Thig 9.1 — Vaḍḍha’s Mother

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

Verses of the Senior Nuns 9.1

The Book of the Nines

Vaḍḍha’s Mother

“Vaḍḍha, please never ever
get snarled in the world.
My child, do not partake
in suffering again and again.
For happy dwell the sages, Vaḍḍha,
unstirred, their doubts cut off,
cooled and tamed,
and free of defilements.
Vaḍḍha, foster the path
that the seers have walked,
for the attainment of vision,
and for making an end of suffering.”
“Mother, you speak with such assurance
to me on this matter.
My dear mom, I can’t help thinking
that no snarls are found in you.”
“Vaḍḍha, not a jot or a skerrick
of snarl is found in me
for any conditions at all,
whether low, high, or middling.

All defilements are ended for me,
meditating and diligent.
I've attained the three knowledges
and fulfilled the Buddha's instructions."
"Oh so excellent was the goad
my mother spurred me with!
Owing to her compassion, she spoke
verses on the ultimate goal.
On hearing her words,
advised by my mother,
I was struck with righteous urgency
for the sake of sanctuary from the yoke.
Striving, resolute,
tireless all day and night,
urged on by my mother,
I realized supreme peace.