

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)

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

12. The Book of the Twelves (12. Dvādasakanipāto)

[Thag 12.1-2, PTS 63-64]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

08. Verses of the Elder Monks

12. The Book of the Twelves

1. Verses of the Elder Sīlava

- 608.** "One should train in morality here, well-trained in this world;
For morality, when practised, brings all success.
- 609.** "The wise one should guard morality, desiring three kinds of happiness;
Praise and gain of joy, and after death, rejoicing in heaven.
- 610.** "For the moral one obtains many friends through self-restraint;
But the immoral one, practising evil, falls away from friends.
- 611.** "Blame and disrepute, the immoral man obtains;
Praise, fame and commendation, the moral one always obtains.
- 612.** "Morality is the beginning and the support, and the mother of good qualities;
The chief of all phenomena, therefore one should purify morality.
- 613.** "Morality is the boundary and restraint, the gladdening of the mind;
And the ford of all Buddhas, therefore one should purify morality.
- 614.** "Morality is incomparable power, morality is the highest weapon;
Morality is the foremost ornament, morality is a marvellous armour.
- 615.** "Morality is an influential bridge, morality is an unsurpassed fragrance;
Morality is the foremost cosmetic, by which one's scent spreads in every direction.
- 616.** "Morality is indeed the foremost provision, morality is the highest sustenance;
Morality is the best conveyance, by which one goes in every direction.
- 617.** "Right here he obtains blame, and after death unhappy in the realm of misery;
Everywhere unhappy is the fool, unconcentrated in morality.
- 618.** "Right here he obtains fame, and after death, glad in heaven;
Everywhere glad is the wise one, well concentrated in morality.
- 619.** "Morality here is the highest, but the wise one is the best;
Among human beings and gods, victory comes from morality and wisdom."

... The Elder Sīlava...

2. Verses of the Elder Sunīta

- 620.** "I was born in a low family, poor with little food;

My work was lowly, I was a remover of withered flowers.

- 621.** "Loathed by human beings, despised and scoffed at;
Having made the mind humble, I paid homage to many people.
- 622.** "Then I saw the Perfectly Enlightened One, honoured by the community of monks;
The great hero entering the best city of the Magadhans.
- 623.** "Having put down the carrying-pole, I approached to pay homage;
Out of compassion for me alone, the highest of men stood still.
- 624.** "Having paid homage at the Teacher's feet, standing to one side then;
I requested the going forth from the highest of all beings.
- 625.** "Then the compassionate Teacher, who has compassion for the whole world;
'Come, monk,' he said to me, that was my full ordination.
- 626.** "I, alone in the forest, dwelling not lazy;
I did the Teacher's word, as the Conqueror exhorted me.
- 627.** "During the first watch of the night, I recollected past births;
During the middle watch of the night, I purified the divine eye;
In the last watch of the night, I shattered the mass of darkness.
- 628.** "Then at the end of the night, towards the rising of the sun;
Inda and Brahmā, having come, paid homage to me with joined palms.
- 629.** "'Homage to you, thoroughbred among men, homage to you, highest of men;
Whose mental corruptions are eliminated, you are worthy of offerings, dear sir.'
- 630.** "Then the Teacher, having seen me, honoured by the host of gods,
Having manifested a smile, spoke this matter.
- 631.** "By austere asceticism, by the holy life, by self-control and by taming;
By this one is a brahmin, this is the highest brahmin quality."

... Sunīta the Elder...

The Chapter of Twelves is concluded.

The summary therein:

Sīlavā and Sunīta, two elders of great supernormal power;
In the Book of Twelves, twenty-four verses.



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.

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