

BOOK IX. EVIL, PĀPA VAGGA

IX. 1. THE BRAHMAN WITH A SINGLE ROBE¹

Let a man make haste to do good. This religious instruction was given by the Teacher while he was in residence at Jetavana with reference to the Brahman Little One-Robe, Culla Ekasāṭaka. [1]

For in the dispensation of the Buddha Vipassi lived a Brahman named Mahā Ekasāṭaka, and he it was who was reborn in the present dispensation in Sāvatti as One-Robe, Culla Ekasāṭaka. For Culla Ekasāṭaka possessed but a single undergarment, and his wife possessed but a single undergarment, and both of them together possessed but a single upper garment. The result was that, whenever either the Brahman or his wife went out of doors, the other had to stay at home. One day announcement was made that there would be preaching at the monastery. Said the Brahman to his wife, "Wife, announcement is made that there will be preaching at the monastery. Will you go to hear the Law by day or by night? For we have not enough upper garments between us to permit both of us to go together." The Brahman's wife replied, "Husband, I will go in the daytime." So saying, she put on the upper garment and went.

The Brahman spent the day at home. At night he went to the monastery, seated himself in front of the Teacher, and listened to the Law. As he listened to the Law, the five sorts of joy arose within him, suffusing his body. He greatly desired to do honor to the Teacher, but the following thought restrained him, "If I give this garment to the Teacher, there will be no upper garment left for my wife or me." A thousand selfish thoughts arose within him; then a single believing thought arose within him. [2] Then thought of self arose within him and overmastered the believing thought. Even so did the mighty thought of self seize, as it were, and bind and thrust out the believing thought. "I will give it! No, I will not give it!" said the Brahman to himself. As he thus reflected, the first watch passed and the second watch arrived. Even then he was not able to bring himself to give the

¹ This story is referred to at *Milīndapañha*, 115¹². Parallel in *Aṅguttara Commentary* (citation at *HOS.* 28. p. 51). Text: N iii. 1-5.