

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)

22. The Chapter on Hatthi (22. Hatthivaggo)

[Tha Ap 213-222, PTS 1.209-1.213]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

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

22. The Chapter on Hatthi

1. The Life History of the Elder Hatthidāyaka

1. "To the Blessed One Siddhattha, the lord of bipeds, such a one;
A noble elephant was given by me, with tusks as long as a plough-pole, fully grown.
2. "I experience the highest good, the unsurpassed state of peace;
A gift of an elephant was given by me, to the one seeking the welfare of the whole world.
3. "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, when I gave the elephant then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the gift of an elephant.
4. "In the seventy-eighth cosmic cycle, sixteen were warriors;
Named All-Pleasing, wheel-turning monarchs of great power.
5. "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 Hatthidāyaka spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Hatthidāyaka is the first.

2. The Life History of the Elder Pānadhidāyaka

6. "To the forest-dwelling sage, the long-practising ascetic;
To the Buddha, of developed self, I gave a beverage vessel.
7. "By that action, lord of bipeds, eldest of the world, bull among men;
I experience a divine vehicle, this is the fruit of past action.
8. "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, the action which I did then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of offering a drink.
9. "Seventy-seven cosmic cycles from now, there were eight warriors;
Suyāna by name, wheel-turning monarchs of great power.
10. "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Pānadhidāyaka spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Pānadhidāyaka is the second.

3. The Life History of the Elder Saccasañña

11. "Vessabhū at that time, honoured by the Community of monks;
Teaches the noble truths, extinguishing the great multitude.
12. "I had reached the utmost compassion, I went to the assembly;
I, sitting peacefully, heard the teaching of the Teacher.
13. "Having heard his Teaching, I went to the heavenly world;
For thirty cosmic cycles among the gods, I dwelt there formerly.
14. "Thirty-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 perception of truth.
15. "Twenty-six cosmic cycles ago from now, I was the sole lord of men;
Named Ekaphusita, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
16. "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Saccasañña spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Saccasañña is the third.

4. The Life History of the Elder Ekasañña

17. "Having seen on a tree-top a rag-robe of the Teacher, stuck there;
Having raised my joined palms, I paid homage to the rag-robe.
18. "Thirty-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 honouring the
Buddha.
19. "Twenty-five cosmic cycles ago from now, I was the sole lord of men;
Amitābha by name, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
20. "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Ekasañña spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Ekasañña is the fourth.

5. The Life History of the Elder Raṃsisañña

21. "Like the rising sun with a hundred rays, like the luminous moon with golden
rays;
Like an excellent bull-tiger, well-born in the mountain caves.
22. "That majestic power of the Buddha shines in the mountain caves;
Having gladdened my mind in the rays, I rejoiced in heaven for a cosmic cycle.
23. "In the remaining cosmic cycles, wholesome was practised by me;
By that confidence of mind, and also by recollection of Buddha's qualities.

- 24.** "Thirty thousand cosmic cycles ago from now, when I obtained that perception then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of perception of the Buddha.
- 25.** "Fifty-seven cosmic cycles ago, I was the sole lord of men;
Sujāta by name, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 26.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Raṃsisaññaaka spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Raṃsisaññaaka is the fifth.

6. The Life History of the Elder Sandhita

- 27.** "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.
- 28.** "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.
- 29.** "Thirteen cosmic cycles from now, a warrior named Dhaniṭṭha;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 30.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Sandhita spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Sandhita is the sixth.

7. The Life History of the Elder Tālavaṇṭadāyaka

- 31.** "A fan was given by me to Tissa, the kinsman of the sun;
For the purpose of cooling in the hot season, for the calming of fever.
- 32.** "I completely extinguish the fire of lust, and the fire of hate beyond that;
And I extinguish the fire of delusion, this is the fruit of the fan.
- 33.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, all existences have been uprooted;
I bear my final body in the teaching of the Perfectly Enlightened One.
- 34.** "Ninety-two cosmic cycles ago from now, the action which I did then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the fan.
- 35.** "Sixty-three cosmic cycles ago from now, named Mahānāma;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 36.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Tālavaṇṭadāyaka spoke these verses.

8. The Life History of the Elder Akkantasañña

- 37.** "Having taken a grass-cutter's cloth, I was formerly before my preceptor;
And I learn the sacred hymns, for the attainment of freedom from the knot of hate.
- 38.** "I saw the stainless Buddha, the receiver of oblations;
The bull, the excellent, the highest, Tissa Buddha, the supreme of the group.
- 39.** "The grass-cutter's cloth was spread out, as he stepped upon it, the highest among men;
The risen up great hero, the elder of the world, the lord of men.
- 40.** "Having seen that light of the world, spotless, resembling the moon;
I venerated the Teacher's feet, with a clear mind.
- 41.** "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, when I gave a grass-cutter's cloth;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the grass-cutter's cloth.
- 42.** "Thirty-seven cosmic cycles ago from now, I was the sole lord of men;
Sunanda by name, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 43.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Akkantasañña spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Akkantasañña is the eighth.

9. The Life History of the Elder Sappidāyaka

- 44.** "Seated in the excellent mansion, attended by a group of women;
Having seen an ascetic who was ill, I bent my way homeward.
- 45.** "The great hero who had sat down, the god of gods, the lord of men;
Ghee and oil were given by me, to Siddhattha, the great sage.
- 46.** "Having seen him with disturbance calmed, with face and faculties very clear;
Having paid homage at the Teacher's feet, I proclaimed the benefits formerly.
- 47.** "Having seen my very clear faith, having reached the perfection of supernormal power;
The wise one rose up into the sky, like a king of swans in the firmament.
- 48.** "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, the gift that I gave then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of that ghee and oil.
- 49.** "Seventeen cosmic cycles from now, one named Jutideva;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.

50. "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Sappidāyaka spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Sappidāyaka is the ninth.

10. The Life History of the Elder Pāpanivāriya

51. "For the Blessed One Piyadassī, a walking path was cleaned by me;
Covered with reeds, for warding off wind and heat.

52. "For the purpose of avoiding evil, for the accomplishment of wholesome
deeds;
For the abandoning of defilements, I strove in the Teacher's Dispensation.

53. "Eleven cosmic cycles from now, renowned as Aggideva;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.

54. "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Pāpanivāriya spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Pāpanivāriya is the tenth.

The Elephant Chapter is the twenty-second.

Its summary:

Hatthi, Pāṇādhīpati, Sacca, Ekasaññī and Raṃsika;
Sandhita, Tālavaṇṭa, likewise Akkantasaññaka;
Sappi and Pāpanivārī, fifty-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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