

## Wait for it to Change

Hi everyone, this is Nancy. Today is Jan. 8th, 2022. How are you doing. Oftentimes in life, we may have to wait. Things change while we wait. If we hurry to do something when the timing is not right and the condition is not ripe, all our efforts may be counterproductive. Today, I would like to share with you a Buddha's story and let's absorb some wisdom from it.

One day, the Buddha was traveling through a forest with his disciple Ananda. It was a hot day and he was thirsty. He said to Ananda, "We just passed by a river. You go back to the river and get us some water."

Ananda went back to the river. The river was small and a cargo cart just crossed it. The mud at the bottom of the river was stirred up and the water became turbid. Ananda thought, "The water is dirty and not drinkable." So he went back and said to the Buddha, "The river water is completely muddy and not drinkable. Please allow me to go to another river which is about a mile away to get some."

The Buddha replied, "You don't have to another place. Go back to the river." As the Buddha said so, Anada had to follow the words though he was reluctant to do so. He believed that the water was not potable and it would just be a waste of time. But since he was also thirsty , he did what the Buddha said. Shortly after, he returned again with no water. He asked the Buddha, "Buddha, you insisted me going there. Is there anything I can do to make the water clear?"

The Buddha said, "There is nothing you need to do. Otherwise, it would be more cloudy. Also, don't step into the river. Just wait there. The river will clear up itself." Since the Buddha said that, Ananda had to do it again.

When he arrived at the river the third time, surprisingly, the river was clean and clear like before. The mud was gone, and the leaves disappeared. Ananda smiled. He filled the water bottle and danced back happily. He paid homage to the Buddha and said, "Buddha, your teaching is extraordinary. You just gave me an important lesson: Everything is impermanent and sometimes what is needed is just a bit patience."

Amitabha! This is today's Dharma share. Everything is changing and nothing is permanent. Sometimes, many times, we just have to wait. Being able to wait patiently and unconditionally is itself a transformation. When the water was clearing up, ananda was also growing and changing. Do you agree? Thank you everyone for being here. I will see you next time. Bye.