

Chapter Notes for Chapter 22: Action and Stillness

Tathagatas delight in empty dwelling places. Vinaya, Culavagga, chap. 6. [Vin ii.146–47].

The most complete explanation of *satipatthana* occurs in Digha Nikaya, Mahasatipatthana Sutta (sutta 22). [D ii.290]

“Fulfil all your duties...” Bhagavad Gita III, 8, 9.

Magha Puja is a day in the Buddhist calendar that commemorates the spontaneous gathering of 1,250 enlightened disciples at the Buddha’s dwelling place in the Bamboo Grove. At that gathering, the Buddha gave a brief exhortation on the standards and references of his Dhamma (Ovada-Patimokkha):

*To refrain from harmful speech or action,
to have self control according to the Patimokkha,
to know what is sufficient in taking food,
to dwell in a place of seclusion,
to make efforts to practise with a pure heart:
these are the teachings of all Buddhas.*

Digha Nikaya, Mahapadana Sutta (sutta 14) [D ii.50], and Dhammapada, verses 183–85. [Dhp 183–85]

Raven-Hart (1956), who made a pilgrimage five years after Indian independence, describes Savatthi as bare and open. So the tree planting probably dates from the restoration of the holy places in 1956 to commemorate the 2,500-year anniversary of the Buddha’s enlightenment. The gardens at Kushinagar must have been laid out then, too, and by the same person, as they were done equally well. As both sites are in Uttar Pradesh, and as the Bihar sites are unplanted, it points to the designer working for the U.P. state government. Whoever it was, we really enjoyed their work.

The prison organisation Anguilimala was founded and is led by an English bhikkhu, Ven. Khemadhammo, also a disciple of Ajahn Chah in the Thai forest tradition. He is based at: The Forest Hermitage,

Lower Fulbrook, near Sherbourne, Warwickshire, CV38 8AS,
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References:

Raven-Hart, R. *Where the Buddha Trod: A Buddhist Pilgrimage*.
Colombo: Lake House, 1956.