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…As a new dress grows old with time, loses its bright color, becomes stained and creased, the hems frayed, and here and there weak and threadbare places, so had Siddhartha’s new life which he had begun after his parting from Govinda, become old. In the same way it lost its color and sheen with the passing of the years: creases and stains accumulated, and hidden in the depths, here and there already appearing, waited disillusionment and nausea. (63)

This piece of narration comes about after Siddhartha has lived a life of great wealth to the point that he is about forty. Siddhartha had asked the merchant, Kamasawami, to essentially take care of him. Siddhartha assists the merchant in his finances. Siddhartha essentially lives this very wealthy life for over two decades.

The dress is a metaphor for the weariness that Siddhartha feels about his life of luxury. The first part of the quote states, "As the new dress grows old with time, loses its bright color, becomes stained and creased, the hems frayed, and here and there weak and threadbare places, so had Siddhartha's new life which he had begun after his parting from Govinda." The dress is basically being worn out, and has grown old, like Siddhartha. The dress itself is a metaphor for Siddhartha. When the dress "loses its bright color," Hesse references how at one point, Siddhartha thought that his life rooted in worldly pleasures with Kamala offering him her personal teachings would be a good life. This life required indulging in worldly pleasures, mainly money. Siddhartha achieves this by working and living with Kamasawami. However, this life did not satisfy Siddhartha's Samana self. There was not enough enrichment of the soul. This goes on for over two decades, which is why Siddhartha grows tired of it.

The second part of the quote, "In the same way it lost its color and sheen with the passing of the years: creases and stains accumulated and hidden in the depths, here and there already appearing, waited disillusionment and nausea," displays foreshadowing of future events. When Siddhartha leaves the town after having an epiphany, and enters the forest. He journeys to a nearby river. Siddhartha himself describes the way he feels as nauseous. This nausea is so strong it drives Siddhartha into nearly committing suicide.