

Anguttara Nikaya V.38

Saddha Sutta

Conviction

Translated from the Pali by Thanissaro Bhikkhu.
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Introduction– Saddha is a very common word it means Faith. Buddha has a Sutta composed for lay people. A person of virtue and compassion is like a tree that could accept many thousands of birds to find shade and food.

Saddha Sutta

"For a *lay person*, there are these five rewards of conviction. Which five?

1. "*When the truly good people in the world show compassion, they will first show compassion to people of conviction, and not to people without conviction.*
2. *When visiting*, they first visit people of conviction, and not people without conviction.
3. *When accepting gifts*, they will first accept those from people with conviction, and not from people without conviction.
4. *When teaching the Dhamma*, they will first teach those with conviction, and not those without conviction.
5. *A person of conviction*, on the break-up of the body, after death, *will arise in a good destination, the heavenly world.* For a lay person, these are the five rewards of conviction.

"Just as a large banyan tree, on level ground where four roads meet, is a haven for the birds all around, even so a lay person of conviction is a haven for many people: monks, nuns, male lay followers, & female lay followers."

*A massive tree
whose branches carry fruits & leaves,
with trunks & roots
& an abundance of fruits:*

There the birds find rest.

*In that delightful sphere
they make their home.
Those seeking shade
come to the shade,
those seeking fruit
find fruit to eat.*

*So with the person consummate
in virtue & conviction,
humble, sensitive, gentle,
delightful, & mild:
To him come those without effluent --
free from passion,
free from aversion,
free from delusion --
the field of merit for the world.*

*They teach him the Dhamma
that dispels all stress.
And when he understands,
he is freed from effluents,

totally unbound.*

Sadhu, Sadhu, Sadhu