SN 7.7 — With Bhāradvāja the Pure

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
Source: https://suttacentral.net/sn7.7/en/sujato
Source revision: 3bc8665e0e28e70518eba94304a2fafcab80f933
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Text

Linked Discourses 7.7

1. The Perfected Ones

With Bhāradvāja the Pure

At Sāvatthī.

Then the brahmin Bhāradvāja the Pure went up to the Buddha, and exchanged greetings with him.

When the greetings and polite conversation were over, he sat down to one side, and spoke this verse in his presence:

“No brahmin in the world is ever purified

even though he’s ethical and mortifies himself.

But one accomplished in knowledge and conduct

is purified, not these other commoners.”

“Even one who mutters many prayers

is no brahmin by birth

if they’re filthy and corrupt within,

supporting themselves by fawning.

Regardless of whether you’re an aristocrat,

a brahmin, peasant, menial, or a corpse-worker or scavenger—

if you’re energetic and resolute,

always staunchly vigorous,

you’ll attain ultimate purity.

Know that for a fact, brahmin.”

When he had spoken, the brahmin Bhāradvāja the Pure said to the Buddha, “Excellent, worthy Gotama …” … And Venerable Bhāradvāja became one of the perfected.