AN 9.12 — With Residue

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Source: https://suttacentral.net/an9.12/en/sujato
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Text

Numbered Discourses 9.12

2. The Lion's Roar

With Residue

At one time the Buddha was staying near Sāvatthī in Jeta's Grove, Anāthapiṇḍika's monastery.

Then Venerable Sāriputta robed up in the morning and, taking his bowl and robe, entered Sāvatthī for alms. Then it occurred to him, "It's too early to wander for alms in Sāvatthī. Why don't I visit the monastery for the wanderers of other religions?" Then he went to the monastery for the wanderers of other religions and exchanged greetings with the wanderers there. When the greetings and polite conversation were over, he sat down to one side.

Now at that time while those wanderers of other religions were sitting together this discussion came up among them:

"Reverends, no one who dies with residue is exempt from hell, the animal realm, or the ghost realm. They're not exempt from places of loss, bad places, the underworld."

Sāriputta neither approved nor rejected that statement of the wanderers of other religions. He rose from his seat, thinking, "I will learn the meaning of this statement from the Buddha himself."

Then Sāriputta wandered for alms in Sāvatthī. After the meal, on his return from almsround, he went to the Buddha, bowed, sat down to one side, and told him what had happened.

"Sāriputta, these foolish, incompetent wanderers following other religions: who are they to know whether someone has residue or not?

There are these nine individuals who, dying with residue, are exempt from hell, the animal realm, and the ghost realm. They're exempt from places of loss, bad places, the underworld. What nine?

There's an individual who has fulfilled ethics and immersion, but has limited wisdom. With the ending of the five lower fetters they're extinguished between one life and the next. This is the first individual …

Furthermore, there's an individual who has fulfilled ethics and immersion, but has limited wisdom. With the ending of the five lower fetters they're extinguished upon landing. This is the second individual …

With the ending of the five lower fetters they're extinguished without extra effort. This is the third individual …

With the ending of the five lower fetters they're extinguished with extra effort. This is the fourth individual …

With the ending of the five lower fetters they head upstream, going to the Akaniṭṭha realm. This is the fifth individual …

Furthermore, there's an individual who has fulfilled ethics, but has limited immersion and wisdom. With the ending of three fetters, and the weakening of greed, hate, and delusion, they're a once-returner. They come back to this world once only, then make an end of suffering. This is the sixth individual …

Furthermore, there's an individual who has fulfilled ethics, but has limited immersion and wisdom. With the ending of three fetters, they're a one-seeder. They will be reborn just one time in a human existence, then make an end of suffering. This is the seventh individual …

Furthermore, there's an individual who has fulfilled ethics, but has limited immersion and wisdom. With the ending of three fetters, they go from family to family. They will transmigrate between two or three families and then make an end of suffering. This is the eighth individual …

Furthermore, there's an individual who has fulfilled ethics, but has limited immersion and wisdom. With the ending of three fetters, they have at most seven rebirths. They will transmigrate at most seven times among gods and humans and then make an end of suffering. This is the ninth individual …

These foolish, incompetent wanderers following other religions: who are they to know whether someone has residue or not? These are the nine individuals who, dying with residue, are exempt from hell, the animal realm, and the ghost realm. They're exempt from places of loss, bad places, the underworld.

Up until now, Sāriputta, I have not felt the need to give this exposition of the teaching to the monks, nuns, laymen, and laywomen. Why is that? For I didn't want those who heard it to introduce negligence. However, I have spoken it in order to answer your question."