0.0.1 Elder

0. Source: Savatthi.

1. Endowed with five attributes, O bhikkhus, an elder bhikkhu is one who has entered upon the path for the non-welfare of many people, for the unhappiness of many people, for the non-benefit of many people, for the suffering of devas and humans. With which five?

2. "An elder is one of long standing, one long gone forth. He is well-known, a celebrity of householders and those gone forth, one who has a retinue of many people. He is a gainer of robes, almsfood, lodgings, medicines and provisions that are necessities for the sick. He is well-learned, bearer of what he has heard, one who accumulates what he has heard, those dhammas which are auspicious in the beginning, auspicious in the middle, auspicious in the end, with the correct meaning and phrasing, [which] proclaim the life of purity that is utterly complete and pure, such dhammas he has heard much of, borne in mind, recited verbally, accumulated, and carefully considered mentally. He has not penetrated [those dhammas] by view, being one of mistaken view and distorted vision.

3. Having turned away many people from the true Dhamma, he causes to establish [them] in the untrue Dhamma. Seeing, truly is he, an elder bhikkhu of long standing, one long gone forth, they set about imitating

him. Seeing, truly is he, a well-known elder bhikkhu, a celebrity of householders and those gone forth, one who has a retinue of many people, they set about imitating him. Seeing, truly is he, an elder bhikkhu who is a gainer of robes, almsfood, lodgings, medicines and provisions that are necessities for the sick, they set about imitating him. Seeing, truly is he, a well-learned elder bhikkhu, a bearer of what he has heard, one who accumulates what he has heard, they set about imitating him.

4. Endowed with these five attributes, O bhikkhus, an elder bhikkhu is ever one who has entered upon the path for the non-welfare of many people, for the unhappiness of many people, for the non-benefit of many people, for the suffering of devas and humans."

5. Endowed with five attributes, O bhikkhus, an elder bhikkhu is one who has entered upon the path for the welfare of many people, for the happiness of many people, for the benefit of many people, for the happiness of devas and humans. With which five?

6. "An elder is one of long standing, one long gone forth. He is well-known, a celebrity of householders and those gone forth, one who has a retinue of many people. He is a gainer of robes, almsfood, lodgings, medicines and provisions that are necessities for the sick. He is well-learned, bearer of what he has heard, one who accumulates what he has heard, those dhammas which

are auspicious in the beginning, auspicious in the middle, auspicious in the end, with the correct meaning and phrasing, [which] proclaim the life of purity that is utterly complete and pure, such dhammas he has heard much of, borne in mind, recited verbally, accumulated, and carefully considered mentally. He has penetrated [those dhammas] well by view, being one of correct view and undistorted vision.

7. Having turned away many people from the untrue Dhamma, he causes to establish [them] in the true Dhamma. Seeing, truly is he, an elder bhikkhu of long standing, one long gone forth, they set about imitating him. Seeing, truly is he, a well-known elder bhikkhu, a celebrity of householders and those gone forth, one who has a retinue of many people, they set about imitating him. Seeing, truly is he, an elder bhikkhu who is a gainer of robes, almsfood, lodgings, medicines and provisions that are necessities for the sick, they set about imitating him. Seeing, truly is he, a well-learned elder bhikkhu, a bearer of what he has heard, one who accumulates what he has heard, they set about imitating him.

8. Endowed with these five attributes, O bhikkhus, an elder bhikkhu is ever one who has entered upon the path for the welfare of many people, for the happiness of many people, for the benefit of many people, for the happiness of devas and humans."