THE PALIVERSE PROJECT

The Universe of Buddha's Wisdom

The Triple Canon (Tipiṭaka)

1. The Canon of Discourses (1. Sutta Piṭaka)

3. The Collection of the Connected Discourses
(3. Saṃyutta Nikāya)

2. The Book of Causation (2. Nidānavaggo)

1. The First Chapter (1. Paṭhamavaggo)

[SN 19.1-10, PTS 2.255-2.258]

3. The Collection of the Connected Discourses

2. The Book of Causation

1. The First Chapter

1. The Discourse on Bones

202. Thus have I heard. On one occasion the Blessed One was dwelling at Rājagaha in the Bamboo Grove, the Squirrels' Feeding Ground. Now at that time the venerable Lakkhaṇa and the venerable Mahāmoggallāna were dwelling on the Mount Vulture Peak. Then the venerable Mahāmoggallāna, having dressed in the earlier period of the day, taking his bowl and robe, approached the venerable Lakkhaṇa; having approached, he said this to the venerable Lakkhaṇa - "Come, friend Lakkhaṇa, let us enter Rājagaha for almsfood." "Yes, friend!" the venerable Lakkhaṇa replied to the venerable Mahāmoggallāna. Then the venerable Mahāmoggallāna, descending from the Mount Vulture Peak, manifested a smile at a certain spot. Then the venerable Lakkhaṇa said this to the venerable Mahāmoggallāna - "What now, friend Moggallāna, is the cause, what is the condition for the manifestation of a smile?" "It is not the right time, friend Lakkhaṇa, for this question. Ask me this question in the Blessed One’s presence."

Then the venerable Lakkhaṇa and the venerable Mahāmoggallāna, having walked for almsfood in Rājagaha, after the meal, having returned from their alms round, approached the Blessed One; having approached, they paid respect to the Blessed One and sat down to one side. Seated to one side, the venerable Lakkhaṇa said this to the venerable Mahāmoggallāna - "Here the venerable Mahāmoggallāna, descending from the Mount Vulture Peak, manifested a smile at a certain spot. What now, friend Moggallāna, is the cause, what is the condition for the manifestation of a smile?"

"Here I, friend, descending from the Mount Vulture Peak, saw a skeleton going through the sky. Vultures, crows, and hawks, having pursued and pursued it, were pecking at it, tearing at it, and pulling it apart between the ribs. It was making a cry of distress. This occurred to me, friend - 'Wonderful indeed, friend, marvellous indeed, friend! There will be such a being! There will be such a demon! There will be such an acquisition of individual existence!'"

Then the Blessed One addressed the monks: "Disciples indeed dwell possessing vision, monks; disciples indeed dwell possessing knowledge, monks, since a disciple will know or see or bear witness to such a thing. That being was seen by me before, monks, but I did not explain. If I had explained this, others would not have believed me. Those who would not believe me, that would be for their harm and suffering for a long time. That being, monks, was a cattle butcher in this very Rājagaha.By the result of that action, having been tormented in hell for many years, for many hundreds of years, for many thousands of years, for many hundreds of thousands of years, by the remainder of the result of that very action, he experiences such an acquisition of individual existence." The first.

2. The Discourse on a Slice of Flesh

203. "Here I, friend, descending from the Mount Vulture Peak, saw a slice of flesh going through the sky. Vultures, crows, and hawks, having pursued and pursued it, were tearing at it and pulling it apart. It was making a cry of distress... etc.That being, monks, was a cattle butcher in this very Rājagaha... etc. The second.

3. The Discourse on Almsfood

204. "Here I, friend, descending from the Mount Vulture Peak, saw a lump of meat going through the sky. Vultures, crows, and hawks, having pursued and pursued it, were tearing at it and pulling it apart. It was making a cry of distress... etc.That being, monks, was a fowler in this very Rājagaha... etc. The third.

4. The Discourse on Flayed Skin

205. "Here I, friend, descending from the Mount Vulture Peak, saw a skinless man going through the sky. Vultures, crows, and hawks, having pursued and pursued it, were tearing at it and pulling it apart. He was making a cry of distress... etc.That being, monks, was a sheep-butcher in this very Rājagaha... etc. The fourth.

5. The Discourse on Sword-Hairs

206. "Here I, friend, descending from the Mount Vulture Peak, saw a sword-haired man going through the sky. Those swords, having flown up again and again, fell upon his very body. He was making a cry of distress... etc.That being, monks, was a pig-butcher in this very Rājagaha... etc. The fifth.

6. The Discourse on a Sword

207. "Here I, friend, descending from the Mount Vulture Peak, saw a man with spears for hair going through the sky. Those spears, having flown up again and again, fell upon his very body. He was making a cry of distress... etc.That being, monks, was a deer-hunter in this very Rājagaha... etc. The sixth.

7. The Discourse on Arrow-Hair

208. "Here I, friend, descending from the Mount Vulture Peak, saw a man with arrow-hairs going through the sky. Those arrows, having flown up again and again, fell upon his very body. He was making a cry of distress... etc.That being, monks, was a torturer in this very Rājagaha... etc. The seventh.

8. The Discourse on Sūciloma

209. "Here I, friend, descending from the Mount Vulture Peak, saw a man with needle-like hair going through the sky. Those needles, having flown up again and again, fell upon his very body. He was making a cry of distress... etc.That being, monks, was a charioteer in this very Rājagaha... etc. The eighth.

9. The Second Discourse on Needle-Hair

210. "Here I, friend, descending from the Mount Vulture Peak, saw a man with needle-like hair going through the sky. Those needles, having entered his head, come out from his mouth; having entered his mouth, they come out from his chest; having entered his chest, they come out from his belly; having entered his belly, they come

out from his thighs; having entered his thighs, they come out from his calves; having entered his calves, they come out from his feet; he was making a cry of distress... etc. That being, monks, was an informer in this very Rājagaha... etc. The ninth.

10. The Discourse on Kumbhaṇḍa

211. "Here I, friend, descending from the Mount Vulture Peak, saw a testicle-man going through the sky. Even while going, he goes having placed those very testicles on his shoulder. Even while sitting, he sits on those very testicles. Vultures, crows, and hawks, having pursued and pursued it, were tearing at it and pulling it apart. He was making a cry of distress... etc. That being, monks, was a village fraudster in this very Rājagaha... etc. The tenth.

The first chapter.

Its summary:

> Bone, lump of flesh, both cattle butchers,
> Almsfood, fowler, skinless one, sheep-butcher;
> Sword, pig-butcher, spear, cow,
> Arrow, torturer, needle, charioteer;
> And whoever is being sewn, he is the informer,
> Testicle-bearer was the village fraudster.

ABOUT THIS TRANSLATION

This translation is part of the PaliVerse Project - the first complete, unified English translation of the Pāli Canon together with its Commentaries (Aṭṭhakathā) and Subcommentaries (Ṭīkā), accompanied by interactive study tools. PaliVerse is an ongoing project. The AI translations are continuously improved through experts' revisions and feedback. This text is the latest translation as of the date of download.

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