

WAGESA

The Wagesa (輪袈裟), or what is called Buddhist stole, is a strip of cloth about two feet long and three inches wide. This cloth is symbolic of the full Buddha robe. It is intended to show one's devotion to practice and following Buddhist teachings. By wearing the Wagesa one is showing dedication to mindfulness practice.

The origins of the Wagesa lie in the clothes of the historical Buddha. It is said that the Buddha wore the same set of clothing for the six years as he meditated and practiced before reaching enlightenment. Thus, his clothes became full of holes and ragged. Hence, it has become a tradition, that monks take old, ratty clothes and repair them for use, so they may get closer to the heart of the Buddha. This Buddha robe, called Kesa (袈裟), was then downsized repeatedly until only the two-inch wide Wagesa remained.