### Introduction
This short sutta should be studied in connection with other teachings concerned with the effective way of listening to the Teaching. Such suttas include the three Sammatta Niyāma Suttas (A 5.151-153/3:174-176)¹ and the Āpi Sutta (S 20.7/2:266 f)².

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### The Discourse on the Desire to Listen
A 6.88/3:437

**Ineffective listening**
1 Bhikshus, one accomplished in six ways even when listening to the True Dharma is unable to plunge into the certainty of wholesome states. What are the six?
2 (1) He has no desire to listen to the Teaching and Discipline taught by the Tathāgata.
   (2) He does not listen attentively.
   (3) He applies not his mind to final knowledge [that leads to liberation].
   (4) He holds on to what is not profitable [to spiritual development].
   (5) He neglects what is profitable [to spiritual development].
   (6) He is not endowed with mental receptivity that goes with the grain [true reality].

Bhikshus, one accomplished in these six ways even when listening to the True Dharma is unable to plunge into the certainty of wholesome states.

**Effective listening**
3 Bhikshus, one accomplished in six ways when listening to the True Dharma is able to plunge into the certainty of wholesome states. What are the six?
4 (1) He desires to listen to the Teaching and Discipline taught by the Tathāgata.
   (2) He listens attentively.
   (3) He applies his mind to final knowledge [that leads to liberation].
   (4) He holds on to what is profitable [to spiritual development].
   (5) He lets go of what is not profitable [to spiritual development].

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¹ Sammatta Niyāma S 1-3 (A 5.151-153/3:174-176) = SD 4.2-4.
² Āpi Sutta (S 20.7/2:266 f) = SD 11.13.
³ Na sotaṁ odahati, lit “he does not direct his ear.”
⁴ Na añña, cittam upaṭṭhāpeti. Cf V 1:10 (sotaṁ odahiṁsu aññaṁ upaṭṭhāpesuṁ), S 2:267 (na aññaṁ upaṭṭhāpesaṁ) & CPD: añña-citta.
⁵ Comy: anatthan ti avaḍḍhiṁ (what is not profitable means what does not develop) (AA 3:414).
⁶ “He neglects,” riṅcāti, also “he lets go of.”
⁸ Anulomikāya khantiyā samannāgato hoti. which is here freely tr: lit “endowed with the preference that conforms with reality.” See Anicca S (a 6.98) = SD 12.13 (2).

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(6) He is endowed with mental receptivity that goes with the grain [true reality].
Bhikshus, one accomplished in these six ways when listening to the True Dharma is able to plunge into the certainty of wholesome states.

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9 “He lets go of,” riñcati. See [2(5)] above.