

Verses 135 to 141 continue the call to action of the altruistic verses 123-134 and introduce a new metaphor, that of the “three vestures,” which becomes a major expression of the call to action in the rest of the *Voice*.

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A. VERSES [135-141].

[135] Sow kindly acts and thou shalt reap their fruition. Inaction in a deed of mercy becomes an action in a deadly sin. Thus saith the Sage.

[136] Shalt thou abstain from action? Not so shall gain thy soul her freedom. To reach Nirvāṇa one must reach Self-knowledge, and Self-knowledge is of loving deeds the child.

[137] Have patience, candidate, as one who fears no failure, courts no success. Fix thy Soul's gaze upon the star whose ray thou art, the flaming star that shines within the lightless depths of ever-being, the boundless fields of the Unknown.

[138] Have perseverance as one who doth for evermore endure. Thy shadows live and vanish; that which in thee shall live forever, that which in thee *knows*, for it is knowledge, is not of fleeting life: it is the man that was, that is, and will be, for whom the hour shall never strike.

[139] If thou wouldst reap sweet peace and rest, disciple, sow with the seeds of merit the fields of future harvests. Accept the woes of birth.

[140] Step out from sunlight into shade, to make more room for others. The tears that water the parched soil of pain and sorrow bring forth the blossoms and fruits of Karmic retribution. Out of the furnace of man's life and its black smoke, winged flames arise, flames purified, that soaring onward, 'neath the Karmic eye, weave in the end the fabric glorified of the three vestures of the Path.

[141] These vestures are: *Nirmānakāya*, *Sambhogakāya*, and *Dharmakāya*, robe sublime.

B. COMMENT.

Verses 135 and 136 treat the subject of karma. The word *karma* means literally “action” but is generally understood as referring to the results that inevitably follow any action. And so verse 135 begins with a reminder that