AN 3.9 — Khata Sutta (Destroyed)

English translation by Bhikkhu Candana.

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Text

9. Khata Sutta (Destroyed) Bhikkhus, it is through acquiring and holding onto three traits that the inefficient, unfit, and untrained person keeps himself in a decrepit, crippled, destroyed and a flimsy state, placing himself in a position where he is rebuked and reprimanded by the wise, and thus he produces heaps of bad merits.

What are these three?

Physical wrongdoing, verbal wrongdoing, and mental wrongdoing.

By possessing these three traits, the inefficient, unfit, and untrained person keeps himself in a decrepit, crippled, destroyed and a flimsy state, placing himself in a position where he is rebuked and reprimanded by the wise, and thus he produces heaps of bad merits.

However, Bhikkhus, it is through acquiring and holding onto these other three traits that the effective, healthy, and well-trained person keeps himself in a capable, efficient, healthy and dexterous state, placing himself in a position where he stands blameless and commended by the wise, and thus he produces heaps of good merits.

And what are these three?

Physical good deeds, verbal good deeds, and mental good deeds.

By possessing these three traits, the effective, healthy, and well-trained person keeps himself in a capable, efficient, healthy and dexterous state, placing himself in a position whereby he stands blameless and commended by the wise, and thus he produces heaps of good merits.

Therefore, Bhikkhus, it is in this manner that you must train yourselves, by reflecting:

‘We will fully relinquish and abandon all those qualities that designate one as a fool, those qualities with which a fool is identified. And instead, we will continuously develop and cultivate within us those qualities that transform us into wise individuals, chiseling for ourselves those bright characteristic features that make one be recognized as truly skillful

and wise!’

It is in this manner, O Bhikkhus, that you must all train yourselves!