

# Purification, Ethics and Karma in Early Buddhist Discourse

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lecture 5

## review MĀ 8

1<sup>st</sup> sun: trees dry up  
2<sup>nd</sup> sun: rivulets dry up  
3<sup>rd</sup> sun: rivers dry up  
4<sup>th</sup> sun: springs of great rivers dry up  
5<sup>th</sup> sun: water of ocean dries up  
6<sup>th</sup> sun: earth smokes  
7<sup>th</sup> sun: earth on fire

Sunetta taught path to heavenly rebirth  
Tathāgata teaches path to liberation

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"purification"

- 1) "by oneself one is purified ... one may not purify another"  
Dhp 165
- 2) "by developing the path to awakening –  
morality, concentration and wisdom –  
I have attained supreme purity"  
SN I 103
- 3) four purifications of a gift in the *Dakkhināvibhaṅga-sutta*  
MN III 256
- 4) purity and recital of *pātimokkha*  
Vin I 103

- 5) purity and teaching the Dharma  
SN II 199
- 6) purifying the mind from the hindrances  
e.g. DN I 71
- 7) purifying the ear/eye required for the divine ear/eye  
MN I 34/35
- 8) "direct path to purification of beings"  
*satipaṭṭhāna*, MN I 55  
four limbs of stream-entry, SN V 392  
four purities, AN II 195  
six recollections, AN III 314
- 9) "All conditioned things are impermanent/*dukkha*/not-self ...  
this is the path to purity"  
Dhp 277-279
- 10) "by wisdom one is purified"  
SN I 214

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MĀ 9 – Discourse on Seven Chariots  
(Parallel to the *Rathaviniṭa-sutta*, MN 24 / MN I 146)

- 1) having few wishes and being contented,
- 2) living in seclusion,
- 3) being energetic,
- 4) having right mindfulness,
- 5) having mental one-pointedness,
- 6) having wisdom,
- 7) having destroyed the taints,
- 8) exhorting, inspiring, and fully delighting [others],

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### MN 24:

few wishes (= 1)  
 contented (= 1)  
 secluded (= 2)  
 not socializing ( $\neq$ )  
 energetic (= 3)  
 virtue ( $\neq$ )  
 concentration (= 5)  
 wisdom (= 6)  
 liberation (= 7)  
 knowledge & vision of liberation ( $\neq$ )  
 teaches others (= 8)

throughout both versions the basic pattern is:

1<sup>st</sup> being established oneself in some quality  
 2<sup>nd</sup> establishing others in the same quality

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### MĀ 9

- 1) purification of virtue
- 2) purification of mind
- 3) purification of view
- 4) purification [from] the hindrance of doubt
- 5) purification by knowledge and vision of [what is] the path and [what is] not the path
- 6) purification by knowledge and vision of the way
- 7) purification by knowledge of the way to abandoning

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## MN 24:

- 1) purification of virtue, *sīlavisuddhi*,
- 2) purification of mind, *cittavisuddhi*,
- 3) purification of view, *diṭṭhivisuddhi*
- 4) purification by overcoming doubt, *kaṅkhāvitaraṇavisuddhi*,
- 5) purification by knowledge and vision of [what is] the path and [what is] not the path, *maggāmaggañāṇadassanavisuddhi*,
- 6) purification by knowledge and vision of the way, *paṭipadāñāṇadassanavisuddhi*,
- 7) purification by knowledge and vision, *ñāṇadassanavisuddhi*.

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7 stages of purification recurs as part of a set of 9 stages of purification, additionally qualified as being "factor of exertion for purity", in the *Dasuttara-sutta*, D III 288:

- 1) purification of virtue, *sīlavisuddhi*,
- 2) purification of mind, *cittavisuddhi*,
- 3) purification of view, *diṭṭhivisuddhi*
- 4) purification by overcoming doubt, *kaṅkhāvitaraṇavisuddhi*,
- 5) purification by knowledge and vision of [what is] the path and [what is] not the path, *maggāmaggañāṇadassanavisuddhi*,
- 6) purification by knowledge and vision of the way, *paṭipadāñāṇadassanavisuddhi*,
- 7) purification by knowledge and vision, *ñāṇadassanavisuddhi*,
- 8) purification by wisdom, *paññāvisuddhi*,
- 9) purification by liberation, *vimuttivisuddhi*.

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*Ratana-sutta* (Sn 231, cf. also Mahāvastu 1: 291)

"at the time of the attainment of vision [of stream-entry]  
 three things become abandoned,  
 the view of individuality and doubt  
 and whatever [clinging to] rules and observances there may be."

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Sāriputta's first question:

- 1) MĀ: "Venerable friend, are you practicing the holy life under the recluse Gotama?"
- 2) Sanskrit fragment (SHT VI 1329B1): *(vi)[ś]uddhyartham [śra]mane.*