

Exploring the Ancient Path in the Buddha's Own Words

Lesson 1.3.4 Catutthavaggo (The Few and the Many)



Play Audio

Catutthavaggo	The Few and the Many
“Seyyathāpi, bhikkhave, appamattakaṃ imasmim̐ jambudīpe ārāmaṇeyyakaṃ vanarāmaṇeyyakaṃ bhūmirāmaṇeyyakaṃ pokkharañirāmaṇeyyakaṃ;	“Just as, O'Bhikkhus, in this Jambudīpa there are only few pleasing parks, lovely groves, enjoyable landscapes and delightful lotusponds:
atha kho etadeva bahutaraṃ yadidaṃ ukkūlavikūlaṃ nadīviduggaṃ khāṇukaṇṭakaṭṭhānaṃ pabbatavisamaṃ;	while there are plenty of steep and low slopes, impassable rivers and rough places covered with trunks and thorns amidst uneven mountains;
evamevaṃ kho, bhikkhave, appakā te sattā ye thalajā, atha kho eteva sattā bahutarā ye odakā.	in the same way those beings are few, that are born on land, compared to those many beings that are born in water.
Evamevaṃ kho, bhikkhave, appakā te sattā ye manussesu paccājāyanti;	Just as, O'Bhikkhus, in the same way too those beings are few who are reborn amongst human beings;
atha kho eteva sattā bahutarā ye aññatra manussehi paccājāyanti.	while those who are reborn in other than the human realms are many.
Evamevaṃ kho, bhikkhave, appakā te sattā ye majjhimesu janapadesu paccājāyanti;	Just as, O'Bhikkhus, in the same way too those beings are few who are reborn in the Middle Land human beings;
atha kho eteva sattā bahutarā ye paccantimesu janapadesu paccājāyanti aviññātāresu milakkhesu.	while those who are reborn in other than the Middle Land are many.
Evamevaṃ kho, bhikkhave, appakā te sattā ye paññavanto ajaḷā aneḷamūgā	Just as, O'Bhikkhus, in the same way too those beings are few who are born wise, free from stupidity or foolishness, neither deaf nor dumb
paṭibalā subhāsitaḍubbhāsitassa atthamaññātum;	and able to discern well spoken words from poorly spoken words and comprehend their meaning while

atha kho eteva sattā bahutarā ye duppaññā jaḷā	those who are born unintelligent, stupid or foolish,
eḷamūgā na paṭibalā subhāsidadubbhāsitassa atthamaññātum.	deaf or dumb and unable to discern well spoken words from poorly spoken words and comprehend their meaning are many.
Evamevaṃ kho, bhikkhave, appakā te sattā ye ariyena paññācakkhunā samannāgatā;	Further those, O'Bhikkhus, endowed with the noble eye of wisdom are few,
atha kho eteva sattā bahutarā ye avijjāgatā sammūḷhā.	while those who are full of ignorance and bewilderment are many.
Evamevaṃ kho, bhikkhave, appakā te sattā ye labhanti tathāgataṃ dassanāya;	Just as, O'Bhikkhus, in the same way too those beings that get to see the Tathagata are few;
atha kho eteva sattā bahutarā ye na labhanti tathāgataṃ dassanāya.	while those who do not get to see the Tathagata are many.
Evamevaṃ kho, bhikkhave, appakā te sattā ye labhanti tathāgatappaveditaṃ dhammavinayaṃ savanāya;	Also those, O'Bhikkhus, who acquire the chance of hearing the Dhamma and the Vinaya as taught by the Tathagata are few;
atha kho eteva sattā bahutarā ye na labhanti tathāgatappaveditaṃ dhammavinayaṃ savanāya.	while those who fail to acquire this chance of hearing the Dhamma and the Vinaya as taught by the Tathagata are many.
Evamevaṃ kho, bhikkhave, appakā te sattā ye sutvā dhammaṃ dhārenti;	Further those, O'Bhikkhus, who take up the Dhamma they have heard, are few;
atha kho eteva sattā bahutarā ye sutvā dhammaṃ na dhārenti.	while those who don't take up the Dhamma although having heard it are many.
Evamevaṃ kho, bhikkhave, appakā te sattā ye dhātānaṃ dhammānaṃ atthaṃ upaparikkhanti;	Still further, O'Bhikkhus, those taking up the Dhamma and investigating its meaning are few;
atha kho eteva sattā bahutarā ye dhātānaṃ dhammānaṃ atthaṃ na upaparikkhanti.	while those who are taking up the Dhamma but not reflecting on its meaning are many.
Evamevaṃ kho, bhikkhave, appakā te sattā ye atthamaññāya dhammamaññāya dhammānudhammaṃ paṭipajjanti;	Further are those, O'Bhikkhus, who grasp the meaning and the Dhamma and who practice in accordance with the Dhamma few;
atha kho eteva sattā bahutarā ye atthamaññāya dhammamaññāya dhammānudhammaṃ na paṭipajjanti.	while those who fail to do so are many.

Evamevaṃ kho, bhikkhave, appakā te sattā ye saṃvejaniyesu ṭhānesu saṃvijjanti;	Those, O'Bhikkhus, who are stirred by things that are truly stirring are few;
atha kho eteva sattā bahutarā ye saṃvejaniyesu ṭhānesu na saṃvijjanti.	while those who are not so stirred by things that are truly stirring are many.
..... Tasmātiha, bhikkhave, evaṃ sikkhitabbaṃ: Therefore, O'Bhikkhus, you should train yourselves thus:
“attharasassa dhammarasassa vimuttirasassa lābhino bhavissāmāti.	“We will obtain the taste of the meaning, the taste of the Dhamma, the taste of liberation.
Evañhi vo, bhikkhave, sikkhitabbanti.”	Thus should you, O'Bhikkhus, train yourselves!”