

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)

2. The Book of the Twos (2. Dukanipāto)

[Thag 2.1-49, PTS 17-28]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

08. Verses of the Elder Monks

2. The Book of the Twos

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 home 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, Tiriyo the sage;
Ajina and Meḷajina, Rādha, Surādha, Gotama;
With Vasabha these are ten elder monks of great supernormal power.

2. The Second Chapter

1. The Verses of the Elder Mahācunda

- 141.** "The wish to hear increases learning, learning is the increase of wisdom;
Through wisdom one knows the meaning, the meaning known brings
happiness.
- 142.** "One should resort to remote lodgings, one should practise for release from
the fetters;
If one should not find delight there, one should dwell in the Community,
guarded in oneself, mindful."

... The Elder Mahācunda...

2. The Verses of the Elder Jotidāsa

- 143.** "Those indeed who, with binding and mixing, and with diverse actions;
Oppress human beings, people of harsh attack;
They too are scattered right there, for action does not perish.
- 144.** "Whatever action a man does, whether good or evil;
Of that very action he is the heir, whatever action he performs."

... The Elder Jotidāsa...

3. The Verses of the Elder Heraññakāni

- 145.** "Days and nights pass by, life ceases;
The life span of mortals is brought to an end, like water in small streams.
- 146.** "Then the fool, doing evil actions, does not understand;
Afterwards for him it is bitter, for the result of it is evil."

... The Elder Heraññakāni...

4. The Verses of the Elder Somamitta

- 147.** "Having climbed onto a small piece of wood, just as one sinks in the great ocean;
Thus, having associated with the lazy, even one living well sinks;
Therefore one should avoid him, the lazy one of inferior energy.
- 148.** "With the secluded noble ones, with the resolute meditators;
With those constantly putting forth strenuous energy, with the wise ones, one should live together."

... The Elder Somamitto...

5. The Verses of the Elder Sabbamitta

- 149.** "People are bound to people, people depend on people alone;
People are harassed by people, and people harass people.
- 150.** "For what use is a person to him, or by a person begotten?
Having left people behind, going, having harassed many people."

... The Elder Sabbamitto...

6. Verses of the Elder Mahākāḷa

- 151.** "Kālī, a woman, gigantic, crow-like in appearance, having broken one thigh and the other thigh;
Having broken one arm and the other arm, having broken the head like a bowl of curds;
She sat down having joined them together.
- 152.** "He who indeed, not knowing, creates clinging, the fool goes to suffering again and again;
Therefore, one understanding should not create clinging, may I not lie again with a broken head."

... The Elder Mahākāḷa...

7. Verses of the Elder Tissa

- 153.** "He obtains many rivals, shaven-headed, wrapped in the double robe;
An obtainer of food, drink, clothing and bedding.
- 154.** "Having known this danger, the great fear in honours;
With little gain, not filled with desire, a mindful monk should wander forth."

... The Elder Tissa...

8. Verses of the Elder Kimila

- 155.** "In the Eastern Bamboo Grove, sons of the Sakyans, companions;
Having abandoned no small wealth, delighting in what comes into the bowl through gleaning.

- 156.** "Putting forth strenuous energy, resolute, always of firm effort;
They delight in delight in the Dhamma, having abandoned mundane delight."

... The Elder Kimila...

9. Verses of the Elder Nanda

- 157.** "Through unwise attention, I engaged in adornment;
I was agitated and fickle, distressed by sensual lust.
- 158.** "By the Buddha, kinsman of the sun, skilled in means,
Having proceeded wisely, I lifted up my mind from existence."

... The Elder Nanda...

10. Verses of the Elder Sirimā

- 159.** "Others may praise him, if oneself is unconcentrated;
In vain do others praise, for oneself is unconcentrated.
- 160.** "Others may censure him, if oneself is well concentrated;
In vain do others censure, for oneself is well concentrated."

... The Elder Sirimā...

The second chapter is concluded.

Its summary:

Cunda and Jotidāsa, the elder Heraññakāni;
Somamitto, Sabbamitto, Kāla, Tissa and Kimila;
Nanda and Sirimā too, ten elder monks of great supernormal power.

3. The Third Chapter

1. Verses of the Elder Uttara

- 161.** "The aggregates have been fully understood by me, craving has been well
uprooted by me;
The factors of enlightenment have been developed by me, the elimination of
mental corruptions has been attained by me.
- 162.** "I, having fully understood the aggregates, having pulled out craving;
Having developed the factors of enlightenment, I shall attain nibbāna, without
mental corruptions."

... The Elder Uttara...

2. Verses of the Elder Bhaddaji

- 163.** "Panāda was the name of that king, whose sacrificial post was of gold;
Across it measured sixteen in height, upwards they said a thousandfold.
- 164.** "With a thousand storeys, a hundred pinnacles, adorned with flags, made of

green gold;
There the gandhabbas danced, six thousand in seven groups."

... The Elder Bhaddaji...

3. Verses of the Elder Sobhita

- 165.** "A mindful, wise monk, with strenuous energy and power;
I recollected five hundred cosmic cycles as if one night.
- 166.** "Developing the four establishments of mindfulness, and the seven and eight;
I recollected five hundred cosmic cycles as if one night."

... The Elder Sobhita...

4. Verses of the Elder Valli

- 167.** "Whatever is the function for one of firm energy, whatever is the function for
one wishing to awaken;
I shall do it, I shall not fail, see my energy and endeavour.
- 168.** "And you, declare to me the path, the straight way grounded upon the
Deathless;
I shall know through wisdom, as the Ganges stream approaches the ocean."

... The Elder Valliyo...

5. Verses of the Elder Vītasoka

- 169.** "A barber approached me to comb my hair;
Then, having taken a mirror, I reviewed my body.
- 170.** "The body was seen as hollow, the darkness of ignorance was dispelled;
All the rags have been cut off, there is now no more rebirth."

... The Elder Vītasoka...

6. Verses of the Elder Puṇṇamāsa

- 171.** "Having abandoned the five mental hindrances, for the attainment of freedom
from bondage;
Having taken up the mirror of the Teaching, the knowledge and vision of
oneself.
- 172.** "I reviewed this body, all within and without;
Internally and externally, the body was seen as hollow."

... The Elder Puṇṇamāsa...

7. Verses of the Elder Nandaka

- 173.** "Just as a good thoroughbred, having stumbled, stands firm again;
Having gained more urgency, undaunted, he bears the burden.

- 174.** "Thus one accomplished in vision, a disciple of the Perfectly Enlightened One;
Remember me as a thoroughbred, a legitimate son of the Buddha."

... The Elder Nandaka...

8. Verses of the Elder Bharata

- 175.** "Come, Nandaka, let us go to the presence of our preceptor;
We shall roar the lion's roar in the presence of the Buddha, the foremost.
- 176.** "With which compassion the sage ordained us;
That purpose has been attained by us, the elimination of all mental fetters."

... The Elder Bharata...

9. Verses of the Elder Bhāradvāja

- 177.** "Thus the wise roar, like lions in a mountain cave;
Heroes victorious in battle, having conquered Māra with his army.
- 178.** "The Teacher has been attended upon by me, the Teaching and the
Community venerated;
And I am delighted, glad, having seen my son without mental corruptions."

... The Elder Bhāradvāja...

10. Verses of the Elder Kaṇhadinna

- 179.** "Good persons attended upon, teachings heard repeatedly;
Having heard, I shall proceed upon the straight way grounded upon the
Deathless.
- 180.** "For me who was destroyed by lust for existence, being mindful, lust for
existence is no longer found in me;
There has not been, nor will there be for me, nor is there at present found in
me."

... The Elder Kaṇhadinna...

The third chapter is concluded.

Its summary:

Uttara, the Elder Bhaddaji, Sobhita, Valliyo the sage;
And Vītasoka the elder, Puṇṇamāsa and Nandaka;
Bharata and Bhāradvāja, and Kaṇhadinna the great sage.

4. The Fourth Chapter

1. Verses of the Elder Migasira

- 181.** "Since I went forth in the teaching of the Perfectly Enlightened One;
Being liberated I rose up, I transcended the sensual element.

- 182.** "While the Brahmā was looking on, thereupon my mind was liberated;
'Unshakable is my liberation' - through the elimination of all fetters."

... The Elder Migasira...

2. Verses of the Elder Sivaka

- 183.** "Impermanent are the houses, here and there again and again;
Seeking the house-builder, painful is birth again and again.
- 184.** "House-builder, you have been seen, you will not build a house again;
All your ribs are broken, and the ridge-pole is shattered;
The mind has become boundless, right here it will be destroyed."

... The Elder Sivaka...

3. Verses of the Elder Upavāṇa

- 185.** "The Worthy One, the Fortunate One in the world, the sage is afflicted by
winds;
If there is hot water, give it for the sage, brahmin.
- 186.** "Venerated by those worthy of veneration, honoured by those worthy of
honour;
Esteemed by those worthy of esteem, I wish to bring it for him."

... The Elder Upavāṇa...

4. Verses of the Elder Isidinna

- 187.** "Seen by me are lay followers who are bearers of the Teaching, speaking thus:
'Sensual pleasures are impermanent';
Thoroughly infatuated with jewelled earrings, they have longing for sons and
wives.
- 188.** "Certainly they do not know the Teaching here, since they also say: 'Sensual
pleasures are impermanent';
And there is no power in them to cut off lust, therefore they remain attached
to children, wife and wealth."

... The Elder Isidinna...

5. Verses of the Elder Sambulakaccāna

- 189.** "The sky rains and the sky roars,
And I dwell alone in a frightful den;
For me dwelling alone in that frightful den,
There is no fear or trepidation or terror.
- 190.** "This is my nature, that for me dwelling alone in the frightful den;
There is no fear or trepidation or terror."

... The Elder Sambulakaccāna...

6. Verses of the Elder Nitaka

- 191.** "Whose mind is like a rock, steady, not trembling;
Dispassionate towards enticing things, not agitated by what provokes
agitation;
For whom the mind is thus developed, from where will suffering come to him?
- 192.** "My mind is like a rock, steady, not trembling;
Dispassionate towards enticing things, not agitated by what provokes
agitation;
My mind is thus developed, from where will suffering come to me?"

... The Elder Nitaka...

7. Verses of the Elder Soṇapoṭṭiriya

- 193.** "There is no sleeping so long, the night garlanded with stars;
This night is for keeping watch, by one who knows.
- 194.** "If an elephant should trample one fallen from an elephant's back;
Death in battle is better for me, than if I should live defeated."

... The Elder Soṇa Poṭṭiriya...

8. Verses of the Elder Nisabha

- 195.** "Having abandoned the five types of sensual pleasure, dear and delightful;
Having gone forth from home through faith, may one become one who makes
an end of suffering.
- 196.** "I do not delight in death, I do not delight in life;
And I await the time, fully aware, mindful."

... The Elder Nisabha...

9. Verses of the Elder Usabha

- 197.** "Having placed on my shoulder the robe similar to a mango sprout;
Seated on the elephant's neck, I entered the village for almsfood.
- 198.** "Having descended from the elephant's back, I gained anxiety then;
I, being bloated then, peaceful, the elimination of mental corruptions has been
attained by me."

... The Elder Usabha...

10. Verses of the Elder Kappaṭakura

- 199.** "This is my rag," said Kappaṭakura, with a bear overloaded;
In the pot of the Deathless, indifferent to the teaching, the path prepared to
cultivate the meditative absorptions.
- 200.** "Do not, Kappaṭa, nod off, lest I strike you near the ear;

For you, Kappaṭa, do not know the measure, nodding off in the midst of the Community."

... The Elder Kappaṭakura...

The fourth chapter is concluded.

Its summary:

Migasira and Sivaka, and Upavāna the wise;
Isidinna and Kaccāna, Nitaka and the great master;
Poṭṭhiyaputta, Nisabha, Usabha, and Kappaṭakura.

5. The Fifth Chapter

1. Verses of the Elder Kumārakassapa

201. "Oh, the Buddhas! Oh, the Teaching! Oh, the accomplishment of our Teacher!
Where such a Teaching a disciple may realise."

202. "In incalculable aeons, identity was attained;
Of those this is the last, this is the final body;
The cycle of birth and death, there is now no more rebirth."

... The Elder Kumārakassapa...

2. Verses of the Elder Dhammapāla

203. "Whoever indeed, a young monk, engages in the Buddha's teaching;
Awake he is indeed among those who sleep, his life is not in vain.

204. "Therefore faith and morality, confidence and vision of the Teaching;
The wise one should pursue, remembering the Buddhas' teaching."

... The Elder Dhammapāla...

3. Verses of the Elder Brahmāli

205. "Whose faculties have reached serenity, like horses well-tamed by a
charioteer;
Who has abandoned conceit, who is without mental corruptions, even the gods
envy such a one?"

206. "My faculties have reached serenity, like horses well-tamed by a charioteer;
Who has abandoned conceit, who is without mental corruptions, even the gods
envy me, such a one."

... The Elder Brahmāli...

4. Verses of the Elder Mogharāja

207. "With bad skin but good mind, Mogharāja, constantly concentrated;
During the cold winter nights, monk, what will you do?"

- 208.** "The Magadhas have abundant crops, entire, thus I have heard;
Covered with straw I lie down, like others who live happily."

... The Elder Mogharāja...

5. Verses of the Elder Visākha, Son of Pañcāla

- 209.** "One should not exalt oneself nor disparage others, nor cast down one who has gone to the far shore, nor provoke him;
One should not speak one's own praise in assemblies, unagitated, speaking with measure, of good conduct.
- 210.** "For one who sees the very subtle and refined meaning, skilled in wisdom, of humble conduct;
For one who has cultivated mature virtue, Nibbāna is indeed not difficult to attain."

... The Elder Visākha, son of Pañcāla...

6. Verses of the Elder Cūḷaka

- 211.** "The peacocks cry out, with beautiful crests, with beautiful tail-feathers, with beautiful blue necks, lovely-faced, with beautiful calls;
And this great earth is covered with beautiful grass, the sky with well-spread water, with beautiful clouds.
- 212.** "With a well-pliant form, for one with a serene mind meditating, with good progress, well in the Well-awakened One's Dispensation;
The very pure and bright, the subtle, the very difficult to see, touch that highest, imperishable state."

... The Elder Cūḷaka...

7. Verses of the Elder Anūpama

- 213.** "The mind that has come rejoicing, being raised upon a stake;
By that very way you go, where the stake and the log are.
- 214.** "Therefore I call you a misfortune of the mind, I call you a betrayer of the mind;
The Teacher, rare to obtain, has been obtained by you, do not urge me towards what is not beneficial."

... The Elder Anūpama...

8. Verses of the Elder Vajjita

- 215.** "Wandering for a long course, I revolved in the destinations;
Not seeing the noble truths, a mentally blind worldling.
- 216.** "For me, being diligent, wandering in the round of rebirths has been rendered useless;

All destinations have been cut off, there is now no more rebirth."

... The Elder Vajjita...

9. Verses of the Elder Sandhita

217. "At the sacred fig tree with green radiance, at the tree that had fully grown;
One perception directed to the Buddha, I obtained, being mindful.

218. "Thirty-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I obtained that perception then;
Owing to that perception, the elimination of mental corruptions has been
attained by me."

... The Elder Sandhita...

The fifth chapter is concluded.

Its summary:

The Elder Kumārakassapa, and Dhammapāla, and Brahmāli;
Mogharāja and Visākha, and Cūḷaka and Anūpama;
Vajjita, the Elder Sandhita, and Kilesarajavāhana.

The Book of Twos is concluded.

The summary therein:

In the Chapter of Pairs of Verses, ninety and eight;
Forty-nine elder monks, spoken by those skilled in method.



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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