

Settling Disputes

I. Confession and Forgiveness (SN 11:24)

Once two monks had a quarrel and one monk had transgressed against the other. Then the former monk confessed his transgression to the other monk, but the latter would not pardon him.

Then a number of monks approached the Blessed One and reported what had happened. The Blessed One said:

“Monks, there are two kinds of fools: one who does not see a transgression as a transgression; and one who, when another is confessing a transgression, does not pardon him. These are the two kinds of fools.

“There are, monks, two kinds of wise people: one who sees a transgression as a transgression; and one who, when another is confessing a transgression, pardons him. These are the two kinds of wise people.

“Once in the past, monks, Sakka, lord of the devas, instructing the Tāvātimsa devas in the Sudhamma assembly hall, on that occasion recited this verse:

“Bring anger under your control;
Do not let your friendships decay.
Do not blame one who is blameless;
Do not utter divisive speech.
Like a mountain avalanche
Anger crushes evil people.”