

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)

18. The Book of the Forties (18. Cattālīsanipāto)

[Thag 18.1, PTS 94-96]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

08. Verses of the Elder Monks

18. The Book of the Forties

1. Verses of the Elder Mahākassapa

- 1054.** "One should not walk about honoured by a group, one becomes displeased and concentration is hard to obtain;
The care of various people is painful, having seen thus, one should not approve of a group.
- 1055.** "A sage should not frequent families, one becomes displeased and concentration is hard to obtain;
He who is zealous, greedy for flavours, neglects the benefit that brings happiness.
- 1056.** "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.
- 1057.** "Having descended from my lodging, I entered the city for almsfood;
A man who was a leper eating, I attended on him attentively.
- 1058.** "He, with his decaying hand, offered me a morsel;
As he was putting in the morsel, his finger fell off therein.
- 1059.** "Depending on the wall's base, I ate that morsel;
Whether eating or having eaten, no loathing is found in me.
- 1060.** "Almsfood obtained by standing up is nutriment, and cattle-urine is medicine;
Lodging is at the tree-root, and the robe is a rag robe;
For whom these are attained, he is indeed a man belonging to the four directions.
- 1061.** "Where some are vexed, ascending the rocky mountain;
There the heir of that Buddha, fully aware, mindful;
Supported by the power of supernormal power, Kassapa ascends.
- 1062.** "Having returned from his alms round, having ascended the rock, Kassapa;
Meditates without clinging, fear and dread abandoned.
- 1063.** "Having returned from his alms round, having ascended the rock, Kassapa;
Meditates without clinging, quenched while others are burning.
- 1064.** "Having returned from his alms round, having ascended the rock, Kassapa;
Meditates without clinging, with obligations fulfilled, without mental corruptions.

- 1065.** "Spread with rows of musk-rose trees, the tracts of land are delightful;
Resounding with elephants, charming, those rocks delight me.
- 1066.** "Cloud-coloured blue, beautiful, with cool waters, bearing purity;
Covered with red insects, those rocks delight me.
- 1067.** Like blue cloud-peaks, resembling excellent pinnacle buildings;
Resounding with elephants, charming, those rocks delight me.
- 1068.** "Rained upon, with delightful surfaces, mountains frequented by sages;
Resounding with peacocks, those rocks delight me.
- 1069.** "Sufficient for one wishing to meditate, for me who is resolute and mindful;
Sufficient for me who wishes for welfare, for the resolute monk.
- 1070.** "Sufficient for me who wishes for comfort, for the resolute monk;
Sufficient for me who wishes for exertion, for the resolute such one.
- 1071.** Similar to flax flowers, covered by clouds in the sky;
Crowded with various flocks of birds, those rocks delight me.
- 1072.** "Uncrowded by householders, frequented by herds of deer;
Crowded with various flocks of birds, those rocks delight me.
- 1073.** "With clear waters and broad stones, frequented by yak-tailed deer;
Covered with water moss, those rocks delight me.
- 1074.** "With the five-part music, there is no such delight for me;
As for one with a fully focused mind, rightly seeing the Teaching with insight.
- 1075.** "One should not undertake much work, one should avoid people, one should
not exert oneself;
He who is zealous, greedy for flavours, neglects the benefit that brings
happiness.
- 1076.** "One should not undertake much work, one should avoid this which does not
lead to one's benefit;
The body becomes troubled, becomes weary, afflicted he does not find
serenity.
- 1077.** "By mere lip-recitation, he does not see even himself;
He walks about with stiffened neck, thinking 'I am better'.
- 1078.** "The inferior one imagines himself as equal to the superior, the fool imagines
himself;
The wise do not praise that man, whose mind is stiff with conceit.
- 1079.** "But whoever does not waver in discriminations thinking 'I am superior,' or else
'I am not superior,'
Or 'I am inferior' or 'I am equal to him.'

- 1080.** "One who is wise, such a one, well grounded in morality;
Devoted to serenity of mind - the wise would praise such a one.
- 1081.** "For one in whom respect towards fellow monks in the holy life is not found;
He is far from the Good Teaching, as the earth from the sky.
- 1082.** "And those in whom shame and moral fear are always rightly established;
They have grown in the holy life, for them rebirth is eliminated.
- 1083.** "The agitated, fickle monk, wrapped in a rag robe;
Like a monkey in a lion's hide, he does not look beautiful in it.
- 1084.** "Unagitated, steadfast, prudent, with controlled faculties;
He shines in a rag robe, like a lion in a mountain cave.
- 1085.** "These many gods, possessing supernormal power, famous;
Ten thousand gods, all of them belonging to the company of Brahmās.
- 1086.** "The hero, the General of the Dhamma, the great meditator, concentrated;
Paying homage to Sāriputta, they stand with joined palms.
- 1087.** "'Homage to you, thoroughbred among men, homage to you, highest of men;
We do not directly know that in dependence on which he meditates.
- 1088.** "'Marvellous indeed is the Buddhas' own resort, profound;
We who have come as hair-splitting archers do not directly know it.'
- 1089.** "Him thus by the hosts of gods, venerated, worthy of veneration;
Having seen Sāriputta then, Kappina had a smile.
- 1090.** "As far as the Buddha-field extends, having set aside the Great Sage,
In the virtues of ascetic practice I am distinguished; no one equal to me is found.
- 1091.** "The Teacher has been attended upon by me, the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled;
The heavy burden has been laid down, there is now no more rebirth."
- 1092.** "He is not tainted by robes, nor by bedding, nor by food;
Gotama is immeasurable, like a spotless lotus flower;
By water, inclined to renunciation, escaped from the three existences.
- 1093.** "He whose neck is the establishment of mindfulness, whose trunk is faith, the great sage;
Whose head is wisdom, of great knowledge, always walks about quenched."

... The Elder Mahākassapa...

The Book of Forties is concluded.

The summary therein:

In the Chapter of Forty, the one named Mahākassapa;
The elder alone, verses eighty-four and two also.



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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