

Sabba,lahusa Sutta¹

The Discourse on the Lightest (Results)

[The results of breaking the Precepts]

(Āṅuttara Nikāya 8.40/4:247 f)

Translated by Piya Tan ©2003

1 Monks, associating with the harming of living beings, pursuing it, often doing it, brings one to hell, to the animal kingdom, to the ghost realm. The lightest² result of the harming of living beings is having a short life as a human

2 Monks, associating with the taking of the not-given, pursuing it, often doing it, brings one to hell, to the animal kingdom, to the ghost realm. The lightest result of the taking of the not-given is the loss of loss of wealth as a human

3 Monks, associating with sexual misconduct, pursuing it, often doing it, brings one to hell, to the animal kingdom, to the ghost realm. The lightest result of sexual misconduct is (suffering) rivalry and hate as a human.

4 Monks, associating with false speech, pursuing it, often doing it, brings one to hell, to the animal kingdom, to the ghost realm. The lightest result of false speech is (suffering) false statements as a human.

5 Monks, associating with divisive speech, pursuing it, often doing it, brings one to hell, to the animal kingdom, to the ghost realm. The lightest result of divisive speech is the loss of friends as a human.

6 Monks, associating with harsh speech, pursuing it, often doing it, brings one to hell, to the animal kingdom, to the ghost realm. The lightest result of harsh speech is unpleasant sounds in a human.

7 Monks, associating with frivolous speech, pursuing it, often doing it, brings one to hell, to the animal kingdom, to the ghost realm. The lightest result of frivolous speech is that others (habitually) take no notice of one's speech³ as a human.

8 Monks, associating with the taking of strong drinks and distilled drinks,⁴ pursuing it, often doing it, brings one to hell, to the animal kingdom, to the ghost realm. The lightest result of harsh speech is madness in a human.

—evaṃ—

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¹ The Chaṭṭha Saṅgayanā CD calls this **Duccarita Vipāka Sutta**, the Discourse on the Results of Evil Conduct.

² “Lightest,” *sabba,lahusa*. Comy glosses as *parittaka*, “small”.

³ “Others (habitually) take no notice of one's speech,” *anādeyya, vācā, samvattanika*.

⁴ This is a shorter statement of the precept; the full precept is: “the taking of strong drinks, distilled drinks, fermented drinks and that which causes heedlessness.”

[Set: “The Five Precepts”]

On the conventions (abbreviations, bibliography, etc) used here, please refer to www.dharma.per.sg under /Buddhist Articles /Buddhism, A Virtual History /Technical Conventions or “Sutta Discovery” vol 2.