

Anguttara Nikaya 3:76. Existence

Then the Venerable finanda approached the Blessed One, paid homage, and said to him: "Bhante, it is said: 'existence, existence.' In what way, bhante, is there existence?"

(1) "If, finanda, there were no kamma ripening in the sense-sphere realm, would sense-sphere existence be discerned?" -- "No, bhante." -- "Thus, finanda, for beings hindered by ignorance and fettered by craving, kamma is the field, consciousness the seed, and craving the moisture for their consciousness to be established in an inferior realm. In this way there is the production of renewed existence in the future.

(2) "If, finanda, there were no kamma ripening in the form-sphere realm, would form-sphere existence be discerned?" -- "No, bhante." -- "Thus, finanda, for beings hindered by ignorance and fettered by craving, kamma is the field, consciousness the seed, and craving the moisture for their consciousness to be established in a middling realm. In this way there is the production of renewed existence in the future.

(3) "If, finanda, there were no kamma ripening in the formless-sphere realm, would formless-sphere existence be discerned?" -- "No, bhante." -- "Thus, finanda, for beings hindered by ignorance and fettered by craving, kamma is the field, consciousness the seed, and craving the moisture for their consciousness to be established in a superior realm. In this way there is the production of renewed existence in the future.

"It is in this way, finanda, that there is existence."