

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)

10. Past Life Histories-1 - of the Elder Monks (10. Apadānapāḷi-1 -
Therāpadānapāḷi)

13. The Chapter on Sereyya (13. Sereyyavaggo)

[Tha Ap 123-132, PTS 1.155-1.163]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

10. Past Life Histories-1 - of the Elder Monks

13. The Chapter on Sereyya

1. The Life History of the Elder Sereyyaka

1. "A reciter, a bearer of sacred texts, one who has gone beyond the three Vedas;
Standing in the open air, being peaceful, I saw the leader of the world.
2. Like a lion roaming the forest, like a fearless tiger king;
An elephant in rut in three ways, a tusker like the great sage.
3. "Having taken a sereyyaka flower, into space I threw;
By the Buddha's power, they surround me altogether.
4. "The great hero determined, the omniscient leader of the world;
From all around with flower coverings, they scattered upon the lord of men.
5. "Then that flower-sheath, with stalks inside and openings outward;
Having made a covering for seven days, thereupon it disappeared.
6. "Having seen that marvel, wonderful, hair-raising;
I placed confidence in the Buddha, the Fortunate One, the leader of the world.
7. "By that confidence of mind, urged on by wholesome root;
For a hundred thousand cosmic cycles, I was not reborn in an unfortunate realm.
8. "In fifteen thousand, twenty-five cosmic cycles;
Stainless and equal, universal monarchs of great power.
9. "The four analytical knowledges, and these eight deliverances;
The six higher knowledges have been realised, the Buddha's teaching has
been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Sereyyaka spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Sereyyaka is first.

2. The Life History of the Elder Pupphathūpiya

10. "Not far from the Himalayas, there is a mountain named Kukkura;
In the middle of it dwells a brahmin gone beyond the sacred texts.
11. "Five thousand pupils surround me always;
And they were early risers, and confident in the sacred hymns.
12. "A Buddha has arisen in the world, cognise him, our lord;

He has eighty minor marks, and thirty-two excellent characteristics.

- 13.** "The supreme conqueror with a fathom-wide radiance shines like the sun;
Having heard the words of the pupils, the brahmin gone beyond the sacred texts.
- 14.** "Having gone forth from the hermitage, he asks his pupils about the direction;
In which region the great hero, the leader of the world, dwells.
- 15.** "That direction I venerated, the Victor, the matchless one;
Elated in mind, glad at heart, I honoured that Truth-finder.
- 16.** "Come, pupils, we shall go, we shall see the Truth-finder;
Having paid homage at the Teacher's feet, we shall listen to the Conqueror's Dispensation.
- 17.** "Having gone forth for one day, I contracted an illness;
Being oppressed by illness, I went to stay in a hall.
- 18.** "Having brought together all the pupils, I asked them about the Truth-finder;
What kind of virtue of the Protector of the World, the Supreme Buddha.
- 19.** "Those, when asked by me, explained, as those who see, so;
Attentively that foremost Buddha, they taught in my presence.
- 20.** "Having heard their words, I gladdened my own mind;
Having made a monument with flowers, there I deceased.
- 21.** "Having cremated my body, they went to the presence of the Buddha;
Having raised their joined palms, they paid homage to the Teacher.
- 22.** "Having made a monument with flowers, to the Fortunate One, the great sage;
For a hundred thousand cosmic cycles, I was not reborn in an unfortunate realm.
- 23.** "In forty thousand cosmic cycles, sixteen warriors;
Named Aggisama by name, wheel-turning monarchs of great power.
- 24.** "In twenty thousand cosmic cycles, kings, universal monarchs;
Named Ghatāsana, thirty-eight were kings.
- 25.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Pupphathūpiya spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Pupphathūpiya is second.

3. The Life History of the Elder Pāyasadāyaka

- 26.** "Golden-coloured, the Perfectly Enlightened One, possessing the thirty-two excellent characteristics;
Having gone forth from the wilds, honoured by the community of monks.

- 27.** "In a large bronze dish, having served milk-rice, I;
Wishing to make an oblation, I presented an offering.
- 28.** "The Blessed One at that time, the elder of the world, the lord of men;
Well ascended upon a walking path, in the sky, in the wind's domain.
- 29.** "Having seen that marvel, wonderful, hair-raising;
Having set aside the bronze bowl, I paid respect to Vipassī.
- 30.** "You are a god, omniscient, among gods and humans;
Out of compassion, accept this, O great sage.
- 31.** "The Blessed One accepted, the omniscient leader of the world;
Having understood my thought, the Teacher in the world, the great sage.
- 32.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, the gift that I gave then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of milk-rice.
- 33.** "Forty-one cosmic cycles ago, there was a warrior named Buddha;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 34.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Pāyasadāyaka spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Pāyasadāyaka is third.

4. The Life History of the Elder Gandhodakiya

- 35.** "Having sat down in the excellent mansion, I saw Vipassī, the Victor;
Like a shining hump of a bull, the Omniscient One, the destroyer of darkness.
- 36.** "And not far from the mansion, the leader of the world goes;
Radiance radiates from him, just as from the hundred-rayed one.
- 37.** "Having held up scented water, I sprinkled the foremost Buddha;
By that confidence of mind, there I deceased.
- 38.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I scattered scented water;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of honouring the Buddha.
- 39.** "Thirty-one cosmic cycles ago from now, a warrior named Sugandha;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 40.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Gandhodakiya spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Scented-Water is the fourth.

5. The Life History of the Elder Sammukhāthavika

- 41.** "When Vipassī was being born, I interpreted the sign;
'He will extinguish the populace, a Buddha will arise in the world.
- 42.** "'And when he was being born, the ten thousand trembled;
He, the Blessed One, the Teacher, now expounds the Teaching, the one with vision.
- 43.** "'And when he was being born, abundant light there was;
He, the Blessed One, the Teacher, now expounds the Teaching, the one with vision.
- 44.** "'And when he was being born, the rivers did not flow;
He, the Blessed One, the Teacher, now expounds the Teaching, the one with vision.
- 45.** "'And when he was being born, the Avīci fire did not blaze;
He, the Blessed One, the Teacher, now expounds the Teaching, the one with vision.
- 46.** "'And when he was being born, the flock of birds did not move about;
He, the Blessed One, the Teacher, now expounds the Teaching, the one with vision.
- 47.** "'And when he was being born, the mass of wind did not blow;
He, the Blessed One, the Teacher, now expounds the Teaching, the one with vision.
- 48.** "'And when he was being born, all the jewels shone forth;
He, the Blessed One, the Teacher, now expounds the Teaching, the one with vision.
- 49.** "'And when he was being born, beings took seven steps;
He, the Blessed One, the Teacher, now expounds the Teaching, the one with vision.
- 50.** "And just born, the Perfectly Enlightened One looked at all directions;
He uttered a noble speech, this is the nature of Buddhas."
- 51.** "Having stirred the populace, having praised the leader of the world;
Having paid respect to the Perfectly Enlightened One, I departed facing east.
- 52.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I praised the Buddha;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of praise.
- 53.** "Ninety cosmic cycles from now, named Sammukhāthavika;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 54.** "Named Pathavīdundubhi, eighty-nine from here;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.

- 55.** "Eighty-eight cosmic cycles from now, a warrior named Obhāsa;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 56.** "Eighty-seven cosmic cycles from now, named Saritacchedana;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 57.** "Named Agginibbāpana, eighty-six cosmic cycles ago;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 58.** "Named Gatipacchedana, eighty-five cosmic cycles ago;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 59.** "A king named Vātasama, eighty-four cosmic cycles ago;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 60.** "Named Ratanapajjala, eighty-three cosmic cycles ago;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 61.** "Named Padavikkamana, eighty-two cosmic cycles ago;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 62.** "A king named Vilokana, eighty-one cosmic cycles ago;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 63.** "Girasāra by name, I was a warrior who arranged;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 64.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Sammukhāthavika spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Sammukhāthavika is fifth.

6. The Life History of the Elder Kusumāsaniya

- 65.** "In the city of Dhaññavatī, I was a brahmin then;
In the marks of a great man and in history, together with vocabularies and rituals.
- 66.** "Learned in verse, a grammarian, skilled in signs was I;
I taught the sacred texts to pupils, one who has gone beyond the three Vedas.
- 67.** "Five bundles of water-lilies, placed on my back;
Wishing to make an oblation, I at the meeting of father and mother.
- 68.** "Then the Blessed One Vipassī, honoured by the community of monks;
Illuminating all directions, the lord of men approaches.
- 69.** "Having prepared a seat, having invited the great sage;
Having spread out that flower, I led him to my own house.
- 70.** "Whatever material gains I had prepared in my own house;

That I gave to the Buddha, devoted, with my own hands.

- 71.** "When he had finished eating, having understood the proper time, I gave a handful of flowers;
Having given thanks, the Omniscient One departed facing north.
- 72.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I gave flowers then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the gift of flowers.
- 73.** "In the immediately following cosmic cycle from now, I was a king of excellent vision;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 74.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Kusumāsaniya spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Kusumāsaniya is sixth.

7. The Life History of the Elder Phaladāyaka

- 75.** "A reciter, a bearer of sacred texts, one who has gone beyond the three Vedas;
Not far from the Himalayas, I dwell in a hermitage.
- 76.** "I have the fire-sacrifice, and white lotus fruits;
Having placed them in a basket, it was hung by me on a tree-top.
- 77.** "Padumuttara, knower of the world, the receiver of oblations;
Wishing to uplift me, he came to me while begging alms.
- 78.** "With a confident mind, glad at heart, I gave fruit to the Buddha;
Generating joy for me, bringing happiness in the present life.
- 79.** "Golden-coloured, the Perfectly Enlightened One, the receiver of oblations;
The Teacher, standing in the sky, spoke this verse.
- 80.** "'By this gift of fruit, and by volition and aspirations;
For a hundred thousand cosmic cycles, you will not be reborn in an unfortunate realm.'
- 81.** "By that very wholesome root, having experienced accomplishment;
I have attained the unshakeable state, having abandoned victory and defeat.
- 82.** "Seven hundred cosmic cycles ago from now, I was a king named Sumaṅgala;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 83.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Phaladāyaka spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Phaladāyaka is the seventh.

8. The Life History of the Elder Ñāṇasaññika

- 84.** "On the Himalayan mountain, I dwell in the mountain caves;
Having seen the beautiful sand, I recollected the foremost Buddha.
- 85.** "There is no comparison in knowledge, there is no activity for the Teacher;
Having directly known all phenomena, he resolves upon it with knowledge.
- 86.** "Homage to you, thoroughbred among men, homage to you, highest of men;
There is none equal to you in knowledge, as far as the highest knowledge extends.
- 87.** "Having gladdened my mind in knowledge, I rejoiced in heaven for a cosmic cycle;
In the remaining cosmic cycles, wholesome was practised by me.
- 88.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I obtained that perception then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the perception of knowledge.
- 89.** "Seventy cosmic cycles from now, one who offered flowers on the sand;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 90.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Ñāṇasaññika spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Knowledge Perceiver is the eighth.

9. The Life History of the Elder Gaṇṭhipupphiya

- 91.** "Golden-coloured, the Perfectly Enlightened One, Vipassī, worthy of offerings;
Honoured by disciples, he went forth from the monastery.
- 92.** "Having seen the foremost Buddha, the Omniscient One, the destroyer of darkness;
With a confident mind, glad at heart, I venerated him with knotted flowers.
- 93.** "By that confidence of mind, in the lord of bipeds, such a one;
Joyful, with a joyful mind, I again paid homage to the Truth-finder.
- 94.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I offered the flower;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of honouring the Buddha.
- 95.** "Forty-one cosmic cycles ago, there was a warrior named Caraṇa;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 96.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Gaṇṭhipupphiya spoke these verses.

10. The Life History of the Elder Padumapūjaka

- 97.** "Not far from the Himalayas, there is a mountain named Gotama;
Covered with various trees, a dwelling place for hosts of great beings.
- 98.** And in the middle of that, a hermitage was created;
Honoured by my pupils, I dwell in the hermitage.
- 99.** "Let my groups of pupils come, let them bring me lotuses;
I will make an offering to the Buddha, to the lord of bipeds, such a one.
- 100.** Having replied "Yes!", they brought me a lotus;
Having thus made a sign, I placed it upon the Buddha.
- 101.** "Having brought together my pupils then, I instructed them thoroughly;
Do not be negligent, diligence brings happiness.
- 102.** "Having thus instructed those pupils, willing to do what was bid;
Endowed with the quality of diligence, then I deceased.
- 103.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I offered the flower;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of honouring the
Buddha.
- 104.** "For fifty-one cosmic cycles, I was a king, the best of men;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 105.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Padumapūjaka spoke these verses.

Its summary:

Sereyyaka, Pupphathūpiya, Pāyasa, Gandhathomaka;
Āsanī, Phalasaññī, and Gaṇṭhipadumapupphiya;
One hundred and five verses, counted by those intent upon the good.



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. 10. Past Life Histories-1 - of the Elder Monks. 13. The Chapter on Sereyya 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