So, this topic of the Four Noble Truths that has different interpretations, different understandings, different applications of this basic teaching is a teaching that does lead to realization to awakening, describes a process for that. And in that process of becoming awake or that the result sometimes is called vijjā in Pali, knowledge, some translators call it true knowledge. That there's an awakening, there's an understanding, there's a knowledge and knowing. Some people translate, use the term direct knowing, that direct experiencing of something that's really see something clearly with becoming free. And then there is a whole chapter of teachings by the Buddha about the Eightfold Path. And the very first sutta in there begins by saying that with someone who has this awakened knowledge, who's really let go deeply, that right view will spring up or the right view will emerge out of that. It doesn't say that someone with you know enlightened awareness, then thinks about right view or adopts right view, or understands right view, rather it emerges, it appears and then it goes on to say if someone has right view, then right intention springs up, springs up is Bhikkhu Bodhi’s translation. Someone with right intention, right actions springs up. With right action right speech springs up. With the right speech right livelihood springs up. With right livelihood, right effort springs up. With right effort, right mindfulness springs up. And right mindfulness, right concentration springs up. It's, you know, it's a very significant that they repeat this word springs up over and over again. It's not an action a person does. It's not like this is what we have to do. It's rather a result of what happens when we let go deeply, really deeply. We let go into something really good. Something here emerges. And one of the things that emerges is the Eightfold Path, it springs up in a person. And, and as I said yesterday, it's we become the Eightfold Path. The Eightfold path is not something we do. The eightfold path is what we are when we've done the work of practice, when we've deep the deep down into the practice and we become the Eightfold Path in a certain way. And so some of this may be it's interesting to look at the word right. That right. Many people in English have some trouble with the word right. And it's a translation of a word, sammā in Pali, samyānic in Sanskrit. And I don't know how much to make of this, but if you look in the Pali
dictionary, there are two definitions for sammā is right or proper, complete. And the other one is it's an instrument it's a, like a ladle or an instrument use the tool used for sacred rituals, not Buddhists, but in pre Buddhist kind of religions, and I suspect that this word sammā has very rich religious connotations in ancient India, that is lost by the English word, right. And, and, and so if you go look at, especially at the Sanskrit roots of the word as sammā, it means things like it means to come together, to gather together and to unite, or to come together and go in the same direction, to be unified and how it's going or how we're walking, to be unified and that and that lends itself to being understood as this coming together as being complete, as being entire. So it could be that it's the complete view or the unified view, the harmonious view. It's the view when all everything's comes together in harmony or everything comes together to be whole. So I like the I kind of like the, the idea of calling it complete view, in the sense that it's, everything is included now. So there's a completion, there's nothing left out. There's a wholeness in that process. There's a sacred kind of connection now, sacred kind of way of instrument of life. And we have become that sacred instrument. So, the word sammā is translated into English as right. You know, it's, it's a useful translation in some ways. If you think of it as the right tool for the job that you have to do, that maybe it's good, but it's much more limited the word right to probably the richness of the word sammā, especially when we realize that one of the primary associations with these eightfold path factors, right view and so forth is, is how a person has become when they're awakened. So there may be complete works better or full or unified or the harmonious view. When then right view is defined in many different ways in the suttas, teachings. And, and in fact, because there's so many different ways, the ancient texts will actually make a differentiation between the right view that it's mundane and that which is super mundane, or right view that's part of living a good life versus right view that has to do with becoming liberated. And the liberating one, right view, is defined as seeing suffering, the arising of suffering, the cessation of suffering, and the practice leading to the cessation of suffering or the practice walking the cessation of suffering. We don't really know quite how to understand the Pali and it gets more tricky to understand this when we realize we're talking not about a beginner's practice, the eightfold path going towards awakening, but what a person becomes when they are awakening awakened. And, and so we become the Eightfold Path, we enter the stream of the Eightfold Path, we get create and the current of the Eightfold Path. And so we're letting go into something that carries us into something that supports us and has us and, the deep cessation, the deep dropping away that goes on is not a loss, but it's a phenomenal gain. But it's not a gain that you could hold on to because then as soon as you, you know, close around the fist of the open hand and close around the fist, close, you know, close up to grab the open hand and make a fist, you've lost it. So it kind of doesn't go along with the usual way that many of us will operate and wanting and being. In many of the ways in which we have a self, the self identity, self views, we have is a kind of fisting up, a kind of contracting in and of itself. And this deep letting go it's kind of goes against the current of the usual way of being in the world and wanting and having something and being someone. The strong habit of in that direction. And, and to break that habit. And really begin to appreciate the openness, the absence and openness that comes with letting go and to have this so the experience of it's so present in one's heart or in one's being, they become a reference point that really begins to work on us and open us more. And we realize that this is the way forward, this is what's worthwhile. It's not worthwhile going back and clinging and holding. Let's explore this, let's
become wise in this whole experience of letting go. So here what we're seeing is, on one hand, we have these four liberating insights. We have suffering, the arising of suffering, the cessation of suffering, and the practice leading to cessation of suffering. Becoming associated with something called the Eightfold Path, the Eightfold Path that comes out of that experience and some places we actually have these five things associated in the suttas. Some of the poetry that they have, they have discussions about suffering, the rising suffering, the disappearance of suffering, the practice of leading to this spring suffering and the Eightfold Path. And so, there's a kind of the beginning kind of bringing these together, these two, and this bring them together, becomes kind of complete in a few of the teachings of the Buddha and I say few, where he said he were the fourth noble truth is explained or defined by the Noble Eightfold Path. And in this very famous discourse called the first sermon of the Buddha, he did does that there, he connects it there. And partly I you know, it's there because it's really this the when you really become the practice or realize the practice that goes with the cessation of suffering, it becomes almost one in the same, the Eightfold Path. So it's kind of coming together. And that coming together of those two has a kind of there's a kind of a wordplay that goes on. That's a little bit more confusing in English perhaps. And maybe I said this yesterday, but the word way. Usually, the fourth noble truth is described as defined as the way leading to the cessation of suffering. And the word way can also mean a road or a path. But the word way is translating a Pali word that means a method or a practice. And way can also mean a method or a practice that we do, a way to do something is a method. And so when we have this word in English, the way leading cessation of suffering and we have an association of this way, with the magga with a path, a full path, some people will without even thinking associated way with path as being one in the same thing. And therefore, the fourth noble truth becomes that Noble Eightfold Path, probably more accurate way of reading the ancient texts at least, is that the, the practice that leads to liberation is seeing the inconstancy, deep experience of inconstancy that allows us to let go and that that deep letting go becomes synonymous with now inhabiting or becoming the Eightfold Path and, and the Eightfold Path is naturally what we do, how we are. And this is a fascinating thing that we become this thing, that letting go allows us to be transformed. And it's a transformation that it's in the kind of modern English language we might want to consider is being an ethical transformation. The eightfold path has very deep ethical connotations, or associations or expressions, especially right action, right speech and right livelihood, but the other ones also do and they have a very deep interpersonal aspect to them. The eightfold path has a lot to do with how we live the life interpersonally and so now it's getting richer and richer, that this deep experience of letting go, deep experience letting go that leads to becoming the eightfold path, transforms how we live in the world and how we interact ethically with people, not because we're supposed to, but because we do. It's who we are. So tomorrow then I'll talk more about the Eightfold Path. And, it's a wonderful teaching and then the meantime just let go. Thank you.