

THE PALIVERSE PROJECT

The Universe of Buddha's Wisdom

The Triple Canon (Tipiṭaka)

The Canon of Discourses (Sutta Piṭaka)

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

02. The Teaching in Verses (02. Dhammapadapāḷi)

11. The Chapter on Old Age (11. Jarāvaggo)

[Dhp 146-156, PTS 22-23]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

02. The Teaching in Verses

11. The Chapter on Old Age

- 146.** What laughter, what joy, when constantly ablaze?
Enveloped by darkness, why do you not seek a lamp?
- 147.** See this adorned image, a heap of sores, raised up;
Afflicted, the object of many thoughts, for which there is no stable duration.
- 148.** This body is worn out, a seat of disease, perishable;
This putrid body breaks up, for life has death as its end.
- 149.** These discarded bones, like gourds in autumn,
Dove-coloured - having seen them, what delight?
- 150.** A city made of bones, plastered with flesh and blood;
Where ageing and death, conceit and contempt are laid down.
- 151.** "Royal chariots, beautifully decorated, indeed decay, and also the body
approaches ageing;
But the teaching of the virtuous does not approach ageing, the virtuous indeed
declare this among the virtuous."
- 152.** This person of little learning, grows old like an ox;
His flesh increases, but his wisdom does not increase.
- 153.** Through the round of many births I wandered, not finding;
Seeking the house-builder, painful is birth again and again.
- 154.** House-builder, you have been seen, you will not build a house again;
All your ribs are broken, the peak of the house is demolished;
The mind has gone to the unconditioned, it has reached the elimination of
cravings.
- 155.** Not having lived the holy life, not having gained wealth in youth;
They brood like old herons, in a pond where the fish are gone.
- 156.** Not having lived the holy life, not having gained wealth in youth;
They lie like arrows shot from a bow, lamenting the past.

The Chapter on Old Age is concluded as eleventh.



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 (Tīkā), 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.

PDF Creation Date: 16 August 2026

HOW TO CITE

PaliVerse (2026). The Triple Canon. The Canon of Discourses. 5. The Collection of Minor Texts. 02. The Teaching in Verses. 11. The Chapter on Old Age Retrieved from paliverse.org

© 2026 The PaliVerse Project · All Rights Reserved
Centre for Study and Practice of Theravāda Buddhism
Civic Non-Profit Company registered in Greece
This PDF may be freely distributed for study and practice.

PaliVerse.org