

(d) Regarding how to fully know the *four noble truths*, there is a disagreement between the two versions. SN 56. 30 (no SA counterpart) says that whoever sees (passati) one of the *four noble truths* also sees the rest of them.<sup>115</sup> By contrast, SA 435-437 say that one must first fully know the *noble truth of suffering*, and then come to fully know the rest of them in order; they also say that one must come to fully know the *four noble truths* in sequence, step by step.<sup>116</sup> SA 435 has no SN counterpart. The counterpart of SA 436-437 is SN 56. 44, but it states only that by fully knowing the *four noble truths*, one will make a complete end of suffering.<sup>117</sup> Thus, the SN tradition indicates here that to know one of the *four noble truths* is to know the rest of them as well, whereas the SA tradition indicates that the *four* must be known in sequence.

(e) There are discourses in both versions of the saṃyukta that mention the teaching of *the middle way* (majjhimā paṭipadā)<sup>118</sup> in connection with the *four noble truths*, namely SN 56. 11 (but not its counterpart SA 379), and SN 56. 8 = SA 408.<sup>119</sup>

### Conclusion

This chapter has examined the main teachings contained in the Māha-Vagga of SN and its counterpart Dao-pin Song (道品誦) of SA. It has covered seven saṃyuktas corresponding to the bodhipakkhiyā dhammā, followed by a further four saṃyuktas on related topics. The comparison has revealed that, while most of the main teachings are shared, there do exist some unshared elements, which may reflect sectarian differences. The principal unshared elements between the two versions are as follows.

- The terms “great vehicle” (mahāyāna) and “bodhicitta” are found in SA 769 and SA 659 respectively, but not in their SN counterparts, SN 45. 4 and SN 48. 50 – see sections (1) and (4).

- In references to the *seven factors of enlightenment* some disagreements exist, though these possibly do not represent any significant sectarian division – see section (2).

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115 SN v, pp. 436-437.

116 T 2, pp. 112c-113b (CSA ii, pp. 148-150).

117 SN v, pp. 452-453.

118 SN v, p. 421.

119 SN v, pp. 421, 418; T 2, p. 109a-b (CSA ii, p. 132); SA 379, the counterpart of SN 56. 11-12, makes no mention of *the middle way* (T 2, pp. 103c-104a; CSA ii, p. 107).