THE PALIVERSE PROJECT

The Universe of Buddha's Wisdom

The Triple Canon (Tipiṭaka)

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

5. The Collection of Minor Texts (5. Khuddaka Nikāya)

08. Verses of the Elder Monks (08. Theragāthāpāḷi)

1. The First Chapter (1. Paṭhamavaggo)

[Thag 2.1-10, PTS 17-19]

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

08. Verses of the Elder Monks

1. The First Chapter

1. Verses of the Elder Uttara

121. "There is no existence that is permanent, nor are activities eternal;
Those aggregates arise, and pass away again and again.

122. "Having known this danger, I am not desirous of existence;
Escaped from all sensual pleasures, the elimination of mental corruptions has been attained by me."

Thus the venerable Elder Uttara spoke these verses.

2. The Verses of the Elder Piṇḍola Bhāradvāja

123. "This life is not by calamity, nutriment is not near to the heart;
The body is sustained by nutriment, having seen thus, I practise the search.

124. "For they declared it to be mire, this salutation and veneration in families;
A subtle dart, difficult to remove, honour is hard to give up by a contemptible person."

Thus the venerable Elder Piṇḍolabhāradvāja spoke these verses.

3. Verses of the Elder Valli

125. "The monkey, having entered this hut with five doors,
Goes around from door to door, shaking again and again.

126. "Stop, monkey, do not run, for it is not for you as before;
You have been restrained by wisdom, you will not go far."

... The Elder Valliyo...

4. The Verses of the Elder Gaṅgātīriya

127. "My hut was made of three palm leaves, on the bank of the Ganges;
My bowl is like a vessel for pouring on a corpse, and my robe is a rag robe.

128. "During two rainy seasons, one word was spoken by me;
In the third rainy season, the mass of darkness was split open."

... The Elder Gaṅgātīriya...

5. The Verses of the Elder Ajina

129. "Even if one is a possessor of the threefold true knowledge, victorious over death, without mental corruptions;

'He is unknown,' the foolish despise him, not knowing.

130. "But whoever here is an obtainer of food and drink, a person;
Even if he is of bad character, he is honoured by them."

... The Elder Ajina...

6. The Verses of the Elder Meḷajina

131. "When I heard the teaching, of the Teacher who was speaking;
I directly know no uncertainty, in the Omniscient One, the Unconquered.

132. "In the caravan leader, the great hero, the excellent best among charioteers;
In the path or in the practice, uncertainty is not found in me."

... The Elder Meḷajina...

7. The Verses of the Elder Rādha

133. Just as rain penetrates a poorly thatched house,
So lust penetrates an undeveloped mind.

134. Just as rain does not penetrate a well-thatched house,
So lust does not penetrate a well-developed mind.

... The Elder Rādha...

8. The Verses of the Elder Surādha

135. "Birth has been eliminated for me indeed, the Conqueror's Dispensation has been lived;
What is termed the net has been abandoned, the conduit to existence has been uprooted.

136. "For the purpose of which I went forth, from the home life into homelessness;
That purpose has been attained by me, the elimination of all mental fetters."

... The Elder Surādha...

9. The Verses of the Elder Gotama

137. "Happily sleep the sages, who are not bound to women;
To those who must always be guarded, among whom truth is very difficult to find.

138. "We have practised your murder, O sensual pleasure, now we are free of debt to you;
Now we go to Nibbāna, where having gone one does not grieve."

... The Elder Gotama...

10. The Verses of the Elder Vasabha

139. "First he injures himself, afterwards he injures others;

He injures himself thoroughly, like a fowler with a decoy bird.

140. "A brahmin is not one of outer beauty, but one of inner beauty is a brahmin;
In whom there are evil deeds, he is indeed dark, O husband of Sujā."

... The Elder Vasabha...

The first chapter is concluded.

Its summary:

Uttara and Piṇḍola, Valliyo, Tīriyo the sage;
Ajina and Meḷajina, Rādha, Surādha, Gotama;
With Vasabha these are ten elder monks of great supernormal power.

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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