Iti 18 — Schism in the Saṅgha

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

So It Was Said 18

The Book of the Ones

Chapter Two

Schism in the Saṅgha

This was said by the Buddha, the Perfected One: that is what I heard.

“One thing, mendicants, arises in the world for the detriment and unhappiness of the people, against the people, for the harm, detriment, and suffering of gods and humans. What one thing? Schism in the Saṅgha. When the Saṅgha is split, they argue, insult, block, and forsake each other. This doesn’t inspire confidence in those without it, and it causes some with confidence to change their minds.”

The Buddha spoke this matter. On this it is said:

“A schismatic remains for the eon

in a place of loss, in hell.

Taking a stand against the teaching,

favoring factions, they ruin their sanctuary.

After causing schism in a harmonious Saṅgha,

they burn in hell for an eon.”

This too is a matter that was spoken by the Blessed One: that is what I heard.