Iti 42 — Bright Things

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

So It Was Said 42

The Book of the Twos

Chapter Two

Bright Things

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

“These two bright things, mendicants, protect the world. What two? Conscience and prudence. If these two bright things did not protect the world, there would be no recognition of the status of mother, aunts, or wives and partners of tutors and respected people. The world would become dissolute, like goats and sheep, chickens and pigs, and hounds and jackals. But because the two bright things protect the world, there is recognition of the status of mother, aunts, and wives and partners of tutors and respected people.”

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

“Those in whom conscience and prudence

are never found at all,

have lost their bright roots,

and fare on in birth and death.

Those in whom conscience and prudence

are always rightly established,

thrive in the spiritual life;

being at peace, they will not be reborn again.”

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