two chief disciples. Finding that living near the Buddha is too "crowded" (*akiṇṇa*) for him, he decides to go into solitary living.²³

¹¹ Anuruddha, Bhaddiya, Ānanda, Bhagu, Kimbila, Deva,datta, and their barber, Upāli, are said to have ordained together at the Anupiya mango grove during the 2nd year of the Buddha's ministry (V 2:180-183; AA 1:191; DhA 1:133, 4:127; Mvst 3:177-182). **Cūḷa Gosiṅga S** (M 31) has this list: Anuruddha, Nandiya, Kimbila (M 31/1:205,18 f). On their attainments, see AA 1:191; ApA 270.

¹² On **Anuruddha**, see (**Anuruddha**) **Upakkilesa S** (M 128) @ SD 5.18 (5) & **Pārileyya S** (S 22.81/3:94-99) = SD 6.1 (2).

¹³ Be. On **Bhaddiya**, see V 2:182-184; UA 161. Bhaddiya attains arhathood in the same year as his renunciation (AA 1:191 f; VA 1274). His verses are at Tha 842-865. This is a different Bhaddiya from the group of 5 monks at the Buddha's first discourse (S 56.11/5:420-424) = SD 1.1.

¹⁴ Ce Ee.

¹⁵ On **Kimbila**, see (**Anuruddha**) **Upakkilesa S** (M 128) @ SD 5.18 (7). It is said that at Anupiya Mango Grove, the Buddha, in order to rouse a sense of urgency in Kimbila, projects the hologram of a beautiful woman in her prime who then rapidly passes through the phases of decay into old age. Kimbila keeps up his friendship with Anuruddha and Nandiya, and they dwell together as monks. Once, at Veluvana, when the Buddha asks Kimbila about the benefits of the mindfulness of breathing, he is unable to answer even after being questioned thrice. Ānanda then intercedes and suggests that the Buddha should himself answer the question for the benefit of the monks (S 54.10/5:322 f). Kimbila's verses are found in the **Thera,gātha** (Tha 118, 155 f).

¹⁶ On **Bhagu**, see (**Anuruddha**) **Upakkilesa S** (M 128) @ SD 5.18 (4). SA 2:304. Bhagu is best known for determination in his meditation. One day, as he is leaving his cell to drive away his drowsiness, he falls on the terrace, which spurs him on to gain liberation there and then. In due course, he wins arhathood. The Buddha later praises him on his solitude. The Buddha discourses to him after the noon meal, right through the night till dawn. (Tha 271-274; ThaA 2:112; cf V 1:350, 2:182; M 3:155; DhA 1:56, 133; J 1:140, 3:489; Miln 107)

¹⁷ Ee Se.

¹⁸ Be On **Koṇḍañña**, see **Dhamma,cakka Pavattana S** (S 56.11) @ SD 1.1 (1). On the origin of his sobriquet & surname: Aññā (or Aññāta) Koṇḍañña, see V 1:12,18 = S 5:424,10; S 1:193,31 f. On Aññāsi ~, cf V 1:12,17) = A 1:23,17 (cf AA 1:136-148); J 1:82,11; U 77,1 (Aññāta ~; UA); MA 2:37,19; DhA 1:97,1; ThīA 3,8 (~-*pamukhā aṭṭhārasa brahma,koṭṭiyo*); DhA 1:87,1 (do); DhsA 35,21 (do). Author of Tha 673-688; Ap 48,24-50,5.

¹⁹ On **Revata**, see (**Kaṅkhā**) **Revata S** (U 5.7/60) = SD 32.15. Following the commentarial list of the 80 great elders (*asīti mahā,thera*), it is likely that this is Kaṅkhā Revata. The relevant excerpt reads: *anuruddho kaṅkhā,revato ānando nandako bhagu nando kimilo bhaddiyo...* (ThaA 3:205). The other great elder named Revata is Khadira,-vaniya Revata, who lives in an acacia forest, and who is listed later in the same list.

²⁰ **Ānanda**, on listening to a discourse by Puṇṇa Mantāni,putta becomes a streamwinner (S 22.83/3:105). Puṇṇa is Koṇḍañña's nephew (Mantāni is Koṇḍañña's sister), and is ordained by Koṇḍañña. Puṇṇa is the foremost of monks who are Dharma speakers (A 1:23).

²¹ On **their ordination**, see V 2:180-183; Mvst 3:180 f. See also V 1:350-352; DhA 1:133, 137 f. On their foremost qualities, see DA 1192.

²² On Anuruddha, further see (**Anuruddha**) **Upakkilesa S** (M 128) @ SD 5.18 (5).

²³ SA 1:280; AA 1:148.

After seeking the Buddha's permission, he retires to the banks of the Mandākini lotus pond in the Chaddanta forest in the Himalayas (the traditional haunt of pratyeka buddhas), where he lives a solitary life for twelve years, finally returning only to take leave of the Buddha for his (Koṇḍañña's) parinirvana.²⁴ Puṇṇa Mantānī,putta is his nephew (his mother, Mantānī, is Koṇḍañña's sister) and is ordained by Koṇḍañña.²⁵

1.2.2.2 WHICH KOṆḌAÑÑA? However, the Sutta says that the monks listed are "sons of family" (*kula,putta*) [§2 passim], which, as a rule, refers to a youth, such as Yasa²⁶ or Ambaṭṭha,²⁷ The word *kula,putta* means "a person born of a good family, a noble youth (of any birth)."²⁸ Elsewhere, we find no reference to Aññā Koṇḍañña as *kula,putta*. It is therefore likely that the reference here is to another Koṇḍañña. There are at least two other well known namesakes, that is, Vimala Koṇḍañña and Khāṇu Koṇḍañña.

Vimala Koṇḍañña is the son of the courtesan Ambapālī and king Bimbisāra. Vimala was his earlier name, but later he came to be called Vimala Koṇḍañña. Once when the Buddha visits Vesālī, Vimala is impressed by his majesty. He renounces the world and soon attains arhathood. A discourse given by him helps Ambapālī to cultivate insight and gain arhathood (ThīA 207).

Vimala Koṇḍañña's verse is a riddle:

<i>Dum'avhayāya uppanno</i>	Born of the one named after a tree, ²⁹
<i>jāto paṇḍara,ketunā</i>	he is begotten of the white banner. ³⁰
<i>ketuhā ketunā yeva</i>	With that very banner, the banner-destroyer
<i>mahā,ketuṃ padhamsayīti</i>	has destroyed the great bannered one. (Tha 64)

The Commentary explains the riddle as follows. The first line means that Vimala Koṇḍañña is born of Vesālī's foremost courtesan, Amba,pālī ("protected by the mango tree"), so called because she is said to have been spontaneously born under a mango-tree (ThīA 206). The second line refers to his father being "the white banner" rajah, that is, Bimbisāra, and *jāto* also alludes to his high birth (*abhi jāti*). In the third line, the first *ketu* ("banner") means "conceit" (*māna*) while the second *ketu* means "wisdom" (*paññā*). In the fourth line, "the great bannered one" (*mahā,ketu*) refers to Māra and his demonic host, who are routed by Vimala Koṇḍañña when he becomes an arhat (ThaA 1:156 f).

In the time of Vipassī Buddha, it is said, he was a rich householder. One day, while listening to the Buddha teaching to a large crowd, he felt greatly joyful, and offered him four golden flowers. The Buddha then made the flower's golden hue pervade the whole area.

Vimala soon died and was reborn in Tusita. Forty three aeons ago, it is said, he became king sixteen times under the name of Nemī (ThaA 1:156*).

²⁴ His moving farewell meeting with the Buddha is recorded in **Koṇḍañña S** (S 8.9/1:193 f; AA 1:148).

²⁵ MA 2:154; AA 200-203; ThaA 1:37 f, 3:111; ApA 272 f.

²⁶ Comys mention Yasa as a "boy" (*dāraka*) (AA 1:100, 147), ie, not older than a teenager, or as a "son of family" (*kula,putta*) (V 1:15, 350; DhA 1:88; BA 19).

²⁷ D 1:93; but the reality is that he is *akula,putta*, "not born of a good family," ie a low-born (*dujjāta*, D 1:93).

²⁸ Opp *akula,putta*, "a person of not good family" (J 2:223,22' *dujjātiko ~o = dukkulīno*). The single quote mark means that it is a gloss in a comy. Its abstract n is *kola,putti* (A 1:38; AA 2:40) & *kola,puttiya* or *kola,puttika* (Nm 80; Vbh 353VA 219; SA 2:210), but they are rare and found mostly in later works.

²⁹ "Tree-named one" (*dum'avhaya*) refers to Amba,pālī ("the mango sheltered"), who is said to be born under a mango tree. The "white-bannered" (*paṇḍara,ketu*) is king Bimbisāra, Vimala's father. The banner-destroyer (*ketu, -ha*) is the Buddha himself, and the "banner" (*ketu*) here is conceit (*māna*), which prevents the attaining of arhathood. The other banner is the Dharma ("The Dharma is the seer's banner," *dhammo hi isinaṃ dhajo*, S 2:280; A 2:51; J 539/5:509; ie, the 4 paths, 4 fruits & nirvana, SA 2:239; AA 3:90). The "great-bannered one" (*mahā,ketu*) is Māra the evil one. (ThaA 1:156 f)

³⁰ Our Bodhisattva, when reborn in Tusita, is known as Setamketu, "the white-bannered one" (VA 1:161; MA 1:125; NmA 2:446): see **Seta,ketu J** (J 377/3:232-237), also J 1:401.

Khāṇu Koṇḍañña, it is said, becomes an arhat as a forest monk. One day, while sitting on a flat rock, he enters into dhyana. A gang of thieves, taking him for a tree stump, pile their loot over him, and sleep around him. In the morning, shocked by their mistake, they beg for his forgiveness. After listening to his teaching, they all become monks.

It is this incident that gives him the nick-name of Khāṇu (“stump”), and for which he wins the Buddha’s praise (DhA 2:254 f). Khāṇu Kondañña’s concentration (*samādhi*) here is classified under the “power of samadhi intervention” (*vipphārā samādhi iddhi*), so it is undisturbed even by the chaos of the thieves throwing their loot over him.³¹

As a meditator who attains deep dhyana, it is likely that Khāṇu Koṇḍañña would dwell alone. Since Khāṇu Koṇḍañña is a lone forest-dweller, and Añña Koṇḍañña is a very old monk, it is most likely that the Koṇḍañña of this Sutta is Vimala Koṇḍañña.

1.2.3 Revata. There are two great elders of the Buddha’s time named Revata. From the Thera,gāthā commentarial list of the 80 great elders (*asīti mahā,thera*), we might deduce that this is **Kaṅkhā Revata** (the doubter). The relevant excerpt reads: *anuruddho kaṅkhā,revato ānando nandako bhagu nando kimilo bhaddiyo...* (ThaA 3:205). The other great elder named Revata is **Khadira,vaniya Revata**, who lives in an acacia forest, and who is listed later in the same list.

Kaṅkhā Revata comes from a wealthy Sāvattihī family. It is said that, after his noon meal, he goes to listen to the Buddha at Kapila,vatthu, and, inspired by his teaching, joins the order (Ap 539/2:491 f). Before becoming an arhat, he is greatly troubled as to what is allowable for him and what is not. As a result of this, he is nick-named “the doubter” (*kaṅkhā*).³² (UA 314). However, through fervent practice, he attains dhyana and is liberated. In fact, he is so good in dhyana that the Buddha declares him to be the foremost of dhyana meditators amongst the monks (*jhāyī*).³³

1.2.4 Ānanda. When the Buddha visits Kapilavastu in Phagguna (Feb-Mar) in the second year of the ministry, Ānanda (then 37 years old) joins the order along with other young Sākya nobles, namely, Bhaddiya, Anuruddha, Bhagu, Kimbila and Devadatta (V 2:182). His preceptor is Belaṭṭha,sīsa.³⁴

After listening to Puṇṇa Mantāni,putta [1.1.3] giving a discourse on the five aggregates and the notion “I am,” Ānanda becomes a streamwinner (S 3:105). Out of gratitude, Ānanda recounts his experience in **the Ānanda Sutta** (S 20.83). Ānanda has a reputation for being a fast talker. Where an ordinary person speaks one word, he could speak eight. The Buddha could speak sixteen words for each one word of Ānanda (MA 2:53).

During the first 20 years of his ministry, the Buddha has never had any regular or satisfactory personal attendant. Among them are Nāgasamāla, Nāgita, Upavāna, Sunakkhatta, the novice Cunda, Sāgata, Rādha and Meghiya.³⁵ Ānanda, at 55, becomes the Buddha’s personal attendant giving the Buddha these **eight conditions**, the first four negative requests (*paṭikkhepa*) and the other four positive requests (*āyacana*):

- (1) The Buddha should never pass on to him any choice robes he has received.³⁶
- (2) The Buddha should never give him any choice almsfood he has received.
- (3) The Buddha should never appoint a separate “fragrant cell” (residence) for him.
- (4) The Buddha should never include him in any personal invitations.

³¹ See Vism 12.30-35/380 f (esp §33); DhA 8.10/2:254 f; also BA 24; PmA 497.

³² UA 314 f; Kvu 2:3. On the doubts, see M 1:8 (see UA:M 843 n689); Dhs 1004 = Vbh 365; cf DhsA 354 f.

³³ A 1:24 (AA i.129f); U 5.7 (UA 314 f); Tha 3 (ThaA 33 f). The word *jhāyī* here, however, can also be tr simply as “meditator.” In fact, the monk is said to be able to attain dhyana the fastest is Mahā Moggallāna, but he is declared as being the foremost of monks with psychic power (*iddhimanta*) (A 1:23).

³⁴ V 1:202. 4:86; DA 2:418 ff.; ThaA 1:68.

³⁵ SA 1:258 f; J 4:95 f; ThaA 3:112 ad Tha 1018; UA 217.

³⁶ It is interesting to note that only once did the Buddha share an offering of robes with Ānanda, that is, the offering of the robes of burnished gold cloth by Putkasa (Pukkusa), a Malla minister, which is clearly a later addition to the Mahā Parinibbāna Sutta, D 2:134; see D:W 573 n421.

- (5) If Ānanda receives an invitation, he has the privilege of transferring it to the Buddha.
- (6) If visitors come from outlying areas, he has the privilege of bringing them to the Buddha.
- (7) If Ānanda has any doubt, he can ask the Buddha for clarification at any time.
- (8) If the Buddha gives any discourse in his absence, the Buddha should repeat them to him.

(J 4:96; ThaA 3:112)³⁷

The first four requests are to prevent any gossip that Ānanda is the Buddha's personal attendant for some personal material gain. The other four requests are for the benefit of faithful devotees. The last request is especially significant since Ānanda is foremost amongst the disciples with retentive memory (A 1:23). He could remember anything up to 60,000 lines upon hearing it only once. As such, he is able to memorize every teaching given to him.³⁸ This special request would later be of great benefit to posterity when Ānanda recites the Dharma before the First Council.

82,000 teachings I received from the Buddha, 2,000 from the monks.

These 84,000 teachings have come to pass (*dhammā pavattino*). (Tha 1024)

The commentarial traditions all say that Ānanda was born on *the same day* as the Buddha. If this were true, it would be strange, for example, that the Buddha, in **the Mahā,parinibbāna Sutta** (D 16), would complain to Ānanda that he (the Buddha) is old and weary, that his body is like “an old cart is kept going by being held together with straps.”³⁹ It would be difficult for one 80-year-old to physically look after another of the same age. Of course, it is possible that Ānanda is a heartily healthy 80-year-old at the time of the Buddha's passing, and continues to live on until 120 (DhA 2:99).⁴⁰

2 The Naḷaka,pāna Sutta teachings

2.1 SUTTA SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

2.1.1 Key points. **The Naḷaka,pāna Sutta** (M 68) is about *the spiritual destinies of true disciples of the Buddha and the purpose of the holy life*. The Sutta opens with the Buddha surveying the congregation [§§1-2]. The Buddha then asks those assembled whether these young monks “delight in their holy life,” that is, whether they are happy in their practice, but the congregation remains silent [§3].

The reason for their silence is probably because those monks do not have the power of mind-reading, and, as such, are unable to verify it. The Buddha then decides to question the renowned young monks themselves. The Buddha's intention become more obvious now: it is for the benefit of those assembled who have not yet attained any meditative state or the path, that is, not yet saints.

The Buddha addresses **Anuruddha** (in the plural vocative), which suggests either that Anuruddha is sitting closest to him, or that he is the seniormost of those renowned young monks. Anuruddha answers the Buddha's question in the affirmative [§4]. The Buddha approves of this, adding that they have renounced the world not because of any worldly reason, but for the sake of “making an end of this whole mass of suffering,” affirming that they have renounced “out of faith” (*saddhā*) [§5] [3.1].

³⁷ Cf W W Rockhill, *The Life of the Buddha*, 1884:57 f, for a Tibetan version on how Ānanda becomes the Buddha's attendant.

³⁸ MA 2:336; ThaA 3:117.

³⁹ Bodhi also notes that if Comys (DA 2:425; ApA 58, 358; J 1:63) were right in saying that Ānanda was born on the same day as the Bodhisattva, this passage would hardly make sense, “for the Buddha would not need to insist on the frailties of old age if Ānanda too was an old man” (S:B 1920 n141). Bodhi thinks that Ānanda “must have been considerably younger than the Buddha, perhaps by as much as thirty years” (S:B 804 n296). It is interesting that the Tibetan sources (eg the *Dulva* or *Vinaya*) says that Ānanda is the same age as Rāhula (Rockhill 57), which should be a good age for one to be the Buddha's life-long personal attendant. On the differences of opinion regarding Ānanda's age amongst the early Buddhist schools, see C Witanachchi, “Ānanda,” *Ency of Buddhism* 1:529. See also Thomas 1949:123; Rhys Davids' article on “Devadatta” in ERE; DPPN 1:268.

⁴⁰ On Ānanda's life, see further Piya Tan, *The Buddha and His Disciples*, Singapore, 2004 ch 6.

The Buddha then goes on to state *the task of such monks*, that is, to overcome all the mental hindrances, meaning, to attain dhyana.⁴¹ Clearly, this means that they are not awakened yet, and the Buddha is exhorting them to work towards arhathood [§6]. This is confirmed by the list of mental hindrances, which comprises the traditional five plus two more, that is, discontent and drowsiness [2.1.2].

In the next section, the Buddha asks Anuruddha and the monks regarding their faith in him, that is, the Buddha's own awakening. Anuruddha affirms his faith in the Buddha, that is, he is one awakened and he lives mindfully on that account. [§7]

The Buddha then explains to Anuruddha and the monks why he often announces the destinies of those saints who have died [§8], that is, not for worldly gains, but for the sake of inspiring the unawakened to work for their own liberation [§9]. The liberating qualities of each of the saints are defined: the monks who are arhats [§10], non-returners [§11], once-returners [§12] and streamwinners [§13], and, similarly, the nuns who are saints [§§14-17]. Then are mentioned the laymen⁴² who are non-returners [§18], once-returners [§19] and streamwinners [§20], and, finally, the laywomen who are such saints [§§21-23].

2.1.2 Broader significance of the mental hindrances

2.1.2.1 THE HINDRANCES AND THE FETTERS. In the Naḷaka,pāna Sutta, the Buddha tells the renowned young monks that their task is to overcome all the mental hindrances, that is, to attain dhyana [§5]. The list of mental hindrances total *seven* instead of the traditional five, that is, it includes discontent and drowsiness [§6]. The five mental hindrances (*pañca,nīvaraṇa*) are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) sensual lust | (<i>kāma-c,chanda</i>), |
| (2) ill will | (<i>vyāpāda</i>), |
| (3) restlessness and remorse | (<i>uddhacca,kukkucca</i>), |
| (4) sloth and torpor | (<i>thīna,middha</i>), and |
| (5) doubt | (<i>vicikicchā</i>). ⁴³ |
| [6] discontent | (<i>arati</i>); |
| [7] drowsiness | (<i>tandī</i>). |

In the Naḷaka,pāna Sutta, the first hindrance is known by its older name, covetousness (*abhijjhā*). The Sutta lists two additional hindrances, namely, discontent (*arati*) and “drowsiness” (*tandī*). This list of seven hindrances refers to the whole path, not just the attainment of dhyana. As such, we can take them to be “spiritual hindrances,” that is, stumbling blocks to the attaining of the path to sainthood.

These seven spiritual hindrances, when expanded and re-arranged into a set of ten, become the better known **ten fetters** (*dasa saṃyojanā*),⁴⁴ which are as follows, showing their basic connection with the relevant mental hindrances, thus:

<u>The 10 fetters</u>	<i>dasa saṃyojanā</i>	<u>The 5 mental hindrances</u>
(1) self-identity view	(<i>sakkāya,diṭṭhi</i>) ⁴⁵	sensual lust [+discontent]
(2) spiritual doubt	(<i>vicikicchā</i>)	doubt
(3) attachment to rituals and vows	(<i>sīla-b,bata,parāmāsa</i>) ⁴⁶	doubt
(4) sensual lust	(<i>kāma,rāga</i>)	sensual lust
(5) aversion	(<i>paṭigha</i>)	ill will
(6) greed for form existence	(<i>rūpa,rāga</i>)	doubt
(7) greed for formless existence	(<i>arūpa,rāga</i>)	doubt

⁴¹ See **Dhyana** = SD 8.4.

⁴² On the omission of arhathood for the laity, see (3) below.

⁴³ See **Mental hindrances** (SD 32) & **Saṅgārava S** (S 46.55 = SD 3.12). Cf **Mahā Assa,pura S** (M 39.13/1:274); see also **Mahā Satipaṭṭhāna S** (D 22.13); **Satipaṭṭhāna S** (M 10.36) on how to deal with the hindrances during meditation; **Sāmañña,phala S** (D 2.68/1:71) = SD 8.10 (def of dhyana with imageries).

⁴⁴ S 5:61; A 5:13; Vbh 377; On the 10 fetters & sainthood, see **Kiṭṭa,giri S** (M 70) = SD 11.1 (5.1).

⁴⁵ See **Antā S** (S 22.103) = SD 14.1.

⁴⁶ See **Kukkura,vatika S** (M 57/1:387-392) = SD 23.11.

(8) conceit	(<i>māna</i>)	doubt
(9) restlessness	(<i>uddhacca</i>)	restlessness & remorse; [+drowsiness]; sloth & torpor
(10) ignorance	(<i>avijjā</i>)	doubt

2.1.2.2 DISCONTENT AND DROWSINESS. Discontent (*arati*) here refers to the predominance of the fourth fetter, “sensual lust,” which is partly overcome by the once-returner, and fully overcome by the non-returner and the arhat. Similarly, drowsiness (*tandī*) is only fully overcome by the arhat. In the better known set of ten fetters, *tandī* is called *uddhacca*, “restlessness.”

Since *uddhacca* is restlessness in the sense of mental agitation, distraction and excitement, it is as such, the negative opposite of restless and remorse.⁴⁷ Their whole opposite is mental stillness.⁴⁸ In the context of the Naḷaka, pāna Sutta set here, *uddhacca* is, more specifically, *dhamm’uddhacca*, that is, “Dharma restlessness” or spiritual restlessness.

Dhamma’uddhacca is significantly mentioned in **the (Yuganaddha) Paṭipadā Sutta** (A 4.170), where it refers to *restlessness* in its description of one of the ways to attain final liberation.⁴⁹ According to this discourse, we can still reach the path that leads to final liberation even when the mind is under the influence of *dhamm’uddhacca*, that is, restlessness related to the Dharma. Once the mind settles down and becomes focussed, the path is attained.⁵⁰

An important aspect of *dhamm’uddhacca* refers to “mental distress brought on by eagerness to realize the Dhamma, a state of spiritual anxiety that sometimes can precipitate an instantaneous enlightenment experience.”⁵¹ An example of this is the case of Bāhiya Dāru, cīriya’s awakening (U 1.10).⁵²

The best known and most important application of this teaching of the two attainments of either arhat-hood or non-return is found in a number of discourses, such as **the Satipaṭṭhāna Sutta** (M 10), where it is famously stated:

Whoever, bhikshus, were to cultivate these four focusses of mindfulness *in this way*⁵³ for just seven years...even just seven days, one of two fruits is to be expected: either **arhat-hood** in this very life or, if there is any residue [substrate] of clinging left,⁵⁴ **non-return**.⁵⁵

Simply put here, if the meditator, at this peak of practice, well founded by moral virtue and concentration, is able to abandon all attachments, even to “the Dharma” itself (that is, all views on the teaching or reali-

⁴⁷ See **Naḷaka, pāna S** (M 68) @ SD 37.4 (1.1.2).

⁴⁸ See **Uddhacca, kukkucca** = SD 32.7 (2.1).

⁴⁹ A 4.170.5/2:157 = SD 41.5.

⁵⁰ On *udhacca*, see further **Kim Mūlaka S** (A 8.83) @ SD 32.10 (2.5.3).

⁵¹ Nyanaponika & Bodhi, *Numerical Discourses of the Buddha*, 1999:294 n69.

⁵² See **(Yuganaddha) Paṭipadā S** (A 4.170/2:156 f) = SD 41.5; **(Arahatta) Bāhiya S** (U 1.10/8) = 33.7. See also **Uddhacca, kukkucca** = SD 32.7 (2.2.2).

⁵³ *Evam bhāveyya*. The guarantee of spiritual liberation here should be understood in connection with this crucial phrase, “were to cultivate in this way” (*evam bhāveyya*). See **Satipaṭṭhāna S** (M 10.46/1:62) = SD 13.3 + 13.1 (7).

⁵⁴ *Upādi*, “trace (of clinging),” according to Comys “material support (the result of past karma)” (MA 4:55, UA 151), i.e. the 5 aggregates (*khandha*). In the Suttas, the term mostly occurs in this context and in the sentence, “Here the Tathāgata passed into the remainderless (*anupādi, sesa*) nirvana-element.” (A 4:118). Cf secular use in the parable of the man shot with a dart, “trace (of poison)” (M 105.19). In D:W 350 (2 places), Walshe renders it as “substrate,” probably confounding it for *upadhi* (life-basis), which is a very close term.

⁵⁵ “One of two fruits...non-return,” as at **Mahā Satipaṭṭhāna S** (D 2:314); **Satipaṭṭhāna S** (M 1:62); **Kiṭagiri S** (M 1:481); **Aññātara S** (S 5:129); **Nirodha S** (S 5:133); **Añña S** (S 5:191); **Dve Phalā S** (S 5:236); **Phalā S 1** (S 5:311); **Phalā S 2** (S 5:314); **Iddhi, pāda S** (A 3:82); **Sati Supaṭṭhita S** (A 3:143); **Pabbajjā S** (A 5:108); **Paṭisallāna S** (It 39); **Sikkhānisamsa S** (It 40); **Jāgariyo S** (It 41); **Dvayatānupassanā S** (Sn pp140, 148). “Either final knowledge...non-return,” *diṭṭhe ca dhamme aññā sati vā upādisese anāgāmitā ti*.

ty), then he would become an arhat. If, however, even some subtle attachment or concern, even for the Dharma, he would become a non-returner.

2.1.2.3 THE SUTTA'S DEFINITIONS OF SAINTHOOD. The main section of the Naḷaka,pāna Sutta gives definitions of sainthood in terms of the four assemblies, that is, monks, nuns, laymen and laywomen. These definitions are quite standard, and found elsewhere in the suttas. **The arhat** (*arahata*) is defined as one “established in final knowledge” [§10a]. The same definition is given to a nun arhat [§14]. No definition of an arhat for the laity is given [4].

This definition of the arhat, and the other definitions that follow, are not for the sake of technicality: they are to inspire the audience to follow the saints' example and attain liberation like them. It is also stated that the monks in the audience themselves know for themselves that this arhat who has died was one who has “lived well,” that is, “his moral virtue is thus, his nature thus, his wisdom thus, he lived thus, he is liberated thus” [§10b].

These five “thus” (*evam*) qualities are actually a summary for the tenfold rightness (*sammatta*), that is, the noble eightfold path, right knowledge, and right liberation.⁵⁶ These are the qualities of the adept (*asekha*), that is, the arhat. However, these qualities also appear in connection with the other three kinds of saints, where they apply, as appropriate, to that level of attainment.

Here, too, “thus” (*evam*) is a word of truth and reality, meaning that the arhat, the non-returner, the once-returner, and the streamwinner, are those who have led authentic lives of spirituality and reached their respective goals. The unawakened practitioner, inspired by the saints' example, “directs his own mind to the goal,” recollecting his faith (*saddhā*), moral virtue (*sīla*), learning (*suta*), charity (*cāga*) and wisdom (*paññā*)—these are the qualities for noble growth (*ariya,vaḍḍha*).⁵⁷

The non-returner (*anāgāmi*) [§11] is defined as one who has “destroyed the five lower fetters” [2.1.2.1] and is “spontaneously reborn (*opapātika*) in the Pure Abodes, and “does not return to this world,” that is, no more reborn here.⁵⁸ This definition applies equally to all the members of the four assemblies, that is, monk, nun, layman and laywoman. [§§11, 15, 18, 21]

The Sutta defines **the once-returner** (*sākadāgāmi*) [§12] as one who has “destroyed the three fetters and diminished lust, hate and delusion,” that is, abandoned self-identity view, spiritual doubt and attachment to rituals and vows [2.1.2.1], and weakened greed, hate and delusion. He is reborn only once more here to exhaust his karma, and then attains liberation [§12a]. This definition applies to monk, nun, layman and laywomen alike. [§§12, 16, 19, 22]

Finally, **the streamwinner** (*sotāpanna*) [§13] is defined as one who has “totally destroyed the three fetters” and on account of his moral virtue (keeping to the precepts), never reborn in the subhuman realms (that is, amongst the asuras, the pretas, the animals, and the hell-beings), and is assured of liberation within seven lives. [§§13, 17, 20, 23]

The Naḷaka,pāna Sutta closes with the Buddha's reminding us that he has spoken of the attainments of spiritual distinctions (*visesa*)⁵⁹ by his disciples (who have passed on), “not for the sake of deceiving people, nor for the sake of popular talk, nor for the sake of such benefits as gains, praises and renown, nor hoping, ‘*May people know me to be so and so*’”: this last statement meaning that his statements are not misconstrued to be “miraculous” statements, but so that those with wise faith would be “greatly inspired,

⁵⁶ D 3:271, 292; M 1:42; A 5:212, 240.

⁵⁷ See **Saṅkhār'upapatti S** (M 120.3/3:99) = SD 3.4; **Vaḍḍhi S 1+2** (A 5.63+64/3:80) & SD 3.4 (3-4). These are also qualities that empower us to decide our own wholesome rebirth, if we choose to (see M 120). Cf a similar set where “exertion of effort” (*viriy'ārambha*) replaces “charity” (*cāga*), constituting the qualities for moral courage (*vesāraja,karaṇa dhamma*): see **Sāraja S** (A 5.101/3:127) = SD 28.9a(3.1). Charity, in other words, is broadened to incl non-material gifts (*nirāmisa dāna*).

⁵⁸ On the non-returner (*anāgāmi*), see **Sa,upadisesa S** (A 9.12/4:378-382) = SD 3.3(3). On abandoning the lower fetters via dhyana, see **Mahā Mālunkya,putta S** (M 64.9/1:435 f) = SD 21.10.

⁵⁹ More fully, “progressively higher distinction” (*uḷāram pubbenāparam visesam*), ie, the 4 stages of sainthood: see eg **Anāpāna,sati S** (M 118.2/3:78 = SD 7.13 & n. On laymen non-returners, once-returners and streamwiners, see **Laymen saints** = SD 8.6 (12).

greatly gladdened, who having heard this, will direct their minds to such a goal.” In other words, we too would walk the path of the saints.

3 The purpose of renunciation

3.1 RENOUNCING OUT OF FAITH. The main theme of the Naḷaka,pāna Sutta is that of the true purpose of renunciation. This teaching is both a reminder to the practitioners, the monastics who have renounced the world “out of faith” [§3] as well for us today who are heirs to this Sutta and who love the Dharma. Monastics who “delight in the holy life” are those who, firstly, have renounced the world because they have truly seen that we are all “immersed” in suffering and “overwhelmed” by it [§5d], and so wish to make “an end of this whole mass of suffering” [§5e].

Secondly, towards that end, renunciants work to end the mental hindrances so that they are able to attain the dhyanas, and using them as the bases for mental purification, attain various stages of distinction, that is, sainthood [§6b]. Insofar as monastics are able to attain dhyanas, they would be able to attain even to the highest, that is, arhathood, if not at least non-return. For those who are more taken up with sense-pleasures (*kāma,bhogī*), especially the laity, we are still capable of attaining once-return or streamwinning, or even non-return.⁶⁰

For **monastics**, renunciation (*nekkhamma*) or “going forth” (*pabbajjā*) refers to the abandoning of their wealth, relatives, social status and whatever ties them to a worldly life,⁶¹ so that their energies, mental and physical, are directed to moral virtue (sense-restraint and wholesome speech), mental cultivation (mindfulness and meditation) and insight wisdom, leading to spiritual liberation here and now, especially the attainment of arhathood, or at least non-return.

For **the laity**, renunciation refers to the respect for life (self and others), for property, for the person (or freedom), for truth, and for the mind—in other words, keeping to the five precepts—which are the bases for a truly human life, or at least or not falling into subhuman life-styles of the asuras, the pretas, the animals, and the hell-beings. On a higher level, as lay practitioners, we need to train ourselves in letting go of *selfishness, self-doubt and superstition*, that is, breaking the first three fetters of self-identity view, doubt, and attachment to rituals and vows [2.1.2.3: streamwinner]. One of the most effective mindfulness practices in this connection is the perception of impermanence.⁶²

3.2 THE JĪVĪKA SUTTA. In **the Jīvika Sutta** (It 3.5.2), the Buddha declares that alms-gathering (*piṇḍolya*) is the “lowest of livelihoods” (*antam jīvikānam*).⁶³ Yet, the sons of family, intent on the goal, “take it up for a good reason: not by the fear of rajahs, nor the fear of thieves, nor on account of debts, not for the sake of livelihood.”⁶⁴

The Jīvika Sutta defines the true purpose of renunciation in the same words as **the Naḷaka,pāna Sutta** (M 68), that is, the renunciant lives the holy life, purposefully reflecting thus:

I am immersed in birth, decay, death, sorrow, lamentation, physical pain, mental pain, and despair; overwhelmed by suffering, overcome by suffering.

Perhaps, there is a making an end of this whole mass of suffering to be found!

(It 91.3/89) = §5e (plural form)

⁶⁰ On streamwinning and the laity, see **Entering the stream** = SD 3.3.

⁶¹ See eg **Soṇa,daṇḍa S** (D 4.6/1:114 f) = SD 30.5; **Kūṭa,danta S** (D 5.5-7/1:130-132) = SD 22.8.

⁶² See the 10 suttas of **Okkanti Saṃyutta** (S 25/3:225-228), esp (**Cakkhu**) **Anicca S** (S 25.1/3:225) = SD 16.7. See also **Araka S** (A 7.70/4:136-139) = SD 16.17 & ending of **Velāma S** (A 9.20.5b/3:395 f) = SD 16.6.

⁶³ More fully, *antam idam, bhikkhave, jīvikānam yad idam piṇḍolyam* = It 89,10 qu at DA 1:103,10 & Sadda,nīti 360,27 *antam = lāmakam*. *Anta* usu means “extreme,” but here has the sense of “worst, low(est), mean(est), contemptible.”

⁶⁴ *Attha,vasikā paṭicca, n’eva rājābhiniṭā na corābhiniṭā na iṇaṭṭa na bhayaṭṭā na ājīvika pakatā* (It 3.5.2.2/89) = SD 28.9b.

The Jīvika Sutta goes on describes a false renunciant as one who “is covetous, strongly lusting after sense-pleasures, with a mind of ill will, with a mind of corrupted intentions,⁶⁵ muddle-headed, without full awareness, lacking concentration, scatter-brained, loose in faculty.”⁶⁶ Such a false renunciant is compared to “a firebrand of a funeral pyre” (*chavāḷata*), burning at both ends, with cow-dung smeared in between, useful only at the cremation, useless elsewhere (cannot be used as firewood either at home or in the forest).⁶⁷ The worst of such false religious, those who persist in using religion in exploiting others, are called “the yellow-necked” or “yellow-necks” (*kāsāva,kaṇṭha*).⁶⁸ They are evil by nature, unrestrained, and on account of their bad karma, will face painful consequences.⁶⁹

3.3 THE BRAHMA,CARIYA SUTTA. Another important discourse related to the proper attitude towards monastic renunciation is given in **the Brahma,cariya Sutta** (A 4.25). Here the purpose of the holy life is described in positive language.

SD 37.4(3.3)

Brahma,cariya Sutta

The Discourse on the Holy Life | A 4.25/2:26

A 4.1.3.5 | Aṅguttara Nikāya 4, Catukka Nipāta 1, Paṭhama Paṇṇāsaka 3, Uruvela Vagga 5

The true purpose of spiritual practice or religion

1 Bhikshus, this holy life is *not* lived for the sake of deceiving people, nor for the sake of popular talk, nor for the sake of such benefits as gains, praises and renown, nor for the sake of extrication from malicious talk (for one’s advantage),⁷⁰ nor hoping, “May people know me to be so.”⁷¹

2 Rather, bhikshus, this holy life is lived

for the sake of restraint
for the sake of letting go
for the sake of dispassion
for the sake of cessation

saṃvar’attham,
pahān’attham,
virāg’attham,
nirodh’attham.

Saṃvar’attham pahān’attham
brahma,cariyam anūtiham
adesayi so bhagavā
nibbān’ogadha,gāminam
esa maggo mahantehi
anuyāto mahēsibhi

For the sake of restraint, for the sake of letting go,
is the holy life, not based on hearsay,⁷²
the Blessed One said—
leading to the firm footing that is nirvana.
This is the path taken by the great ones,
followed by the great seers.

Ye ca tam paṭipajjanti
yathā buddhena desitam
dukkhass’antam karissanti
satthu,sāsana,kārino’ti

Whoever practises it
just as it is taught by the Buddha,
will make an end of suffering,
one who has done the Buddha’s teaching.

⁶⁵ *Paduṭṭha,mana,saṅkappo.*

⁶⁶ *Abhijjhālu kāmesu tibba,sārāgo, byāpanna,citto paduṭṭha,mana,saṅkappo, muṭṭha-s,sati asampajāno asamāhito vibbhanta,citto pākat’indriyo* (It 91.4/90) = SD 28.9b. On these terms, see n ad loc.

⁶⁷ This is, as it were, an ironic presage of “funeral monastics” of later times, who earn a living by performing the last rites, often charging high fees for them, but “moneytheists,” lacking in restraint and moral virtue.

⁶⁸ *Kāsāva,kaṇṭhā.* They will go about with only a piece of yellow cloth around their necks or arms, and will support their wives and children by engaging in trade and farming, etc (MA 5:74 f). See M 142.8/3:246 = SD 1.9 & nn.

⁶⁹ It 91.9*/90 = SD 28.9b; see also S 22.80.18b-19/3:91-94 = SD 28.9a & Miln 32.

⁷⁰ *Na iti,vāda-p,pamokkh’ānisams’attham,* which is not in **Kuhana S 1** (It 1.8/28): see foll n.

⁷¹ *Na kho, anuruddhā, tathāgato jana,kuhan’attham na jana,lapan’attham, na lābha,sakkāra,silok’ānisams’attham, na iti,vāda-p,pamokkh’ānisams’attham, na ‘iti maṃ jano jānātūti:* as in **Kuhana S 1** (It 1.8/28 except for the underscored phrase.

⁷² Dhammapāla interprets *anūtiha* in various ways, the main one being “the serial killer of catastrophes” (It:M 29; ItA:M 1:279); see also ItA 1:111 f.

— evaṃ —

4 Laymen arhats

The Naḷaka,pāna Sutta, in its definitions of the saints [§§10-23], omits the attainment of arhathood by lay people. A similar passage on “the mirror of the Dharma,” where the Buddha, in answer to Ānanda’s queries, discloses the spiritual attainments of various disciples at Nādikā, too, does not mention any laymen or laywomen arhats.⁷³

First of all, it must be clearly understood that nowhere in the suttas is it ever said that lay practitioners are incapable of attaining arhathood, or that only the renunciants are capable of attaining it. On the contrary, we have major teachings, such as those of **the Satipatthāna Suttas** (D 22, M 10), which are taught to *lay people*, that is, the Kurus of Kammāsa,damma.⁷⁴ Those who properly practise satipatthana, that is, the four focusses of mindfulness, for as short as a week or up to seven years, can expect “either arhathood in this very life or, if there is any residue [substrate] of clinging left,⁷⁵ non-return.⁷⁶”

Furthermore, we do have examples of laymen arhats in the suttas. The most famous example is that of Bāhiya Dāru,ciriya, as recorded in **the (Arahatta) Bāhiya Sutta** (U 1.10).⁷⁷ The Commentaries tell us that he does not become a monk due to his premature death. In due course, the tradition arose that any layman attaining arhathood has either to join the order, or to attain parinirvana that same day, a view that first appeared in **the Milinda,pañha** (Miln 264).⁷⁸

As regards the suttas, there are at least three reasons, I think, **why the lay arhat is not given the limelight in the early Canon**. The first two reasons are related. Firstly, as evident from the parable of the fields (S 42.7), the Buddha, like a wise farmer, would obviously first attend to the most fertile field, namely, the monastics who have dedicated their lives to wisdom and awakening.⁷⁹ However, the laity is a very close second kind of field which could also give good yield.

The second reason, the more important one, as already stated earlier, is that the secret of the success of the spread of the Buddha Dharma is not that the Buddha preached to the masses, that is, not by mass evangelism, but *rather that he chooses his audience wisely, giving priority to them according to their readiness (upanissaya) to understand and practise what he has taught*.⁸⁰

The third reason relates to the difficulty of the laity in attaining arhathood or non-return, on account of their lifestyle. This difficulty arises from the laity’s indulgence in sensual pleasure (*kāma,bhogī*).⁸¹ In **the Cūḷa Dukkha-k,khandha Sutta** (M 14), for example, the layman Mahānāma, a once-returner,⁸²

⁷³ D 16.2.5-9/2:91-94 = SD 9; see also **Laymen saints** = SD 8.6 (14+15).

⁷⁴ D 22.1a/2:290 = SD 12.3 = M 10.1/1:55 = SD 13.3.

⁷⁵ *Upādi*, “trace (of clinging),” according to Comys “material support (the result of past karma)” (MA 4:55, UA 151), i.e. the 5 Aggregates (*khandha*). In the Suttas, the term mostly occurs in this context and in the sentence, “Here the Tathāgata passed into the remainderless (*anupādi,sesa*) nirvana-element.” (A 4:118). Cf secular use in the parable of the man shot with a dart, “trace (of poison)” (M 105.19). In D:W 350 (2 places), Walshe renders it as “substrate,” probably confounding it for *upadhi* (life-basis), which is a very close term.

⁷⁶ “One of two fruits...non-return,” as at **Mahā Satipatthāna S** (D 2:314); **Satipatthāna S** (M 1:62); **Kiṭṭagiri S** (M 1:481); **Aññātara S** (S 5:129); **Nirodha S** (S 5:133); **Añña S** (S 5:191); **Dve Phalā S** (S 5:236); **Phalā S 1** (S 5:311); **Phalā S 2** (S 5:314); **Iddhi,pāda S** (A 3:82); **Sati Supatthita S** (A 3:143); **Pabbajjā S** (A 5:108); **Paṭisallāna S** (It 39); **Sikkhānisamsa S** (It 40); **Jāgariyo S** (It 41); **Dvayatānupassanā S** (Sn pp140, 148). “Either final knowledge...non-return,” *diṭṭhe ca dhamme aññā sati vā upādisese anāgāmītā ti*.

⁷⁷ U 1.10/6-9 = SD 33.7.

⁷⁸ See Somaratne 2009.

⁷⁹ S 42.7/4:315-317: see **Laymen saints** = SD 8.6 (4).

⁸⁰ See **Laymen saints** = SD 8.6 (13) (Why no mention of lay arhats?).

⁸¹ On *kāma,bhogī*, see **Mahā Vaccha,gotta S** (M 73.10/1:491) = SD 27.4.

⁸² Comy says that Mahānāma had long ago attained the fruit of once-return, which only weakens lust, hate and delusion, but does not eradicate them. He had the mistaken notion that lust, hate and delusion were eradicated by the path of once-return. Thus, when he saw that they were not abandoned and asked the Buddha the cause of their aris-

complains to the Buddha that he (Mahānāma) still has defiled mental states, especially lustful thoughts, despite understanding the nature of the three unwholesome roots. The Buddha explains the reason for this is that Mahānāma still enjoys sensual desires (*kāma*)⁸³ and that he would not be able to transcend sensual desires unless he has experienced “zest and joy (*pīti,sukha*) that are apart from sensual pleasures or something more peaceful than that,”⁸⁴ that is, the mental pleasures of dhyana (*jhāna*).⁸⁵

Lay Buddhists who are non-celibate, enjoying sense-pleasures (*kāma,bhogī*)⁸⁶—that is, anyone enjoying sense-pleasures *and* also desirous of living a moral and happy life—should only indulge themselves in such pleasures *within the limits of the five precepts*, that is, they should know *when to stop* and avoid sexual misconduct (*kāmesu micchācārā*). In fact, such people, who enjoy sense-pleasures in a wholesome manner and yet do not neglect their spiritual development, are still capable of attaining streamwinning,⁸⁷ fully awakening to spiritual liberation within seven lives at the most.⁸⁸

— — —

The Discourse at Naḷaka,pāṇa

M 68/1:462-468

1 Thus have I heard.

The sons of family who have gone forth

At one time the Blessed One was staying in a palash [flame-of-the-forest] forest,⁸⁹ near Naḷaka,pāna,⁹⁰ in Kosala country.

2 Now at that time, many well known sons of family had gone forth out of faith from home into homelessness under the Blessed One, that is to say,

the venerable Anuruddha, the venerable Bhaddiya, the venerable Kimbila [Kimila], the venerable Bhagu, the venerable Koṇḍañña, the venerable Revata, the venerable Ānanda, and many other well known sons of family.⁹¹

ing. Even saints on the path (short of Arhats) can be mistaken about which defilements are abandoned by which path (MA 2:61).

⁸³ It should be noted here that *kāma* as used in this sutta has a broad sense, that is, both as the subjective defilement (*kilesa*) or “sensual desire” and as the object of desire (*vatthu*) or “(objects of) sensual pleasure” (Nm 1,1, Vbh 256, DhsA 62; cf A 3:410 f). See Gethin, *The Buddhist Path to Awakening*, 2001:192 f.

⁸⁴ *Aññatr’eva kāmehi...pīti,sukham adhigacchati aññañ [vā] tato santataram.*

⁸⁵ M 14/1:91-95 = SD 4.7. On the importance of zest and joy (*pīti,sukha*) in meditation and *jhāna* in general, see esp Brahmavamso, *The Jhānas*, 2003.

⁸⁶ On *kāma,bhogī*, see **Mahā Vaccha,gotta S** (M 73.10/1:491) = SD 27.4.

⁸⁷ See **Mahā Vaccha,gotta S** (M 73.10/1:491) = SD 27.4.

⁸⁸ See **Sa,upadisesa S** (A 9.12.10/4:381) = SD 3.3 (3). See also **Kāma-c,chanda** = SD 32.2 (Wholesome sexual conduct).

⁸⁹ *Palāsa,vana*, which also features in **Naḷaka,pāna Ss 1 & 2** (A 10.67/5:122 + 68/5:125). Comys gloss *palāsa* as the *kimśuka* tree (MA 3:180). Botanic name: Butea monosperma or Butea frondosa: Bengali & Hindi “kimshuka” or “palash,” Tamil “porasum,” ie, the parrot tree or flame of the forest. Cf **Palāsa J** (J 307/3:23); also cf *kimśuka* simile at S 4:193. See R Morris, *Folklore Journal* 3, 1880: 855. For pictures, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trees_of_India; for details & refs, see http://wiki.encyclopaediaindica.com/~encyclo3/wiki/index.php?title=PARROT_TREE

⁹⁰ On *Naḷaka,pāna*, see Intro (1.1.1).

⁹¹ For details on each saint, see Intro (1.2).

The Buddha asks about the young renunciants

3 Now at that time, the Blessed One [463] was sitting in the open surrounded by a community of monks.

Then the Blessed One addressed the monks concerning these sons of family,

“Bhikshus, these sons of family who have gone forth out of faith from home into homelessness under me. Do you think, bhikshus, if they are monks who delight in the holy life?”⁹²

When this was said, the monks remained silent.

For the second time, the Blessed One addressed the monks concerning these sons of family,

“Bhikshus, these sons of family who have gone forth out of faith from home into homelessness under me. Do you think, bhikshus, if they are monks who delight in the holy life?”

For the second time, the monks remained silent.

For the third time, the Blessed One addressed the monks concerning these sons of family,

“Bhikshus, these sons of family who have gone forth out of faith from home into homelessness under me. Do you think, bhikshus, if they are monks who delight in the holy life?”

For the third time, the monks remained silent.

The youths delight in the holy life

4 Then this occurred to the Blessed One:

“What now if I were to ask the sons of family themselves?”

Then the Blessed One addressed the venerable Anuruddha,

“Anuruddhā,⁹³ do you delight in the holy life?”

“Surely, bhante, we delight in the holy life!”

5.1 “Good, good, Anuruddhā!

It is proper that you, sons of family, who have gone forth out of faith from home into homelessness, delight in the holy life.

The youths have renounced out of faith

5.2 You are young, Anuruddhā, blessed with youth, endowed with the prime of life, black-haired youths who have still not fully enjoyed sense-pleasures,⁹⁴

5.3 yet, you all, Anuruddhā, blessed with youth, endowed with the prime of life, black-haired youths, have gone forth from home into homelessness.

5.4 And indeed, Anuruddhā,⁹⁵

you have gone forth from home into homelessness *not* because of
you have gone forth from home into homelessness *not* because of
you have gone forth from home into homelessness *not* because of

*being forced by the king;*⁹⁶
*being forced by robbers;*⁹⁷
*debts;*⁹⁸

⁹² *Ye te, bhikkhave, kulaputtā mamaṃ uddissa saddhā agārasmā anagāriyaṃ pabbajitā, kacci te, bhikkhave, bhikkhū abhiratā brahmacariye ’ti?* Paraphrased: “I wonder if these young men from good families who have renounced the world out of faith in me live their monastic lives happily?”

⁹³ Meaning “Anuruddha and all the rest,” *anuruddhā* (3 m pl), ie, the Buddha is addressing Anuruddha and the monks named above [§2]. Also at (Anuruddha) **Upakkilesa S** (M 128.11/3:156) = SD 5.18. See M:H 1:257 n4. Such pl voc is not found in English.

⁹⁴ *Yena tumhe, anuruddhā, bhadreṇa yobbanena samannāgatā paṭhamena vayasā susu, kāḷa, kesā kāme paribhuñjeyyātha.* The main sentence here is stock: **Sambhula S** (S 4.21/1:1:117+118), **Piṇḍola Bhāra, dvāja S** (S 35.127/4:110+111+112×2) = SD 27.6a.

⁹⁵ The rest of this section is stock: M 68.5d/1:463 = SD 37.4; S 22.8/3:93 (SA 2:301 f); It 5.2/89 (ItA 2:113); Miln 32; SnA 1:340; UA 106.

⁹⁶ *N’eva rājābhiniṭā agārasmā anagāriyaṃ pabbajitā,* ie a king, having caught a wrong-doer, tells him, “If you go forth, you will be free.” (MA 3:180).

⁹⁷ *Na corābhiniṭā agārasmā anagāriyaṃ pabbajitā,* ie, having being caught by robbers, plead to them that one is on the way to joining the monastery, so as to escape being killed by them (MA 3:180; SA 2:302; ItA 2:113).

you have gone forth from home into homelessness *not* because of *fear*;⁹⁹
 you have gone forth from home into homelessness *not* for the sake of *livelihood*.¹⁰⁰

5.5 But rather you have done so, thinking,¹⁰¹

‘I am immersed in birth, decay, death, sorrow, lamentation, physical pain, mental pain, and despair; overwhelmed by suffering, overcome by suffering.

Perhaps, there is a making an end of this whole mass of suffering to be found!’¹⁰²

5.6 What now, Anuruddhā, have you not thus gone forth from home into homelessness out of faith?”

“Yes, bhante, we have.”

Duties of a renunciant

6.1 “And what now, Anuruddhā, should be done by a son of family who has gone forth from home into homelessness in this way?

6.2 THE MENTAL HINDRANCES. Anuruddhā, so long as he does *not* attain to zeal and joy on account of being secluded from sensual pleasures and secluded from unwholesome mental states, or some other state that is more peaceful than that,¹⁰³

covetousness ¹⁰⁴	(<i>abhijjhā</i>)	invades his mind and remains there,
ill will	(<i>avyāpāda</i>)	invades his mind and remains there,
sloth and torpor	(<i>thīna, middha</i>)	invade his mind and remains there,
restless and remorse	(<i>uddhacca, kukkuccha</i>)	invade his mind and remains there,
doubt	(<i>vicikicchā</i>)	invades his mind and remains there, [464]
discontent ¹⁰⁵	(<i>arati</i>)	invades his mind and remains there,
drowsiness ¹⁰⁶	(<i>tandī</i>)	invades his mind and remains there.

This is the case, Anuruddhā, so long as he does not attain to zeal and joy on account of being secluded from sensual pleasures and secluded from unwholesome mental states, or some other state that is more peaceful than that.

6.3 OVERCOMING THE MENTAL HINDRANCES. Anuruddhā, so long as he attains to zeal and joy on account of being secluded from sensual pleasures and secluded from unwholesome mental states, or some other state that is more peaceful than that,¹⁰⁷

<i>covetousness</i>	does not continue to seize his mind,
<i>ill will</i>	does not continue to seize his mind,

⁹⁸ *Na iṇaṭṭā agārasmā anagāriyam pabbajitā*, ie, where the creditor releases the debtor if he becomes a monk (MA 3:180), or if he goes forth to flee from creditors (ItA 2:113). The figure of the debtor is often used for one caught up with sensual pleasure: see **Te, vijja S** (D 13.6/1:72) = SD 8.10; MA 2:318; see also **Nīvaraṇa** = SD 32.1 (3.2.1).

⁹⁹ *Na bhayaṭṭā agārasmā anagāriyam pabbajitā*, ie, SA says that these are the “fears” of kings, thieves, hunger, illness and debt (SA 2:302; MA 3:180).

¹⁰⁰ *N’ājīvikā, pakatā agārasmā anagāriyam pabbajitā*, ie, during famines or difficulties, one goes forth so that one does not have earn a living (MA 3:180).

¹⁰¹ As at **Piṇḍolya S** (S 22.80.18c/3:93) = SD 28.9a.

¹⁰² *Appeva nāma imassa kevalassa dukkha-k, khandhassa anta, kiriyā paññāyethāti*.

¹⁰³ *Vivekaṃ, anuruddhā, kāmehi vivekaṃ akusalehi dhammehi pīti, sukhaṃ nādhigacchati aññaṃ vā tato santataram*. Apparently, this passage (negatively phrased) is found only here. Its positive version is found in **Cūḷa Dukkha-k, khandha S** (M 1:91×2, 92×2). Here, the “zeal and joy on account of being secluded from sensual pleasures and secluded from unwholesome mental states” refers to the 1st and 2nd dhyanas, while “some other state that is more peaceful than that” refers to 3rd and 4th dhyanas, and the 4 paths (MA 2:63, cf 3:181).

¹⁰⁴ On this list of mental hindrances, see Intro (2.1.2).

¹⁰⁵ *Arati*. See **Arati S** (S 8.2/1:186 f) = SD 53.6 & **Māra Dhītu S** (S 4.25/1:125-127) = SD 36.6.

¹⁰⁶ *Tandī*. Here, as a non-tt, it prob means a deeper sense of sloth, a total lack of effort or desire to do so. See **Thīna, middha** = SD 32.6 (2.2).

¹⁰⁷ *Vivekaṃ, anuruddhā, kāmehi vivekaṃ akusalehi dhammehi pīti, sukhaṃ nādhigacchati aññaṃ vā tato santataram*. Apparently this phrase is found only here.

<i>sloth and torpor</i>	do not continue to seize his mind,
<i>restless and remorse</i>	do not continue to seize his mind,
<i>doubt</i>	does not continue to seize his mind,
<i>discontent</i>	does not continue to seize his mind,
<i>drowsiness</i>	does not continue to seize his mind.

This is the case, Anuruddhā, so long as he attains to zeal and joy on account of being secluded from sensual pleasures and secluded from unwholesome mental states, or some other state that is more peaceful than that.

The arhats' knowledge of the Buddha

7.1 What then, Anuruddhā, do you think of me, thus:

‘Those influxes¹⁰⁸ that defile, that bring about rebirth, that are troubling, that ripen in suffering, that bring about future birth, decay and death, have *not* been abandoned by the Tathagata,¹⁰⁹ therefore, the Tathagata, having considered,¹¹⁰ uses one thing; having considered, endures another; having considered, avoids another; having considered, removes another.’¹¹¹”

“No, indeed, bhante, we do not think of the Blessed One thus:

‘Those influxes that defile, that bring about rebirth, that are troubling, that ripen in suffering, that bring about future birth, decay and death, have *not* been abandoned by the Tathagata; therefore, the Tathagata, having considered, uses one thing; having considered, endures another; having considered, avoids another; having considered, removes another.’”

The Buddha is well liberated

7.2 We, bhante, think of the Blessed One, thus:

‘Those influxes that defile, that bring about rebirth, that are troubling, that ripen in suffering, that bring about future birth, decay and death, have been abandoned by Tathagata; therefore, the Tathagata, having considered, uses one thing; having considered, endures another;

¹⁰⁸ *Āsava*, Skt *āsrava*; BHS *āśrava*, *āsrava*. Here, *āsava* is a tt for the obstacle(s) to the attainment of arhatood. As “mental influxes,” the oldest list is probably a set of 3 influxes—of sense-desire (*kām’āsava*), of existence (*bhav’āsava*), and of ignorance (*avijj’āsava*), as in **Saṅgīti S** (D 33), **Sammā,diṭṭhi S** (M 9), **Āsava S** (S 38.8), **Ti,kaṇṇa S** (A 35.8), **(Te,vijja) Jāṇussoṇi S** (A 3.59), **Nibbedhika Pariyāya S** (A 6.63). The Abhidhamma and Comys give a list of 4 influxes, which is also found in the Nikāyas, that is, the influxes of (1) sense-desire (*kām’āsava*), (2) (desire for eternal) existence (*bhav’āsava*), (3) views (*diṭṭh’āsava*), (4) ignorance (*avijj’āsava*). These 4 are also known as “floods” (*ogha*) and “yokes” (*yoga*).

¹⁰⁹ *Ye āsavā saṅkilesikā ponobbhavikā sadarā dukkha,vipākā āyatim jāti,jarā,marañiyā, appahīnā te tathāgatas-sa*. This sentence up to *appahīnā* is stock: M 1:250×4, 331×2, 464×2.

¹¹⁰ “Having considered” (*saṅkhaya*), as at **Pabbajitassa Roga S** (A 4.157.2/2:143,19); **Sn 1041: Lakkhaṇa S** (D 30) @ SD 36.9 (3.1). See also Sn:N 404 n1041.

¹¹¹ *Tasmā tathāgato saṅkhāy’ekam paṭisevati, saṅkhāy’ekam adhivāseti, saṅkhāy’ekam parivajjeti, saṅkhāy’ekam vinodeti*? From *saṅkhāy’ekam...vinodeti* is stock: **M 68.6/1:464×4**; **A 9.2.3/4:354**, **10.20.7/5:30**. See esp **Sabb’-āsava S** (M 2), where they refer to the practices of those training to prevent the arising of latent tendencies that have not yet been abandoned (M 2.4/1:7) = SD 30.3. In **Saṅgīti S** (D 33), the 4 statements are mentioned in connection with the 4 supports or modes of attention (*apassena*, from *apa + assaya*) (D 33.1.11(8)/3:224). They are constant reflections that help prevent or mitigate the arising of mental defilements in connection with physical things.

having considered, avoids another;
having considered, removes another.”

7.3 “Good, good, Anuruddhā, those influxes that defile, that bring about rebirth, that are troubling, that ripen in suffering, that bring about future birth, decay and death, have been abandoned by Tathagata, cut them off at the root, made them like a palm-tree stump, done away with them so that they are not subject to further growth.¹¹²

7.4 Anuruddhā, just as a palm tree whose crown has been cut off is incapable of further growth, even so, Anuruddhā, those influxes that defile, that bring about rebirth, that are troubling, that ripen in suffering, that bring about future birth, decay and death, have been abandoned by Tathagata, *cut off at the root, made them like a palm-tree stump, done away with them so that they are not subject to further growth.*

7.5 *Therefore, Anuruddhā, the Tathagata, having considered, uses one thing; having considered, endures another; having considered, avoids another; having considered, removes another.*

The Buddha’s purpose in declaring his disciples’ liberation

8.1 What do you think, Anuruddhā? Seeing what purpose does the Tathagata declare the reappearance of a disciple who has passed away, who has died, thus:¹¹³

‘So-and-so had reappeared in such-and-such a place. So-and-so had reappeared in such-and-such a place?’¹¹⁴ [465]

8.2 “Bhante, our teachings are rooted in the Blessed One, guided by the Blessed One, has the Blessed One as refuge. It would be good indeed if the Blessed One were to explain its meaning. Having heard the Blessed One, the monks would remember it.”¹¹⁵

9.1 “Anuruddhā, it is not for the sake of deceiving people, nor for the sake of popular talk, nor for the sake of such benefits as gains, praises and renown, nor hoping, ‘May people know me to be so and so,’¹¹⁶ *that he declare the reappearance of a disciple who has passed away, who has died, thus:*

‘So-and-so had reappeared in such-and-such a place. So-and-so had reappeared in such-and-such a place.’

¹¹² *Ucchinna,mūlā tālā,vatthu,katā anabhāvaṃ,katā āyatim anuppāda,dhammā.* This is stock: **M 22.32/1:139×2, 36.47/1:250×2, 43.35-37/1:298×3, 49.30/1:331×2, 68.7/1:464×2, 72.20/1:488×3, 73.6/1:490, 140.27/3:245; S 22.3.-9/3:10(×3)+11, 22.25.3+5+6/3:27, 22.111.2+7/3:161, 22.112.3+6+7/3:162, 23.9.4+5+6+7/3:193, 23.10.4+5+6+7+8/3:194, 35.103.6/4:83 f, 35.104.4+9/4:85×2, 41.5.4/4:292×3, 41.7.11+12+13/4:297×3, 44.1.15+16+17+18+19+30+31+32+33+34/4:376-379, 54.12.5/5:327+328; A 3.69.10/1:204 f ×3, 11/1:205×3, 3.33.2c/1:135 f, 4.36.38/2:38×2, 4.195.9/2:199, 4.254.1/2:249, 5.71.4+5+6+7+8/3:84+85, 5.72.4+5+6+7+8/3:85 (pl), 86, 8.11.2/4:173, 3/4:174, 8/4:175×2, 9/176, 8.12.7/4:184×4; Nm 1:56, 90, 100, 189×3, 198×4, 206, 207×2, 334, 430×2, 432, 442, 443; Nc (×24); V 1:235×2, 236×2 (Mv), 3:2×2, 3×4 (Pār). §§7cd are also in **Mahā Saccaka S** (M 36.47/1:250) = SD 49.4.**

¹¹³ *Taṃ kiṃ maññasi, anuruddhā, kaṃ attha,vasaṃ sampassamāno tathāgato sāvake abbhatīte kālaṃ,kate upapattīsu vyākāroti.*

¹¹⁴ Cf **Jana,vasabha S** (D 18.1/2:200) = SD 62.3.

¹¹⁵ *Bhagavam,mūlakā no bhante dhammā, bhagavaṃ nettikā, bhagavaṃ paṭisaraṇā. Sādhu vata bhante bhagavatañ-ñ’eva paṭibhātu etassa bhāsītassa attho.Bhagavato sutvā bhikkhū dhāressantī ti.* This is stock: **Mahā Dhamma Samādāna S** (M 46.2/1:309 f), **Vimamsaka S** (M 47.3/1:317), **Naḷakapāna S** (M 68.8/1:465), **Mahā Suññata S** (M 122.19/3:115) = SD 11.4; **Bālena Paṇḍita S** (S 2:24) = SD 21.1, **Parivimamsanā S** (S 12.51/2:81) = SD 11.5, **Candūpama S** (S 16.3/2:199), **Sammāsambuddha S** (S 22.58/3:66), **Sall’atthana S** (S 36.6/4:208) = SD 5.5, **Ānanda S 2** (S 36.16/4:221); A 3.68/1:199, A 8.6/4:158, A 8.83/4:338, A 9.1/4:351, A 10.58/5:106, A 11.20/5:355. See esp **Bhagava Mūlaka S** (A 10.58/5:106 f) = SD 67.4.

¹¹⁶ *Na kho, anuruddhā, tathāgato jana,kuhan’attham na jana,lapan’attham na lābha,sakkāra,silok’ānisams’attham [na iti,vāda-p,pamokkh’ānisams’attham]* na ‘iti maṃ jano jānātūti:* also in **Kuhana S 1** (It 1.8/28) = **Brahma,cariya S** (A 4.25/2:26) except that it has additional phrase [*], which means “not for the sake of extrication from malicious talk (for one’s advantage)”; also in **Kuhana S 2** (It 1.9/29). See above Intro (3). On the last ulterior motive, Comy says that it is with the hope that people will know him and his reputation would grow (MA 3:182).

9.2 And indeed, Anuruddhā, there are sons of family with faith, greatly inspired,¹¹⁷ greatly gladdened, who having heard this, will direct their minds to such a goal. This, Anuruddhā, is for their good and happiness for a long time.

Being inspired by a monk's arhathood

10.1 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

‘**Monk** so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that he was established in **final knowledge**.’¹¹⁸

10.2 Moreover, he has seen that venerable one¹¹⁹ himself, or heard it said of him, thus:¹²⁰

‘Such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s	<u>moral virtue</u> ;	<i>sīla</i>
such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s	<u>Dharma</u> [nature];	<i>dhamma</i> ¹²¹
such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s	<u>wisdom</u> ;	<i>pañña</i>
such, too, indeed, was how that venerable	<u>lived</u> ;	<i>vihārī</i>
such, too, indeed, was how that venerable was	<u>liberated</u> .’	<i>vimutta</i> ¹²²

10.2 He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.¹²³

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk’s abiding in comfort.¹²⁴

Being inspired by a monk's non-return

11.1 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

‘**Monk** so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that having destroyed the five lower fetters,’¹²⁵

¹¹⁷ Comy glosses as “with great joy” (*mahanta, tuṭṭhino*, MA 3:182).

¹¹⁸ *Itthan, nāmo bhikkhu kālaṅ, kato, so bhagavatā vyākato, aññāya saṅghahīti*. Here *aññā*, “final knowledge,” is the arhat’s direct knowledge of true reality that also characterizes his liberation.

¹¹⁹ *Āyasmā*, a general term of polite address, which also applies to the laity: see eg §18b & passim.

¹²⁰ *So kho pan’assa āyasmā sāmāṃ diṭṭho vā hoti anussava-s, suto vā*. These 5 points are actually a summary for the tenfold rightness (*sammatta*), ie, the noble eightfold path, right knowledge, and right liberation (D 3:271, 292; M 1:42; A 5:212, 240). These are the qualities of the adept (*asekha*), ie the arhat. This interpretation applies only on the passages on the arhat. The same formula appears for all the other “learners” (*sekha*), ie, non-arhat saints, referring to their respective attainments. See Intro (1.1.2.3).

¹²¹ By virtue of its position here, btw “moral virtue” (*sīla*) and “wisdom” (*pañña*), *dhamma* refers to “meditation,” ie *samādhi*. That is, the refer to the 3 trainings: see **Ti, sikkhā S** (A 3.88/1:235) = SD 24.10 & **Sīla samādhi pañña** = SD 21.6.

¹²² Above [§10a], the Sutta simply def the arhat as one “established in final knowledge,” a succinct def unique to **Nalaka, āna S**. The whole passage here reads: *evam, sīlo so āyasmā ahoṣi iti’pi, evam, dhammo so āyasmā ahoṣi iti’pi, evam, pañño so āyasmā ahoṣi iti’pi, evam, viharī so āyasmā ahoṣi iti’pi, evam, vimutto so āyasmā ahoṣi iti’pīti*. These are the defining characteristics of an arhat. A more common def of an arhat is this: “having right here and now realized for himself through direct knowledge, attained and dwelled in the liberation of mind and liberation by wisdom that are influx-free, with the destruction of the mental influxes” (*yo āsavānaṃ khayā anāsavaṃ ceto, vimuttim pañña, vimuttim diṭṭhe’va dhamme sayam abhiñña sacchikatvā upasampajja viharatī*), eg, **Mahā Vacchag, gotta S** (M 73.7/1:490) = SD 27.4. See Intro (1.1.2.3).

¹²³ These 5 qualities—faith (*saddhā*), moral virtue (*sīla*), learning (*suta*), charity (*cāga*) and wisdom (*wisdom*)—are the qualities of “noble growth” (*ariya, vadḍhi*): see **Saṅkhār’upapatti S** (M 120.3/3:99) = SD 3.4; **Vadḍhi S 1 + 2** (A 5.63+64/3:80) & SD 3.4 (3-4). These are also qualities that empower us to decide our own wholesome rebirth, if we choose to (see M 120). See above Intro [1.1.2.3].

¹²⁴ *Evam pi kho, anuruddhā, bhikkhuno phāsu, viharo hoti*.

¹²⁵ **The 10 fetters** (*dasa saṃyojana*) are: (1) self-identity view (*sakkāya, diṭṭhi*), (2) spiritual doubt (*vicikicchā*), (3) attachment to rituals and vows (*sīla-b, bata, parāmāsa*), (4) sensual lust (*kāma, rāga*), (5) repulsion (*paṭigha*), (6) greed for form existence (*rūpa, rāga*), (7) greed for formless existence (*arūpa, rāga*), (8) conceit (*māna*), (9) restlessness (or remorse) (*uddhacca*), (10) ignorance (*avijjā*) (S 5:61; A 5:13; Vbh 377). In some places, no 5 (*kāma, rāga*) is replaced by ill will (*vyāpāda*). The first 5 are the lower fetters (*orambhāgiya*), and the rest, the higher fetters (*ud-*

he is **spontaneously arisen** (in the Pure Abodes),¹²⁶ who thereby attains nirvana, and of a nature not to return from that world?¹²⁷

11.2 Moreover, he has seen that venerable one for himself, or heard it said of him, thus:

‘Such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s *moral virtue*;
 such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s *Dharma [nature]*;
 such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s *wisdom*;
 such, too, indeed, was how the venerable_ *lived*;
 such, too, indeed, was how that venerable was *liberated*.’

11.3 He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk’s abiding in comfort.

Being inspired by a monk’s once-return

12.2 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

‘**Monk** so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that, having destroyed the three fetters and diminished lust, hate and delusion, he is a **once-returner**, and returning only once to this world, he will make an end of suffering.’¹²⁸

12.2 Moreover, he has seen that venerable one for himself, or heard it said of him, thus:

‘Such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s *moral virtue*;
 such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s *Dharma [nature]*;
 such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s *wisdom*;
 such, too, indeed, was how the venerable_ *lived*;
 such, too, indeed, was how that venerable was *liberated*.’

12.3 He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk’s abiding in comfort.

Being inspired by a monk’s streamwinning

13.1 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

‘**Monk** so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that,

dhambhāgiya). The abandonment of the lower 5 fetters makes one a non-returner (*opapātika* or *anāgāmī*) (see **Ānāpānasati S**, M 118.10 = 7.13). This verse technically refers to the non-returner, but here is spoken of an arhat, one who has broken all 10 fetters: see **Laṭukikopama S** (M 66.17/1:454) = SD 28.11.

¹²⁶ The Pure Abodes (*suddh’āvāsa*) are the 5 highest heavens of the form world (*rūpa,loka*) inhabited only by non-returners who assume their last birth to and attain nirvana as arhats (D 3:237, M 3:103, Vbh 425, Pug 42-46). The 5 pure abodes, ie their inhabitants and respective lifespans, are: These worlds are Āviha (“Non-declining,” 1000 MK), Ātappa (“Unworried,” 2000 MK), Sudassā (“Clearly Visible,” 4000 MK), Sudassī (“Clear-visioned,” 8000 MK) and Akaṇiṭṭhā (“Highest,” 16000 MK) (D 3:237, M 3:103, Vbh 425, Pug 42-46). MK = *Mahā Kappa*. that is, a full cycle of a world-period or cycle of the universe (V 3:4 = D 3:51, 111 = It 99; D 1:14; A 2:142). For celestial map, see **Kevaḍḍha S** (D 11/1:211-223) = SD 1.7; for world cycle, see **Aggañña S** (D 27/3:80-97) = SD 2.19.

¹²⁷ *Pañcannaṃ orambhāgiyānaṃ saṃyojanānaṃ parikkhayā opapātiko tatha parinibbāyī anāvatti, dhammo tasmā lokāti*. This def of a non-returner, beginning from “having destroyed...,” is stock: **D** 1:156, 2:92, 93, 3:107, 108, 132; **M** 1:34, 350, 352, 436, 465, 467, 490, 2:52, 146, 3:247; **S** 5:69, 70×13, 237, 285, 314, 346, 356, 358, 359×2, 376, 378, 406×2; **A** 1:232, 233×5, 234×4, 235, 290×3, 2:5, 89, 238, 4:12, 14×2, 70, 7×4, 72×5, 73×3, 74, 146, 380×2, 399, 423×2, 424, 425, 426×2, 5:343, 344×2, 345, 346×2; **Pug** 16×2, 17×3, 18, 62, 63, 72.

¹²⁸ *Tiṇṇaṃ saṃyojanānaṃ parikkhayā rāga,dosa,mohānaṃ tanuttā sakadāgāmī sakid eva imaṃ lokam āgantvā dukkhass’antaṃ karissatīti*. This def of a once-returner, beginning from “having destroyed,” is stock: **D** 1:156, 2:92, 93, 200, 201×2, 203, 252, 3:107, 108, 132; **M** 1:34, 226, 465, 466, 467, 468, 3:80; **S** 3:357, 359, 377, 378, 406×2; **A** 1:232, 233, 234, 2:89, 238, 4:12, 380; **Pug** 16, 63, 72.

having totally destroyed the three fetters,
 he is a **streamwinner**,
 not bound for the lower world,
 destined for awakening,
 sure of liberation,
 bound for awakening.¹²⁹

13.2 *Moreover, he has seen that venerable one for himself, or heard it said of him, thus:*

<i>‘Such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s</i>	<i><u>moral virtue</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s</i>	<i><u>Dharma [nature]</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s</i>	<i><u>wisdom</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was how the venerable</i>	<i><u>lived</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was how that venerable was</i>	<i><u>liberated</u>.’</i>

13.3 *He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.*

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk’s abiding in comfort.

Being inspired by a nun’s arhathood

14.1 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

‘Nun so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that she was established in **final knowledge**.’

14.2 *Moreover, she has seen that sister for himself, or heard it said of her, thus:*

<i>‘Such, too, indeed, was that sister’s</i>	<i><u>moral virtue</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was that sister’s</i>	<i><u>Dharma [nature]</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was that sister’s</i>	<i><u>wisdom</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was how that sister</i>	<i><u>lived</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was how that sister was</i>	<i><u>liberated</u>.’</i>

14.3 *He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.*

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk’s abiding in comfort.

Being inspired by a nun’s non-return

15.1 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

‘Nun so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that having destroyed the five lower fetters, she is **spontaneously arisen** (in the Pure Abodes), who thereby attains nirvana, and of a nature not to return from that world?’

15.2 *Moreover, he has seen that sister for himself, or heard it said of her, thus:*

<i>‘Such, too, indeed, was that sister’s</i>	<i><u>moral virtue</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was that sister’s</i>	<i><u>Dharma [nature]</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was that sister’s</i>	<i><u>wisdom</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was how that sister</i>	<i><u>lived</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was how that sister was</i>	<i><u>liberated</u>.’</i>

15.3 *He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.*

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk’s abiding in comfort.

¹²⁹ *Tiṇṇaṃ saṃyojanānaṃ parikkhayā sot’āpanno avinipāta,dhammo niyato sambodhi,parāyaṇo’ti.* This def of a streamwinner, beginning from “Having fully destroyed...,” is stock: **D** 1:156, 3:107, 108, 132; **M** 1:34, 466, 467, 5:377, 379; **A** 1:232, 2:89, 238, 4:12; **U** 50; **Pug** 16×3, 63, 72.

Being inspired by a nun's once-return

16.1 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

‘**Nun** so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that having destroyed the three fetters and diminished lust, hate and delusion, she is a **once-returner**, and returning only once to this world, she will make an end of suffering.’

16.2 *Moreover, he has seen that sister for himself, or heard it said of her, thus:*

<i>‘Such, too, indeed, was that sister’s</i>	<i><u>moral virtue</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was that sister’s</i>	<i><u>Dharma</u> [nature];</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was that sister’s</i>	<i><u>wisdom</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was how that sister</i>	<i><u>lived</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was how that sister was</i>	<i><u>liberated</u>.’</i>

16.3 *He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.*

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk’s abiding in comfort.

Being inspired by a nun's streamwinning

17.1 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

‘**Nun** so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that having totally destroyed the three fetters, she is a **streamwinner**, not bound for the lower world, destined for awakening, sure of liberation, bound for awakening.’ [467]

17.2 *Moreover, he has seen that sister for himself, or heard it said of her, thus:*

<i>‘Such, too, indeed, was that sister’s</i>	<i><u>moral virtue</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was that sister’s</i>	<i><u>Dharma</u> [nature];</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was that sister’s</i>	<i><u>wisdom</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was how that sister</i>	<i><u>lived</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was how that sister was</i>	<i><u>liberated</u>.’</i>

17.3 *He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.*

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk’s abiding in comfort.

Being inspired by a layman's non-return¹³⁰

18.1 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

‘**Layman** [Upasaka] so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that having destroyed the five lower fetters, he is **spontaneously arisen** (in the Pure Abodes), who thereby attains nirvana, and of a nature not to return from that world?’

18.2 *Moreover, he has seen that venerable one*¹³¹ *for himself, or heard it said of him, thus:*

<i>‘Such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s</i>	<i><u>moral virtue</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s</i>	<i><u>Dharma</u> [nature];</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was that venerable’s</i>	<i><u>wisdom</u>;</i>
<i>such, too, indeed, was how the venerable</i>	<i><u>lived</u>;</i>

¹³⁰ On the attainment of arhathood by the laity, see Intro (4).

¹³¹ *Āyasmā* is a general form of polite address; here used throughout even for layman, which is common in the suttas: see above §11b.

such, too, indeed, was how that venerable was liberated.'

18.3 *He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.*

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk's abiding in comfort.

Being inspired by a layman's once-return

19.1 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

'**Layman** so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that, having destroyed the three fetters and diminished lust, hate and delusion, he is a **once-returner**, and returning only once to this world, he will make an end of suffering.'

19.2 *Moreover, he has seen that venerable one for himself, or heard it said of him, thus:*

*'Such, too, indeed, was that venerable's moral virtue;
such, too, indeed, was that venerable's Dharma [nature];
such, too, indeed, was that venerable's wisdom;
such, too, indeed, was how the venerable lived;
such, too, indeed, was how that venerable was liberated.'*

19.3 *He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.*

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk's abiding in comfort.

Being inspired by a layman's streamwinning

20.1 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

'**Layman** so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that, having totally destroyed the three fetters, he is a **streamwinner**, not bound for the lower world, destined for awakening, sure of liberation, bound for awakening.'

20.2 *Moreover, he has seen that venerable one for himself, or heard it said of him, thus:*

*'Such, too, indeed, was that venerable's moral virtue;
such, too, indeed, was that venerable's Dharma [nature];
such, too, indeed, was that venerable's wisdom;
such, too, indeed, was how the venerable lived;
such, too, indeed, was how that venerable was liberated.'*

20.3 *He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.*

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk's abiding in comfort.

Being inspired by a laywoman's non-return

21.1 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

'**Laywoman** [Upasika] so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that having destroyed the five lower fetters, she is one **spontaneously arisen** (in the Pure Abodes), who thereby attains nirvana, and of a nature not to return from that world?'

21.2 *Moreover, he has seen that sister for himself, or heard it said of her, thus:*

*'Such, too, indeed, was that sister's moral virtue;
such, too, indeed, was that sister's Dharma [nature];
such, too, indeed, was that sister's wisdom;*

such, too, indeed, was how that sister lived; [468]
such, too, indeed, was how that sister was liberated.’

21.3 He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk’s abiding in comfort.

Being inspired by a laywoman’s once-return

22.1 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

‘**Laywoman** so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that having destroyed the three fetters and diminished lust, hate and delusion, she is a **once-returner**, and returning only once to this world, she will make an end of suffering.’

22.2 Moreover, he has seen that sister for himself, or heard it said of her, thus:

‘*Such, too, indeed, was that sister’s* moral virtue;
such, too, indeed, was that sister’s Dharma [nature];
such, too, indeed, was that sister’s wisdom;
such, too, indeed, was how that sister lived;
such, too, indeed, was how that sister was liberated.’

22.3 He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk’s abiding in comfort.

Being inspired by a laywoman’s streamwinning

23.1 Here, Anuruddhā, a monk hears thus:

‘**Laywoman** so-and-so has passed away. The Blessed One has declared that having totally destroyed the three fetters, she is a **streamwinner**, not bound for the lower world, destined for awakening, sure of liberation, bound for awakening.’

23.2 Moreover, he has seen that sister for himself, or heard it said of her, thus:

‘*Such, too, indeed, was that sister’s* moral virtue;
such, too, indeed, was that sister’s Dharma [nature];
such, too, indeed, was that sister’s wisdom;
such, too, indeed, was how that sister lived;
such, too, indeed, was how that sister was liberated.’

23.3 He directs his own mind to the goal, recollecting his faith and moral virtue and learning and charity and wisdom.

Such, indeed, Anuruddhā, is the monk’s abiding in comfort.

Conclusion

24.1 Anuruddhā, it is not for the sake of deceiving people, nor for the sake of popular talk, nor for the sake of such benefits as gains, praises and renown, nor hoping, ‘May people know me to be so and so,’¹³² that the Tathagata declare the reappearance of a disciple who has passed away, who has died, thus:¹³³

¹³² *Na kho, anuruddhā, tathāgato jana,kuhan’attham na jana,lapan’attham na lābha,sakkāra,silok’ānisams’attham [na iti,vāda-p,pamokkh’ānisams’attham]* na ‘iti mam jano jānātūti: also in **Kuhana S 1** (It 1.8/28) = **Brahma,cariya S** (A 4.25/2:26) except that it has additional phrase [*], which means “not for the sake of extrication from malicious talk (for one’s advantage)”; also in **Kuhana S 2** (It 1.9/29). See above Intro (3).*

‘So-and-so had reappeared in such-and-such a place. So-and-so had reappeared in such-and-such a place.’

24.2 For, indeed, Anuruddhā, there are sons of family with faith, greatly inspired, greatly gladdened, who having heard this, will direct their minds to such a goal. This, Anuruddhā, is for their good and happiness for a long time.”

25 The Blessed One said this. The venerable Anuruddha joyfully approved of the Blessed One’s word.

— evaṃ —

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111014; 111026; 111110; 111212; 120417; 120427

¹³³ *Taṃ kiṃ maññasi, anuruddhā, kaṃ attha,vasaṃ sampassamāno tathāgato sāvake abbatīte kālaṃ,kate upapat-tīsu vyākaroti.*