

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)

02. The Teaching in Verses (02. Dhammapadapāḷi)

23. The Chapter on the Elephant (23. Nāgavaggo)

[Dhp 320-333, PTS 47-48]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

02. The Teaching in Verses

23. The Chapter on the Bull Elephant

- 320.** Like an elephant in battle, an arrow fallen from a bow;
I shall endure abuse, for many people are immoral.
- 321.** They lead the tamed to an assembly, the king mounts the tamed;
The tamed is foremost among human beings, whoever endures harsh speech.
- 322.** Excellent are trained mules, and thoroughbreds and Sindh horses;
And elephants, great serpents; one self-restrained is better than that.
- 323.** For not by these vehicles could one go to the untravelled direction;
As with oneself well tamed, the tamed one goes by the tamed.
- 324.** The elephant named Dhanapāla, sharp in rut, difficult to restrain;
Bound, he does not consume a morsel, the elephant remembers the elephant forest.
- 325.** When one is torpid and gluttonous, a sleeper who lies tossing about;
Like a great hog fed on fodder, the fool enters the womb again and again.
- 326.** This mind formerly wandered on a journey, wherever it wished, wherever it desired, as it pleased;
That today I shall restrain wisely, like a goad-holder a furious elephant.
- 327.** Be delighted in heedfulness, guard your own mind;
Lift yourselves out of difficulty, as an elephant sunk in mud.
- 328.** "If one should find a prudent companion, a fellow traveller, living well, wise;
Having overcome all dangers, one should wander with him, glad and mindful.
- 329.** "If one should not find a prudent companion, a fellow traveller, living well, wise;
Like a king abandoning a conquered kingdom, one should wander alone, like an elephant in the forest.
- 330.** Better is the life of one alone; there is no companionship with a fool;
One should wander alone and not do evil deeds, living at ease, like an elephant in the forest.
- 331.** When a need has arisen, friends are pleasant; contentment is pleasant with whatever there is;
Merit is pleasant at the end of life; the abandoning of all suffering is pleasant.

332. Pleasant is filial love towards one's mother in the world, and also filial piety is pleasant;
Pleasant is asceticism in the world, and also commitment to holy life is pleasant.

333. Morality is pleasant until old age, faith established is pleasant;
Pleasant is the attainment of wisdom, the non-performance of evil is pleasant.

The Chapter on the Bull Elephant is concluded as twenty-third.



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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