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Bhadd'eka,ratta Sutta

The Discourse on the One Who Delights in the Auspicious Oneness | **M 131**
or, The Discourse on a Good Night of Mental Oneness

Theme: Living here and now
Translated by Piya Tan ©2004

There are two days in our lives when we can do absolutely nothing:
yesterday and tomorrow.
Yesterday is dead and we should leave it buried.
Tomorrow never comes; we'll change our minds in time.
We are left with only *today*, the only day in our life.
We can only do what is meaningful or purposeful *right now*.
Live now: it's forever.

1 Meaning(s) of bhadd'eka,ratta**1.1 THE SUTTA TITLE**

The title, given to 4 consecutive suttas in the Majjhima [2.1], is puzzling. **Bodhi**, in his Majjhima translation note, concludes with the interesting notion that *bhadd'eka,ratta* is “a term coined by the Buddha himself to describe a certain aspect of development.”¹ This Sutta is essentially about the practice of mindfulness through the cultivation of insight (*vipassanā*) by watching mental states as each arises through a night of meditation.²

The term ***bhadd'eka,ratta*** is easily resolved as *bhadda* (“auspicious, fortunate, good”) + *eka* (“one, oneness”) + *ratta* (“delighted, rejoicing (in)”; “night; (figurative) “time”). The word *bhadda* is straightforward. The second element, *eka*, usually means “one,” but here probably has an abstract sense of “oneness.” The most difficult component is the last one, *ratta*, which is polysemous. Clearly, there is a wordplay here, characteristic of the meditation language in the early suttas.³ We will now briefly look at each of these components.

1.2 BHADDA

The word ***bhadda*** is common and has many meanings: “good, excellent, noble, worthy, pious; fortunate, auspicious, happy, blest” (Childers’ DPL). Although the word is polysemic, here it refers to the wholesome practice of a meditator, and as such is best rendered as “wholesome,” or more simply “good” or “auspicious.”

An important clue on the meaning of *bhadda* is found in **the (Cattāro) Padhāna Sutta** (A 4.14), where the “exertion of guarding” (*anurakkhaṇa-p, padhāna*) is defined by the Buddha, thus: “Here, bhikshus, a monk guards the auspicious (*bhaddaka*) sign of concentration when it has arisen ... ”⁴ The Aṅguttara Commentary defines *bhaddaka*, simply as “obtained” (*laddhakam*) (AA 3:20). The Ṭikā, however, gives more details, saying:

¹ M:ÑB 1343 f n1210 (2005).

² For another possible interpretation, see **Samiddhi S** (S 1.20), SD 21.4 (1).

³ For other examples and a study, see **Language and discourse**, SD 26.11.

⁴ A 4.14.5/2:17 (SD 10.2).

Bhaddakan ti *abhaddakānaṃ nīvaraṇ'ādi,pāpa,dhammānaṃ vikkhambhanena rāga,vigamaṇena ekanta,hitattā dullabhata ca bhaddakaṃ sundaraṃ. Na hi aññaṃ samādhi,nimittam evaṃ dullabham rāgassa uju,vipaccanīka,bhūtaṃ atthi.*

Bhaddaka means beautiful, by way of the suppression of such inauspicious evil states such as the hindrances, and auspicious by way of the singular benefit, difficult to obtain, by way of the ridding of lust. For a direct knowledge of the samadhi-sign is not difficult to obtain as such, when there is a direct opposition to lust. (AAT:Be 2239)

Here we see a close connection between *bhaddaka* = *bhaddeka* and samadhi, which also fits the context of the *Bhaddeka,ratta Suttas*. [2.1.1]

1.3 EKA

1.3.1 The word *eka* means “one,” but we can also include related senses or connotations, such as “being unified.” In other words, *eka* has both a literal sense as a number, as well as a figurative sense, meaning “unified.” This helps us in understanding that the phrase “one-pointedness” should not, at least, need not, be taken literally, but in the sense that the dhyanic mind is “unified, integrated.”

In fact, in the suttas, we often find *eka* in meditation contexts always meaning either the noun, “oneness, unification (of mind)” (*ekaggatā*) or the past participle, “integrated (of mind), withdrawn (from mental hindrances)” (*ekodi,bhūta*). Take for example, “When he was seated, secluded, meditating in (mental) oneness” (*ekaggassa nisinnassa pavivittassa jhāyino*, Tha 920). And again, “(mentally) integrated, he should strike down the darkness (of ignorance)” (*ekodi,bhūto vihane tamarā so*, Sn 975), where *ekodi,bhūta* is glossed as “a one-pointed mind” (*ekagga,citto*, SnA 574).

Contextually, here *eka* (instead of the more philosophical *ekatta*, “oneness”) has the sense of “mental oneness,” “mental stillness,” or “mental concentration.” *Eka*, as used here, as such, is a synecdoche⁵ for samadhi (oneness of mind) (*samādhi*), or even dhyana (*jhāna*). It has a broad sense ranging from samadhi to dhyana. Such a non-technical usage of *eka* also reflects the earliness of the term; hence, the apparent difficulty of explaining this poetic meditational term in a technical way.⁶

1.3.2 The Ariya,vāsa Sutta 2 (A 10.20) defines the clear comprehension of an arhat that of being “guarded by [in] the one” (*ek'rakkha*), that is, “Here, bhikshus, a monk is mentally accomplished by being guarded with mindfulness.”⁷ The Commentary explains here that “whether he is walking, standing, sleeping, or awake, he is always mindful, with knowledge and vision present”⁸ (AA 5:8).

In terms of meditation, then, the “one” (*eka*) here can also refer to samadhi (*samādhi*), even dhyana (*jhāna*) itself, and the kind of mindfulness that comes from it. This is most probably the meaning of *eka* in the enigmatic term *bhadd'eka,ratta*, so that it reads, “the one who has delighted [who delights] in the auspicious one [oneness].” This then refers to one who delights in dhyana meditation, and who lives fully mindfully as a result. We might even say here that it refers to an arhat who often dwells in dhyana.⁹

⁵ A synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a part is used to refer to the whole, eg “the robe” for monkhood, or where a whole refers to a part (common in political language), eg “Kosala conquered Magadha.”

⁶ On *eka* as referring to the celibate life of meditation, as in *eka,vihārī*, “the solitary dweller,” see **Miga,jāla S 1** (S 56.63) + SD 44.6 (3.1).

⁷ A 10.20,6 + SD 43.15 (2.3).

⁸ *Ten'ev'assa carato ca tiṭṭhato ca suttassa ca jāgarassa ca satatam samitam ñāṇa,dassanaṃ paccupaṭṭhitaṃ hotīti vuccati* (AA 5:8).

⁹ A beautiful synonym for *bhadd'eka,ratta* given in **Venāga,pura S** (A 3.63) is the “heavenly great high couch” (*dibba uccā,sayana mahā,sayana*) of the Buddha, ie, his dwelling in dhyana, so that he is truly happy whether he sits, walks, stands or reclines (A 3.63,5), SD 21.1.

1.3.3 The Miga,jāla Sutta 1 (S 56.63) has another important application of the word *eka*, that is, in the sense of a “lone dweller” (*eka, vihārī*), where “dweller” (*vihārī*) is a synonym for “practitioner.” Here, “one” (*eka*) is polysemous, referring to *meditating* so that we attain “oneness” (*ekatta*) of mind, that is, samadhi, even dhyana for the attaining non-returning or arhathood. In short, it refers to a solitary practitioner, one who looks directly into his mind of calm and clarity.

Such a practice also entails our living a celibate life; hence, the monastic life is also called the “holy life” (*brahma, cariya*), or the “perfect” (*brahma*) life for mental cultivation, awakening and liberation. In short, the monastic life is a celibate life of meditation.¹⁰ However, a lay practitioner, too, is said to be one who “delights in the auspicious oneness” (*bhadd’eka, ratta*) when he practises meditation for the sake of attaining dhyana, or even for some level of mindfulness, for the sake of attaining at least stream-winning.¹¹

1.3.4 Hence, in the Sutta title, *bhadd’eka, ratta*, we can (and should) take *eka* as alluding to “oneness, single-mindedness” (*ekatta*), meaning:

- (1) mindfulness by way of wise attention (*yoniso manasikāra*),
- (2) when the mind is well focused, samadhi or mental concentration, or,
- (3) where the mental hindrances are fully overcome, the attainment of dhyana.

The stress here, however, is on **mindfulness**: the meditator is exhorted to be mindful of the “present moment,” that is, whatever is arising and passing in the mind. The awareness here is that of the process (impermanence), not *the contents* of the mind (whether it is past, present or future). [5]

In fact, the Majjhima Commentary on the Sutta explains *bhadd’eka, ratta* as “delighting in the ‘one’ (or oneness) that is auspicious, that is, the mind’s accomplishment in devotion to insight” (MA 5:1).¹² It should be noted here that “insight” (*vipassanā*) does *not* refer to any system of meditation (certainly not the Insight Meditation of our times),¹³ but simply to the wisdom that leads one to see true reality and liberation.

1.4 RATTA

1.4.1 Literal meaning

1.4.1.1 *Ratta* has a wide range of meanings.¹⁴ Let us first look at its literal meaning as “night.” In **Analayo’s** Majjhima comparative study,¹⁵ the Sanskrit title of this Sutta reads *bhadrāga, rātrīya*,¹⁶ or *bhadraka, rātrīyaḥ*,¹⁷ or *bhadraka, rātrīyasya sūtrasya*,¹⁸ all of which translate as “a good night” or “an auspicious night.”

¹⁰ See **Miga,jāla S 1** (S 56.63) + SD 44.6 (3.1).

¹¹ On streamwinning, see **(Anicca) Cakkhu S** (S 25.1), SD 16.7.

¹² *Bhadd’eka, rattassā ti vipassanānuyoga, samannāgatattā bhaddakassa eka, rattassa.*

¹³ What we call Insight Meditation today comprises systems based on the teachings of Jetavana Sayadaw of Burma (modern Myanmar), and promoted by his pupil, Mahasi Sayadaw, and by the famous lay teacher U Ba Khin, which is then promoted by the lay teacher Goenka. Vipassana methods work harmoniously with the forest meditation of Ajahn Chah, both of which are taught at the Minding Centre, Singapore, benefitting both Buddhists and non-Buddhists alike. For a sociohistorical study of Samatha-Vipassana, see SD 60.1 esp 60.1b.

¹⁴ See PED: *ratta*¹ & *ratta*²; also SED: *rakta*.

¹⁵ *A Comparative Study of the Majjhima Nikāya*, 2011:755.

¹⁶ Cat no 816 V3 in SHT (*Sanskrihandschriften aus den Turfanfunden*) 3:32 (1971); cf also R2.

¹⁷ Fragments no 3 b3 in Minayeff & Oldenburg (*Buddhist Texts from Kashgar and Nepal*) 1983:243.

¹⁸ Fragment no 4 b1 in Minayeff & Oldenburg 1983.

ious night.” The Chinese Āgama version transcribes the same title as 跋地羅帝 *bá dì luó dì*,¹⁹ corresponding to *bat di^h la te^h* in early middle Chinese (according to E G Pulleyblank).²⁰ Another Chinese Āgama text similarly speaks of “an auspicious night,” 善夜,²¹ and three Tibetan versions speak of ‘*phags pa mtshan mo bzang po* (*ārya, bhadraka, rātrī*), “noble good night” or “noble auspicious night.”²²

1.4.1.2 Bodhi, in his Majjhima translation note, says that

ratta and *ratti* could be taken to represent respectively either Skt *rātra* and *rātrī* (= night) or Skt *rakta* and *rakti* (= attachment) ... The Central Asian Skt version, the Skt title at the head of the Tibetan version and the Tibetan translation itself all use *bhadrakarātri*. This confirms the identification of *ratta* with “night”: the change from *-e-* to *-a-* can be understood as an attempt to convert a difficult reading into a more familiar one. (M:ÑB 1343 f n1210, 2005)

1.4.2 Figurative meaning

The word *ratta*, meaning “night,” is often used in a figurative sense to mean “time,” such as “for a long time” (*dīgha, ratta*).²³ The best example is surely that of *rattaññū*, literally, “one who knows the nights,” or more idiomatically, “most recognized, of long standing, senior” especially as an epithet of the first saint after the Buddha, Aññā Koṇḍañña, “the seniormost of the monks.”²⁴

If we accept this figurative sense as being applicable to *ratta* in *bhadd’eka, ratta*, then we can render it as “the one of long-standing in the auspicious oneness.” This translation evokes the devotion and experience of a meditator in his practice, especially of dhyana and its use in the attaining of liberation.

1.4.3 Sanskrit usages

1.4.3.1 *Ratta* (Skt *rakta*) is also the past participle of *rañjati = rajjati* (“to delight in,” used in a wholesome sense).²⁵ The Sanskrit-English Dictionary (SED), under *rakta* (page 861), amongst its meanings, gives “attached to or devoted to, fond of; beloved, dear, lovely, pleasant, sweet.” Hence, we can render *ratta* in *bhadd’eka, ratta* as “delighting in, fond of seeing it as dear or lovely (in the mental sense).”

1.4.3.2 As already noted here, *ratta* in the sense of “delighting (in)” is usually found in the Pali suttas in the negative sense. However, it is possible, poetically at least, to use *ratta* in a positive sense. After all, if a “desire” is directed toward something positive, especially here, we can take it in a positive sense, that is, as “delighting in (the auspicious oneness).”

1.4.3.3 The Pali *ratta* is cognate with the Sanskrit *rakta*, which in turn comes from the verb *rañjati* (from the √RAÑJ, “to colour”). The SED, under *rañj*, includes meanings such as “to glow, illuminate, shine bright,” usages which often go back to pre-Buddhist times (such as in the Vedas). As such, we can also take *ratta* in a figurative sense, to mean “to shine, etc.”

¹⁹ MĀ 165 = T1.696c7.

²⁰ *Lexicon of Reconstructed Pronunciation in Early Middle Chinese, Late Middle Chinese and Early Mandarin*, Vancouver: UBC Press, 1991:27, 76, 203.

²¹ T1362 = T21.881c10 善夜 *shàn yè*.

²² Tibetan versions no 313 = *mdo sde sa* 161b2, no 617 = *rgyud ‘bum ba* 56a7, and no 974 = *gzungs ‘dus varṃ* 90a3.

²³ V 3:105,29; D 1:206,1, 2:283,23; M 3:115,19; S 1:59,24; A 1:142,15*; Sn 335; Tha 768; Pv 25.11.

²⁴ *Rattaññūnam yad idaṃ aññā, koṇḍañño* (A 1:23,17). Its abstract form, *rattaññūtā*, “of long-standing renown” is found in **Bhaddali S** (M 65/1:445,21+22).

²⁵ The negative sense is more common, eg “Those dyed in lust fall back into the current” (*ye rāga, rattānupatanti sotam*, Dh 347a).

1.5 CONCLUSIONS

Putting all these textual and traditional clues together, we can say that *bhadd'eka,ratta* can mean “one good night” of true blissful stillness, the joy of dhyana. Or, we could, more technically, read it as “delighting in the fortune (or blessing) of oneness,” that is, enjoying mental focus or samadhi, deep in blissful meditation.

Using the calm clarity of mind, we are truly able to see the rise and fall of our minds. Either way—dhyana or mindfulness—it evokes a sense of the joy of a meditator sitting deep into the night, “a silent night, holy night” in the truest sense of the word! From the Sutta context and also in keeping with the contemplative tone of early Buddhism, we can, as such, safely say that **the translation** of this key word that best reflects all this would be:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------|
| (1) (popular) | “a single auspicious night” | |
| (2) (literal) | “a good [auspicious] night of mental oneness” | |
| (3) (practical) | “one who delights [has found delight] in the auspicious oneness” | [1.4.3.1] |
| (4) (poetic) | “the one who shines in the blessed oneness” | [1.4.3.3] |
| (5) (free) | “the one of long-standing in the auspicious oneness” | [1.4.2] |

It is unlikely that we can ever directly render this pregnant term, *bhadd'eka'ratta*, with an exact English translation. This is a problem of the word (*anuvyañjana*), which reminds us of the vital need of a discourse of the spirit (*attha*) from an experienced teacher to share his insights on such terms with others. The Dharma, in other words, can never be fully and effectively transmitted through academic or book learning, but needs the direct transmission of living Dharma teachers and, above all, a personal taste of “auspicious oneness,” that is, *the liberated mind that directly sees true reality*.

2 Origins of the Bhadd'eka,ratta texts

2.1 THE BHADDEKARATTA SUTTAS

2.1.1 The heart of this sutta is a short verse, **the Bhaddeka,ratta Gāthā** [3, 10], which is well known. There are altogether **4 suttas** entitled *Bhaddeka,ratta*, namely:

		<u>The verse is explained by</u>
Bhaddeka,ratta Sutta	M 131/3:187-189 (SD 8.9)	the Buddha
Ānanda Bhaddeka,ratta Sutta	M 132/3:190-190 f	Ānanda
Mahā Kaccāna Bhaddeka,ratta Sutta	M 133/3:192-199	Mahā Kaccāna
Lomasak'aṅgiya Bhaddeka,ratta Sutta	M 134/3:199-202	the Buddha

The Bhaddekaratta verse is also found in **the Netti-p,pakaraṇa** (Nett 149) and **the Apadāna** (Lomasak'aṅgiya Therāpadāna, Ap 545.20-23/506).

2.1.2 In the Bhaddeka,ratta Sutta (M 131) (our sutta) and the Lomasak'aṅgiya Bhaddekaratta Sutta (M 134), **the Buddha** himself elaborates on three and a half lines [§3.1ab, §3.2ac]. **Ānanda** repeats verbatim the Buddha's explanations in the Ānanda Bhaddeka,ratta Sutta. From this selective explanation, we can immediately surmise that the other stanza lines expand on these selected lines by way of internal commentary.

Mahā Kaccāna, too, elaborates on the same three and a half lines, but gives a more detailed explanation in the Mahā Kaccāna Bhaddeka,ratta Sutta. While **the Buddha** explains the verse using the frame-

work of the 5 aggregates (*pañca-k, khandha*), **Mahā Kaccāna** frames his explanations around the 12 sense-fields (*dvādas'āyatana*), that is, the 6 internal sense-bases (sense organs) and the 6 external sense-objects. The common underlying element in the sense-experiences is consciousness (*viññāṇa*), that is, those in the grasp of sensual desire, and those free from it. As such, his framework is actually the 18 elements (*aṭṭhārasa dhātuyo*), namely, the 6 sense-bases, the 6 sense-objects, and the 6 sense-consciousnesses, forming “the 18 physical and mental elements that constitute the conditions or foundations of the process of perception.”²⁶

2.1.3 Sanskrit fragments of the Bhaddekaratta Sutta found in Central Asia²⁷ parallel M 131 (our sutta) in stating that the Buddha at Jeta, vana near Sāvattihī addresses the monks unprompted.²⁸ The Sanskrit version however shows a remarkable departure in the direction of popular Buddhism. It preserves parts of the verses, but the rest of the fragment continues with dharanis (mantras for meditation or protection),²⁹ so that the rest of it must have been quite different from the Pali version.

2.2 LATENESS OF THE BHADDEKA, RATTĀ SUTTA (M 131)

2.2.1 Scholars have noted an interesting discrepancy in the Vibhaṅga Vagga, where the Bhaddekaratta Suttas are located. All the other vaggas (chapters) of the Majjhima each has exactly 10 discourses, except for the Vibhaṅga Vagga.³⁰ Apparently, scholars propose that **the Bhaddeka, ratta Sutta** (M 131) and the Dakkhīṇa Vibhaṅga Sutta (M 142) are later additions, which does not, however, mean that they are late works. **Analyo**, in his *Comparative Study of the Majjhima Nikāya*, gives a helpful summary of the problem here:³¹

Looking back on the altogether four Pāli discourses concerned with the *bhaddekaratta* verses, a noteworthy circumstance is that the chapter in which they are found, the *Vibhaṅga Vagga*, counts altogether twelve discourses. All other chapters in the *Majjhima Nikāya* consist of ten discourses only. Due to the present chapter's departure from the standard count of ten discourses, the overall count of *Majjhima Nikāya* discourses runs into one-hundred-fifty-two, even though its main division is into three “fifties,” *pañṇāsa*, headings which suggests that there should be only one-hundred-fifty discourses.³²

This suggests the possibility that the *Vibhaṅga Vagga* originally may have had only ten discourses, to which subsequently two discourses were added. As the four discourses concerned with the *bhaddekaratta* verses treat the same topic, perhaps one or the other among them could be related to such an addition to an earlier set of ten discourses.

The first discourse among the four, the *Bhaddekaratta Sutta*, records exactly the same exposition as found in the Pāli and Chinese versions of the *Lomasakaṅgiyabhaddekaratta Sutta*, namely a treatment of the implications of the *bhaddekaratta* verses from the perspective of the five aggregates, given by the Buddha. It could easily be imagined how during the course of oral transmission the introductory part of the *Lomasakaṅgiyabhaddekaratta Sutta* was lost and only the exposition itself was remembered, which then became the *Bhaddekaratta Sutta*.

²⁶ See important def in BDict: Dhātu (II).

²⁷ Cat no 816 in SHT (*Sanskrihandschriften aus den Turfanfunden*) III:32 f.

²⁸ Cat no 816 SHT V:1 f.

²⁹ Cat no 816 SHT V:4 f.

³⁰ L Renou, “Les divisions dans les texts sanscrits,” in *Indo Iranian Journal*, 1957:2 & 29 notes that groups of ten is a principal grouping in Vedic texts, which was also frequently used by the Buddhists and the Jains.

³¹ 2005 draft (personal communications, before 2011 was published); cf 2011:365, esp nn there.

³² Norman 1983:48.

As the *Bhaddekaratta Sutta* is the only one of the four Pāli versions that does not have a Chinese counterpart, this discourse could indeed be the outcome of a transmission mistake, which perhaps was added to the *Vibhaṅga Vagga*, thereby causing an increase of the number of discourses in this chapter.³³ The Sanskrit fragments paralleling the *Bhaddekaratta Sutta* do not necessarily contradict this hypothesis, as after the verses on an auspicious night the Sanskrit version continues with *dhāraṇīs* etc., so that the Sanskrit discourse seems to stem from a different line of development.³⁴

On this assumption, the count of discourses in this chapter could be reduced to eleven. A further reduction to ten through selecting another of the discourses concerned with the *bhaddekaratta* verses, however, does not seem possible. Though the introductory section of the *Mahākaccānabhaddekaratta Sutta* about the meeting between Samiddhi and a *deva* recurs in the same terms as the introduction to another discourse of different content in the *Samyutta Nikāya*,³⁵ and the description of how the monks approached Mahākaccāna recurs in the same terms in the *Madhu,piṇḍika Sutta*,³⁶ the *Madhyama Āgama* parallel agrees in both respects with the presentation in the *Mahākaccānabhaddekaratta Sutta*. Hence, at least from a comparative perspective, it would seem that the presentation in the *Mahākaccānabhaddekaratta Sutta* is well established, as is the case for the other two discourses treating the *bhaddekaratta* verses.

Another discourse that could have made its way into the *Vibhaṅga Vagga* at a later stage is the *Dakkhiṇāvibhaṅga Sutta*, a discourse which records how the Buddha refused a gift made to him by his foster mother and then gave an exposition on the merits of offerings to different recipients.³⁷

(Analayo on M 3:201, 2005)

2.2.2 Although the Bhaddekaratta Sutta (M 131) is a late addition to the *Vibhaṅga Vagga* and the *Majjhima* as a whole, it is a useful one, in that it preserves or purports to preserve the Buddha's own version of the Bhaddekaratta teaching generally addressed to the whole community, not to a particular individual, as is the case in the other Bhaddekaratta Suttas.

3 The 15 wrong views and the 16 doubts

3.1 The Bhaddekaratta Sutta here presents 15 wrong views that are to be avoided [§§4, 6, 8] and their antidotes [§§7, 9, 11]. This simple framework showing the wrong views is based on the 5 aggregates (*pañca-k, khandha*), wrongly viewed over the three periods of time (past, present, future), thus totalling 15 wrong views. Conversely, the avoidance of them is regarded as the 15 right views, that is, no views.

³³ Horner (1959) at M:H 3:233 n1 arrives at the opposite hypothesis, as in relation to the Bhaddekaratta Sutta, she comments: "This is the Vagga that has 12 Discourses. If it were thought desirable to reduce them to the normal 10, this Discourse [ie the Bhaddekaratta Sutta], spoken by the Lord, would rank as one, and the next three, spoken by disciples, would have to be counted together as another single Discourse." Yet, argues Analayo, the other three discourses are not all spoken by disciples, as only M 132 and M 133 are spoken by disciples, whereas the exposition in M 134 is spoken by the Buddha, so that authorship alone would not suffice for considering them as three versions of a single original. (Analayo's n)

³⁴ Cf cat no 816 R in SHT III:32 f.

³⁵ **Samiddhi S** (S 1.20/1:8,16) records a visit by a *deva* to Samiddhi who had just taken a bath at the same hot springs (cf also J167/2:57). This meeting leads to a different discussion, as the visiting *deva* tries to tempt Samiddhi into enjoying sensual pleasures. The *Āgama* parallels to Samiddhi S (S 1.20)—SĀ 1078 (T2.281c4) & SĀ² 17 (T2.379-a24)—do not identify the monk.

³⁶ M 18/1:110,6; MĀ 115 (T1.603c17) and EĀ 40.10 (T2.743a23).

³⁷ M 142/3:253-257.

3.2 Elsewhere, such as in **the Sabb'āsava Sutta** (M 2,7 f), **the Mahā Taṇhā,saṅkhaya Sutta** (M 38,23) and **the Paccaya Sutta** (S 12.20), we find a slightly different way of dealing with wrong views, that is, as “**the 16 doubts**,” in sets in terms of time, that is, *the past, the future and the present*:

- (1) ‘Was I in the past?’
 - (2) ‘Was I not in the past?’
 - (3) ‘What was I in the past?’
 - (4) ‘How was I in the past?’
 - (5) ‘Having been what, did I become what in the past? [What was I before I became such and such in the past?]'”
 - (6) ‘Will I be in the future?’
 - (7) ‘Am I not in the future?’
 - (8) ‘What will I be in the future?’
 - (9) ‘How will I be in the future?’
 - (10) ‘Having been what, what will I become in the future? [What now would lead me to that future state?]'”³⁸
 - (11) ‘Am I?’
 - (12) ‘Am I not?’
 - (13) ‘What am I?’
 - (14) ‘How am I?’
 - (15) ‘Where has this being come from?’
 - (16) ‘Where will it [this being] go?’”
- (M 2,7+8/1:8, 38,23/1:265; S 12.20/2:26 f)³⁹

3.3 The Visuddhi,magga⁴⁰ discusses the abandonment of these 16 doubts in some detail. **The Saṃyutta Commentary** explains that the basic division expressed in the doubts—between existing and not existing in the past, etc—reflects the antinomy of eternalism and annihilationism. The other doubts pertaining to past lives arise within an eternalist framework. Similar discussions apply to the doubts pertaining to the future and the present (SA 2:241 f).

4 The 4 self-identity views

4.1 The explanation in **verse 8** of the Sutta relates how an uninstructed ordinary person tends to regard any of the 5 aggregates (form, feeling, perception, mental formations, consciousness) dictated by these **self-views** (*attā'nudiṭṭhi*)⁴¹ or **self-identity views**:⁴²

- | | | |
|---|--|----|
| (1) an aggregate) as <u>the self</u> , | eg, “form as the self,” | or |
| (2) the self as <u>possessing</u> (an aggregate), | eg, “the self as possessing form,” | or |
| (3) (an aggregate) as <u>in the self</u> , | eg, “form as in the self,” | or |
| (4) the self as <u>in</u> (an aggregate), | eg, “the self as in form.” ⁴³ | |

³⁸ See **Sabb'āsava S** (M 2.7/1:8), SD 30.3.

³⁹ On *present and future* conceivings, see **Dhātu Vibhaṅga S** (M 140,31/3:246), SD 4.17; **Samanupassanā Sutta** (S 22.47/3:47), SD 26.12; **Yava,kalāpī S** (S 35.258,8-12/4:202 f), SD 40a.3.

⁴⁰ Vism 19.5 f/599 & 19.21-27/603-605.

⁴¹ SD 2.16 (15.1.2).

⁴² **Pārileyya S** (S 22.81,12-30), SD 6.1; SD 40a.8 (3.3); SD 55.17 (3.1.3.5). The 1ST is rooted in annihilationist view (*uccheda,diṭṭhi*); the rest, in eternalist view (*sassata,diṭṭhi*).

Only this present state

(as it arises) one sees that with insight;

invincible, unshakable,

having known that, let one be sure of it.

*paccuppannañ ca yo dhammañ,**tattha tattha vipassati;**asamhīrañ asaṅkappañ,**tañ vidvā manubrūhaye.*

4.2 The **Paṭisambhidā, magga** illustrates the 4 basic modes of self-identity view in connection with form in these ways [4.1]:

- (1) One wrongly regards form as self, just as that the *flame* of a burning oil-lamp is identical to the *colour* of the flame.⁴⁴
- (2) One wrongly regards self as possessing form, just as a tree possesses a *shadow*.⁴⁵
- (3) One wrongly regards form as in self, just as the *scent* is in the flower.⁴⁶
- (4) One wrongly regards self as in form, just as a *jewel* is in a casket.⁴⁷ (Pm 2.50, 74, 77, 90; 1:144 f)

4.3 The **Mahā Puṇṇama Sutta** (M 109,10/ 3:17 f) and the **Cūḷa Vedalla Sutta** (M 44,7 f/1:300) list the 20 kinds of self-identity view in connection with the 5 aggregates.

Verse 9 of the Sutta shows the opposite cycle, how an instructed noble disciple does not identify any of the 5 aggregates in terms of self.

4.4 A more elaborate application of this formula, differently worded but conveying the same idea, is found in the **Mūla,pariyāya Sutta** (M 1), where it is said, for example, that:

The uninstructed ordinary worldling perceives earth as earth, but having perceived earth as earth,⁴⁸

he conceives ⁴⁹ (himself as)	earth;
he conceives (himself)	in earth;
he conceives (himself apart)	from earth;
he conceives earth to be	'mine'
—he delights in earth.	

Why is that? Because he lacks full understanding,⁵⁰ I say. (M 1,3/1:1)

⁴³ For an explanation of these 4 modes of self-identity, see SD 2.16 (5.1.2, 5.2); SD 53.5 (2.2.1).

⁴⁴ A materialist view, as in the case of the young nirgrantha Saccaka (M 35,9-22/1:229-234),, SD 16.5.

⁴⁵ Most common view today, esp in God-religions.

⁴⁶ Such as the brahminical view of Brahman, the “universal soul,” of which ours is but “a spark.”

⁴⁷ As in popular or animistic beliefs in some kind of extracorporeal or disembodied being that is able to leave the body at will, even inhabit another or some external object (like a tree).

⁴⁸ Comy says that there are 4 wrong ways of regarding the body due to mental conceivings and false views: (1) he sees physical form as self; (2) he sees self in physical form; (3) he thinks self is other than physical form; (4) he sees self as having physical form or physical form as in self (MA 1:31). The first is an annihilationist view; the rest are eternalist views.

⁴⁹ “He conceives,” *maññati*, “he thinks.” This is the predominant verb here. The verb *maññati* is often used in the Pali suttas to refer to distorted thinking, ie, ascribing to an object or experience characteristics and significance that are not derived from that object or experience, but from one’s own subjective imaginings (*maññanā*). “The cognitive distortion introduced by conceiving consists, in brief, in the intrusion of the egocentric perspective into the experience already slightly distorted by spontaneous perception.” (M:ÑB 1162 n6). Comy says that the activity of conceiving is governed by the 3 defilements—craving, conceit, views—that account for the different ways it manifests itself (MA 1:26). For a shorter version of this teaching, see eg **Nakula, pitā S** (S 22.1/ 3:1-5), SD 5.4.

⁵⁰ “Lack of full understanding,” *apariññāta*. See **Mūla,pariyāya S** (M 1), SD 11.8 (2).

In this connection, the Bhaddeka,ratta Sutta and **the Pārileyya Sutta** (S 22.81),⁵¹ should be studied first, and then the more difficult **Mūla,pariyāya Sutta** (M 1).⁵²

5 Related texts

5.1 The theme of watching the present is central to Buddhist meditation. A number of texts attests to this admonition. In **the Atta,daṇḍa Sutta** (Sn 4.15) of the Sutta Nipāta, the Buddha admonishes, thus:

Let the past wither away.	<i>yam pubbe tam visosehi</i>	
Let what comes later be nothing—	<i>pacchā te māhu kiñcanam</i>	
If you grasp not at anything in between,	<i>majjhe ce no gahessasi</i>	
You will wander about calmed.	<i>upasanto carissasi</i>	(Sn 949) ⁵³

This verse is interesting in that the key words *pubbe*, *pacchā* and *majjhe* do not have their usual dictionary sense of “front,” “back” and “middle,” respectively. Instead here, according to the Mahā Niddeśa, they mean “the past,” “the future” and “the present” respectively (Nm 434).

5.2 The exact sentiments of **Sn 949** (in the Atta,daṇḍa Sutta) is found in the Dhammapada Commentary story of the acrobat **Ugga,sena**, who, after doing 14 somersaults, lands on his feet on the top of a bamboo pole. Then he hears the Buddha’s koan-like teaching and becomes an arhat:

Let go of the front [future]!	Let go of the back [past]!
Let go of the middle [the present]!	Cross over to the farther shore [nirvana]!
With the mind released from everything,	suffer no more birth nor decay.
	(Dh 348; DhA 24.6/4:62 f)

5.3 Another Dhammapada verse—in **the Brāhmaṇa Vagga**—says:

For whom there is nothing	in front, behind or in the middle,
who has nothing, ungrasping,	him I call a brahmin. (Dh 421)

By “who has nothing” (*akiñcanam*) is meant that there is no “grasping through craving” in the 3 aspects (past, future, present) (DhA 26.38/4:230). A similar teaching is given in **the Brahma,deva Sutta** (S 6.3).⁵⁴

5.4 The benefits of the practice exhorted by the Bhaddeka,ratta Suttas are mentioned in **the Araññe Sutta** (S 1.10), where a forest deva asks the Buddha why the monks meditating in the forests, living only on a single meal a day, look very serene. The Buddha’s reply, echoing the sentiment of the Bhaddeka,ratta Suttas, thus:

They do not sorrow after the past,	Nor do they long for the future.
They keep themselves to what is before them—	Hence their demeanour is so serene.
Through longing for the future,	Through sorrowing after the past,
Fools dry up and wither away	Like green reed that is cut down. (S 1.10/1:5)

⁵¹ S 22.81/3:94-99 @ SD 6.1.

⁵² M 1/1:1-6 @ SD 11.8.

⁵³ Further see SD 54.2e (2.3.4.3).

⁵⁴ S 6.3/1:140-142 (SD 12.4).

5.5 The same sentiment is succinctly expressed in a stanza of **the Eka,vihāriya Thera,gāthā**:

If no one at all is found in front or behind, *purato pacchato vāpi ce na vijjati*
It is very pleasant for one dwelling in the forest. *atīva phāsu bhavati ekassa vasato vane.*
(Tha 537)

5.6 As already mentioned [3], this sutta should be studied with such suttas as **the Mahā Taṇhā,sāṅkhaya Sutta** (M 38),⁵⁵ **the Sabb'āsava Sutta** (M 2.7/1:8) and **the Paccaya Sutta** (S 12.20), all of which give a slightly different way of dealing with wrong views, that is, classifying them as “the 16 doubts,” instead of the 15 wrong views mentioned below in the Sutta [§§4, 6, 8]. Another important related text is **the Migajāla Sutta 1** (S 35.63).⁵⁶

5.7 **Ñāṇananda** has written an enlightening introduction with notes to his translation of the Bhaddekaratta Sutta, called *The Ideal Solitude*.⁵⁷

6 Ānanda's story

6.1 Scholars of comparative Buddhism have noted how the simple teachings of self-reliance of the Bhaddekaratta Sutta later, in the Mahāyāna, developed apotropaic (magical and protective) departures. The Sutta's Āgama parallel, found at MĀ 167 = T1.699c-700b, has the title “spoken by Ānanda,” 阿難說, and agrees with M 132 on locating the discourse in Jeta,vana, near Sāvattihī. Sanskrit fragments⁵⁸ have also preserved a discourse on the verses on an auspicious night with Ānanda as its main protagonist.

6.2 **Analayo**, in his *Comparative Study of the Majjhima Nikāya*, notes that, “[j]udging from what has been preserved of the introductory narration,”⁵⁹ this discourse begins with a tale also found in **the Divyāvadāna**⁶⁰ and in **the Śūrangama Śūtra**.⁶¹ According to this tale, Ānanda has been overpowered by a magic spell by an outcaste or untouchable (candāla) woman, whose daughter has fallen in love with him and is rescued by a magical counterspell by the Buddha just in time *to prevent him from having sexual intercourse with the girl*.

Winternitz (1912:249) comments that:

the whole literature of mantras and *dhāraṇīs*, of spells and incantations, found in later Mahāyāna, finds its explanation in this episode. The common people felt a need for mantras and spells, and Buddhism had to take this need into account. In order to be able to counter the mantras of other sorcerers, the Buddhist monks needed to have their own mantras. At first these “mantras” were moral sayings like the Maṅgala Sutta and the Ratana Sutta ... but eventually that did not suffice.
(Analayo's tr fr the German original)

6.3 Analayo further notes that, similar to this Sanskrit fragment,⁶² in the individual Chinese parallel⁶³ and the three Tibetan parallels⁶⁴ to **the Mahā Kaccāna Bhaddekaratta Sutta** (M 133), the verses on the aus-

⁵⁵ M 38,23/1:265 (SD 7.9).

⁵⁶ S 35.63/4:35-37 (SD 44.6).

⁵⁷ Wheel 188. Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society, 1973.

⁵⁸ Minayeff & Oldenburg, *Buddhist Texts from Kashgar and Nepal*, 1983:242-243.

⁵⁹ At M 132 Intro.

⁶⁰ E B Cowell et al, *The Divyāvadāna, a collection of early Buddhist legends*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1886:611,2.

⁶¹ T945 = T19.106c9.

⁶² Cat no 816 in SHT III:32 f.

picious night are followed by *dhāraṇīs*, etc, “thereby furnishing additional examples for the tendency discerned by Winternitz.” (id) [1]

— — —

Bhadd’eka,ratta Sutta

The Discourse on the One Who Delights in the Auspicious Oneness

or, The Discourse on a Good Night of Mental Oneness [1]

M 131

Preamble

1 Thus have I heard.

At one time the Blessed One was staying in Anātha,piṇḍika’s Park in Jeta’s Forest near Sāvaththī. There the Blessed One addressed the monks thus:

“Bhikshus!”

“Bhante!” the monks replied to the Blessed One.

The Blessed One said this:

2 “Bhikshus, I will teach you a summary and analysis of *bhadd’eka,ratta*.⁶⁵

Listen, bhikshus, pay close attention to it, I will speak.”

“Yes, bhante!” the monks replied to the Blessed One.

The Blessed One said this:

Bhadd’eka,ratta Gāthā

3 **Let one not pursue⁶⁶ [not dwell on] the past,⁶⁷
nor hold fond hope for the future.**

For, the past is gone,⁶⁸
and the future has not yet come.⁶⁹

*Atītaṃ nānvāgameyya
n’appaṭikaṅkhe anāgataṃ
yad atītaṃ pahīnaṃ taṃ
appattañ ca anāgataṃ.*

[§§4 f]

[§§6 f]

⁶³ T1362 = T21.881c10.

⁶⁴ Tib versions no 313 = *mdo sde sa* 161b2, no 617 = *rgyud ’bum ba* 56a7, and no 974 = *gzungs ’dus varṃ* 90a3.

⁶⁵ *Bhaddekarattassa vo bhikkhave uddesañ ca vibhaṅgañ ca desessāmi*. On the title, see Intro (1).

⁶⁶ “Let one ... not pursue [not dwell on]” (*anvāgameyya*), pot 3 sg of *anvāgameti* (caus of *anvāgacchati* = *anu* + *ā-gacchati*), lit, “to let come back,” ie to wish something back (CPD), to run after, dwell on. [This tr was suggested by Kumara Bhikkhu of Malaysia, email 17 Aug 2013.]

⁶⁷ Cf *patisarati* at SD 41.6 (2.3.6.1).

⁶⁸ Alt tr: “For the past has passed away.”

⁶⁹ Alt tr: “And the future is yet unreached”; poetically, “the future never comes.”

- 3.2 **Only⁷⁰ this present state⁷¹**
 as it arises⁷² one sees that with insight,⁷³
invincibly,⁷⁴ unshakably.⁷⁵
 Having known that, let one devote oneself to it.
- paccuppannañ ca yo dhammañ* [§8]
tattha tattha vipassati
asamhīraṃ asaṅkappaṃ, [§9]
taṃ vidvā-m-anubrūhaye⁷⁶
- 3.3 Work at the task this very day!⁷⁷
 Who knows, death will come tomorrow?
 For, there is no bargaining whatsoever
 with death's great horde.
- Ajj'eva kiccam ātappaṃ*
ko jaññā maraṇaṃ suve;
na hi no saṅgamaṃ tena,
mahā, senena maccunā.
- 3.4 One who dwells thus ardently,
 relentlessly, day and night—
 he is *bhaddeka, ratta* [one who delights in
 the auspicious oneness (of mind)],
 says the peaceful sage.⁷⁸ [188]
- Evaṃ vihāriṃ ātāpim,*
aho, rattam atanditaṃ;
taṃ ve bhaddeka, ratta ti,
santo ācikkhate muni.

Let go of the past

4 “How, bhikshus, does one pursue the past?”

- (1) One seeks delight there, thinking: ‘I had such form in the past.’⁷⁹
 (2) One seeks delight there, thinking: ‘I had such feelings in the past.’
 (3) One seeks delight there, thinking: ‘I had such perception in the past.’
 (4) One seeks delight there, thinking: ‘I had such formations in the past.’

⁷⁰ “Only” from *tattha tattha* in line b.

⁷¹ Comy: One should contemplate each state as it arises by way of the 7 contemplations of insight (ie by way of insight into impermanence, suffering, not-self, revulsion, dispassion, cessation, relinquishment) (MA 5:1 f).

⁷² “As it arises,” from *tattha tattha*.

⁷³ The Sutta here teaches seeing *only* the arising of the 5 aggregates (or any of them) in the present moment. More simply, this means to see each moment of “rising and falling,” as being impermanent: this is a perception of impermanence (*anicca, saññā*): see **(Anicca) Cakkhu S** (S 36.1), SD 16.7.

⁷⁴ *Asamhīraṃ* as “invincible”: V 2:96,1; M 131/3:187,25*; S 8.8/743*/1:193,19 = Tha 1243; A 4:141,11; Tha 649; It78,1* ≈ Ap 194,22 = 262,7; Sn 1149; J 4:283. See SD 54.2.1 (4.3.2.5).

⁷⁵ Comy explains that this is said for the purpose of showing insight (*vipassanā*) and counter-insight (*paṭivipassanā*) [ie, the application of the principles of insight to the act of consciousness that exercises the function of insight, on the basis of which it is possible to attain arhathood: see M 52,4/1:350, 121,11/3:108; also M:ÑB 1333 n1143.] For insight is “**invincible, unshakable**” [foll Sn:N 1149] because it is neither defeated nor shaken [moved] by lust and other defilements (MA 5:2). Elsewhere, “invincible, unshakable” are epithets of nirvana (**Sn 1149**) or of the liberated mind (**Tha 469**). Here, however, it seems to refer to a stage in the development of insight. Note that the vb *samhīrati* recurs at §8 and *asamhīrati* in §9, suggesting that we should watch the present moment without being overwhelmed by self-views regarding the past or the future.

⁷⁶ *Anu-brūhaye*; from *brūheti* (√BRMH), to make increase, develop; devote oneself (to).

⁷⁷ This line and the next are qu at UA 89, DhA 3:430. Cf “You must make the effort! | The tathagatas (only) show the way. | Liberated are those who have practised, | who meditate, freed from Māra’s bonds” (*tumhehi kiccarā ātappaṃ | akkhātāro tathāgatā | paṭipannā pamokkhanti | jhāyino māra, bandhanā*, Dh 276).

⁷⁸ The peaceful sage here is of course the Buddha (MA 5:3).

⁷⁹ Comy: One “**seeks delight**” by associating the past in terms of craving or a view associated with craving (MA 5:3). “It should be noted that it is not the mere recollection of the past through memory that causes bondage, but the reliving of past experiences with thoughts of craving. In this respect the Buddha’s teaching differs significantly from that of Krishnamurti, who seems to regard memory itself as the villain behind the scene” (M:ÑB 1143 n1215).

(5) One seeks delight there, thinking: 'I had such consciousness in the past.'
This is how, bhikshus, one pursues the past.

5 And how, bhikshus, does one *not* pursue the past?

- (1) One does *not* seek delight there, thinking, 'I had such form in the past.'⁸⁰
 (2) One does *not* seek delight there, thinking: 'I had such feelings in the past.'
 (3) One does *not* seek delight there, thinking: 'I had such perception in the past.'
 (4) One does *not* seek delight there, thinking: 'I had such formations in the past.'
 (5) One does *not* seek delight there, thinking: 'I had such consciousness in the past.'

This is how, bhikshus, one does not pursue the past.

Let go of the future

6 And how, bhikshus, does one hold fond hope for the future?

- (6) One seeks delight there thinking, 'May I have such form in the future.'⁸¹
 (7) One seeks delight there, thinking: 'May I have such feelings in the future.'
 (8) One seeks delight there, thinking: 'May I have such perception in the future.'
 (9) One seeks delight there, thinking: 'May I have such formations in the future.'
 (10) One seeks delight there, thinking: 'May I have such consciousness in the future.'

This is how, bhikshus, one holds fond hope of the future.

7 And how, bhikshus, does one *not* hold fond hope for the future?

- (6) One does *not* seek delight there, thinking, 'May I have such form in the future.'
 (7) One does *not* seek delight there, thinking: 'May I have such feelings in the future.'
 (8) One does *not* seek delight there, thinking: 'May I have such perception in the future.'
 (9) One does *not* seek delight there, thinking: 'May I have such formations in the future.'
 (10) One does *not* seek delight there, thinking: 'May I have such consciousness in the future.'

This is how, bhikshus, one does not hold fond hope of the future.

Let go of the present

8 And how, bhikshus, is one defeated⁸² by each present state as it arises?

(11) Here, bhikshus, an untutored ordinary person⁸³
who sees not the noble ones, unskilled in the way of the noble ones,

⁸⁰ *Eva, rūpo ahoṣim atītaṃ addhānan'ti tattha nandati na samanvāneti.* Comy glosses *samanvāneti* with *anupavatteti*, "he keeps moving on after (pursuing)" (MA 5:3). Bodhi says that the Pali syntax allows the sentence here to mean that either (1) one thinks, "I had such form in the past," yet does not find delight in that thought; or (2) that one does not find delight in the past by thinking such a thought. Horner (M:H), Ñāṇananda (*Ideal Solitude*) and Ñāṇamoli (MS) construe the sentence following (1), which Bodhi followed in the 1st ed of M:ÑB, but "on reconsideration, I now believe that the second interpretation is more true to the intention of the text. This also ties in better with the stanzas themselves, which enjoin the disciple not to dwell in the past and future but to contemplate 'each presently arisen state' just as it presents itself" (M:ÑB 1344 n1216). This tr tries to reflect the lack of delight *both* in the contemplation itself and in the arisen thought.

⁸¹ *Eva, rūpo siyaṃ anāgatam addhānan ti tattha nandim samanvāneti.*

⁸² "Is defeated by" (*samhīrati*), or "is moved, distracted by," passive of *samharati*, "he gathers together." The vb, *samhīrati*, here and in the next para, refers back to the line in the verse, *asamhīram asaṅkuppam* ("invincible, unshakable"). Comy says: "One is defeated by craving and views because of the lack of insight." (MA 5:4).

⁸³ "Ignorant ordinary person," *assutava puthujjana*. See Intro (3).

untrained in the way of the noble ones,⁸⁴ undisciplined in their Dharma,
 who sees not the true individuals, unskilled in the way of the true individual,⁸⁵
 untrained in the way of the true individual

8.2 regards **form** as self, or self as possessed of form, or form as in self, or self as in form.⁸⁶

(12) He regards **feeling** as self, or self as possessed of feeling, or feeling as in self, or self as in feeling.

(13) He regards **perception** as self, or self as possessed of perception, or perception as in self, or self as in perception.

(14) He regards **formations** as self, or self as possessed of formations, or formations as in self, or self as in formations.

(15) He regards **consciousness** as self, or self as possessed of consciousness, or consciousness as in self, or self as in consciousness.

This is how, bhikshus, one is defeated [dragged along] by each present state as it arises.

9 And how, bhikshus, is one *undefeated* by each present state as it arises?

(11) Here, bhikshus, a tutored [well-taught] noble disciple⁸⁷
 who sees the noble ones, skilled in the way of the noble ones,
 trained in the way of the noble ones, disciplined in their Dharma,
 who sees the true individuals, skilled in the way of the true individual,
 trained in the way of the true individual, disciplined in their Dharma,

9.2 does *not* regard **form** as self,
 nor self as possessed of form,
 nor form as in self,
 nor self as in form.

(12) He does *not* regard **feeling** as self,
 nor self as possessed of feeling,
 nor feeling as in self,
 nor self as in feeling.

(13) He does *not* regard **perception** as self,
 nor self as possessed of perception,
 nor perception as in self,
 nor self as in perception.

(14) He does *not* regard **formations** as self,
 nor self as possessed of formations,
 nor formations as in self,
 nor self as in formations.

⁸⁴ "The noble ones," *ariya*, that is, Buddhas, Pratyeka Buddhas, and the saints of the path. See foll n.

⁸⁵ "True individual," *sappurisa*, also "true individual," "virtuous person," "ideal person," The term usu refers to a Pratyeka Buddha or a saint (SA 2:251). In **Mūla,pariyāya S** (M 1.3/1:1), the Buddhas alone are regarded as the "noble ones" (MA 1:21, 24; Nc 76; DhsA 349). On a worldly level, virtuous disciples such as those who respect their parents are also called "true individuals" (AA 3:251). The qualities of a *sappurisa* are given at D 33,2.2(6)/3:252, 34,1.8(7)/3:283; M 113; A 7.64/4:113, 8:38/4:144 f & at M 110,14-24/3:23 f.

⁸⁶ On these 4 self-identity views, see Intro (4) & SD 53.5.

⁸⁷ "A tutored noble disciple," *sutavā ariya, sāvako*.

- (15) He does *not* regard **consciousness** as self,
 nor self as possessed of consciousness,
 nor consciousness as in self,
 nor self as in consciousness.

This is how, bhikshus, one is undefeated by each present state as it arises.”

Conclusion [§3]

- 10** Let one not pursue [not dwell on] the past,
 nor hold fond hope for the future.
 For what is past has passed away,
 and the future has not yet come.
- 11** Only this present state
 as it arises, one sees that with insight;
 invincible, unshakable,
 having known that, let one devote oneself to it,
- 12** Work at the task this very day!
 Who knows, death would come tomorrow?
 For, there is no bargaining whatsoever
 with death’s great horde.
- 13** One who dwells thus ardently,
 relentlessly, day and night—
 he is *bhaddeka,ratta* [one who delights in
 the auspicious oneness (of mind)],
 says the peaceful sage.

14 So it was in reference to this that it is said,
 ‘Bhikshus, I will teach you the summary and analysis of *bhadd’eka,ratta* [the one who delights in the
 auspicious oneness (of mind)].” [1]

The Blessed One said this. Satisfied, the monks rejoiced⁸⁸ in the Blessed One’s word.

— evaṃ —

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⁸⁸ “Joyfully approved,” *attamanā ... abhinandurū*.