0.0.1 Hole

1. “Just as, O bhikkhus, a man would throw into the great ocean one hole yoke. There, a blind turtle would rise out of water once every hundred years. What do you think, O bhikkhus? Would that blind turtle coming out of the water once every hundred years put its neck through that one hole yoke?” “Surely, O Bhante, if [so, it would be] at some time or other after a long lapse of time.”

2. More quickly, O bhikkhus, would that blind turtle coming out of the water once every hundred years put its neck through that one hole yoke than a fool would regain the human state once gone to the woeful plane, I say.

3. What is the reason for that? [Because] here, O bhikkhus, there is surely not the observance of righteousness, of making merits. Here, O bhikkhus, goes on the eating or devouring of each other, the devouring of the weak. What is the reason for that? [Because of] the non-seeingness, O bhikkhus, of the four noble truths. Which four? The noble truth of suffering, the noble truth of the arising of suffering, the noble truth of the cessation of suffering, the noble truth of the path leading to the cessation of suffering.

4. Therefore, O bhikkhus, an endeavour should be made [to realize]: “This is suffering.” An endeavour should be made [to realize]: “This is the origination of suffering.” An endeavour should be made [to realize]: “This is the cessation of suffering.” An endeavour should be made [to realize]: “This is the path leading to the cessation of suffering.”