

HONORING THE OKESA

TEN EXCELLENT MERITS OF THE OKESA --V--

● Listen carefully, Chiko Bhiksu,

The great field-of-happiness-robe has ten excellent merits ●

While worldly clothes increase defilement,
the Dharma Robe of the Tathāgata does not.

The Dharma Robe provides modesty, completes repentance,
and creates the rice field of happiness.

It protects you from cold, heat, and poisonous creatures
and strengthens your way-seeking mind
for attaining ultimate understanding.

Manifesting the form of a mendicant home-leaver,
it frees people from greed and desire, cuts off five wrong views,
and helps you to hold correct practice.

By revering and bowing to the the sacred banner Kashāya,
you will have the happiness of King Brahma.

When a Buddha child wears the Kashāya a vision of a stupa arises,
creating happiness, eliminating unwholesomeness,
and joining humans and devas.

The noble form of the Kashāya arouses respect
in a true seeker who is free from worldly dust.

All Buddhas praise it as an excellent field
most beneficial to sentient beings.

The inconceivable miraculous power of the Kashāya
nurtures practice for enlightenment. ●

The sprout of practice grows in the spring field,
The splendid fruit of enlightenment is like a harvest in autumn.
The Kashāya is true armor, impenetrable as diamond,
the deadly arrows of delusion cannot pierce it. ●

I have now recited the ten excellent merits of the Kashāya.
For eons, more comments could be made, but I'll say this:

A dragon who wears even a shred of Kashāya
can't be devoured by a gold-winged garuda.

A person who holds a kashāya while crossing the ocean
Will not fear dragons, fish, or harmful beings.

Lightning and thunder, heaven's wrath,
will not frighten a monk who wears kashāya.

When a lay person carries a kashāya with respect,
no evil spirits draw near.

When one arouses beginner's mind, ●
leaves home and worldly affairs to practice the Way, ●

Demon Palaces in the ten directions will tremble
and such a person will immediately realize the Dharma King's body. ▲

EKO

May we awaken the three minds of kindness, joy and magnanimity,
and may all awakened beings manifest their luminous mirror wisdom
through the Three Treasures.

Having Chanted the Ten Excellent Merits of the Okesa,
we dedicate this merit to: ● *[all standing bow to altar]*

Our great founding teacher, Shakyamuni Buddha;

Great teacher Ananda, first maker of Buddha's Robe;

Great teacher Bodhidharma, who brought Buddha's robe to China;

Great teacher Eihei Dōgen, disseminator of the Dharma Robe in Japan;

Jiun Onko, who envisioned the sewing of one thousand Nyoho-e;

Kōdō Sawaki and Ekō Hashimoto, 20th century revivers of our dharma
sewing tradition;

Echū Kyūma, preserver of dharma sewing instructions;

Eshun Yoshida and Jōshin Kasai, who brought sacred sewing to America;

Myōju Watanabe, who helped enable our continuing sewing practice in
Sanshin's lineage;

