

Arrows of Vexation

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VII) Bhikshus who break the Precepts have filth in their own minds and harbor the knowledge that they have made transgressions. Because of that, they start to doubt the Sutras. Further, they harbor doubt toward those who lecture the Dharma, thinking to themselves, "The Dharma Master only speaks this type of Dharma in our presence, but not for other people," and thereby give rise to resentment. They seldom believe those who lecture the Dharma. Arrogant, violent, and possessed of vile, perverse pride, they slander those who lecture the Dharma, claiming that these people lecture a deviant dharma. They like to engage in lawsuits, harbor mutual antagonism, and display no sign of respect or compliance. Devoid of awesome deportment, their natures are flagrant and agitated. They behave like monkeys, their antics and mannerisms going through a myriad changes all the time. They split into parties and sects, mutually gossiping and criticizing one another's faults. They are incapable of being taught, for they are not receptive to the teachings. They set up groups and cliques and coin their own brand of practice. These are evil demons who by transformation have assumed the appearance of Shramanas, who mingle in the Sangha, creating all sorts of perverse theories, and encouraging various kinds of perverted conduct. The laity, being deluded and ignorant, believe in these thieves who violate the Precepts, and delight in their deviant ways. These Bhikshus interpret the Primary Meaning incorrectly, deny cause and effect, and upon death they will fall into the three evil paths.

The Buddha said, "The offense of someone who engages in the ten evil acts for a period of a hundred years, still does not come up to the offense of a precept-breaking Bhikshu who receives others' offerings for even a day and a night." Why is that? Killing karma is something that everyone can know and tell, and so everyone will draw away from such an offender. And yet, Bhikshus who violate the Precepts will hide their vile conduct and continue to deceive others. For those reasons they are great thieves. Not to talk about all manner of clothing, food, bedding, or daily provisions, even a single drop of water cannot be easily digested by Bhikshus who break the Precepts, how much the less if such individuals were to engage in much seeking! The daily affairs of such individuals amount to the conduct of thieves. All the gods, ghosts and spirits can see what they do clearly. The spirit dragons who protect the Dharma will announce, "These are evil Bhikshus!" Therefore, the World Honored One spoke this gatha:

It would be better to swallow hot, glowing rocks
And drink molten copper,
Than to eat the food offering of donors
If you are one who violates Precepts.

Bhikshus who break the Precepts have no virtuous features on their faces and no awesome deportment to speak of. For want of resolve and vows, their bodies and minds are constantly as if aflame, and they have bad dreams. They cannot stand to be alone. If, in certain situations they have to be alone or travel alone, they are petrified. Upon seeing those who hold the Precepts purely, they quickly run and hide, out of a feeling of fear and guilt. When they receive offerings, they are gnawed by feelings of apprehension, their minds spinning madly. They are deeply attached to wealth and profit, and dote on savory foods. Bhikshus who are like that will fall into the hells upon death. That is the seventh arrow of vexation.

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