

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)

3. The Book of the Threes (3. Tikanipāto)

[Thag 3.1-16, PTS 29-32]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

08. Verses of the Elder Monks

3. The Book of the Threes

1. Verses of the Elder Aṅgaṇika Bhāradvāja

- 219.** "Unwisely seeking purity, I tended the fire in the forest;
Not knowing the path of purity, I practised austere asceticism for immortality.
- 220.** "That happiness was obtained through happiness, see the excellence of the
Teaching as Teaching;
The three true knowledges have been attained, the Buddha's teaching has
been fulfilled.
- 221.** "Formerly I was a kinsman of Brahma, now indeed I am a brahmin;
I am a possessor of the threefold true knowledge, one who has bathed, I am a
learned one, one who has attained the highest knowledge."

... The Elder Aṅgaṇikabhāradvāja...

2. Verses of the Elder Paccaya

- 222.** "Five days since I went forth, a trainee who has not attained his goal,
Having entered my dwelling, there arose an aspiration of mind.
- 223.** "I shall not eat, I shall not drink, I shall not leave the dwelling;
Nor shall I lay down my side, while the dart of craving is not rooted out.
- 224.** "For me dwelling thus, see the exertion of energy;
The three true knowledges have been attained, the Buddha's teaching has
been fulfilled."

... The Elder Paccaya...

3. Verses of the Elder Bākula

- 225.** "He who wishes to do afterwards what should be done before;
He falls from a state of happiness, and afterwards he repents.
- 226.** "What one would do, that one should say; what one would not do, that one
should not say;
One not doing but speaking - the wise fully understand him.
- 227.** "Very happy indeed is Nibbāna, taught by the Perfectly Enlightened One;
Sorrowless, stainless, secure, where suffering ceases."

... The Elder Bākula...

4. Verses of the Elder Dhaniya

- 228.** "If one wishes to live happily, expectant in the ascetic life;
One should not despise what belongs to the monastic community, robe, drink
and food.
- 229.** "If one wishes to live happily, expectant in the ascetic life;
Like a snake in a rat's hole, one should resort to lodgings.
- 230.** "If one wishes to live happily, expectant in the ascetic life;
One should be content with whatever there is, and should develop one thing."

... The Elder Dhaniya...

5. Verses of the Elder Mātāṅgaputta

- 231.** "'It is too cold, it is too hot, it is too late in the evening,' thus it was;
Thus for those who abandon their work, moments pass by the young man.
- 232.** "But whoever regards cold and heat as no more than grass;
Doing a man's duties, he does not abandon happiness.
- 233.** "Dabba grass, kusa grass, thorny shrubs, usīra root, and muñja reed -
I shall push aside with my chest, developing seclusion."

... The Elder Mātāṅgaputta...

6. Verses of the Elder Khujjasobhita

- 234.** "Those who are brilliant speakers, very learned, ascetics dwelling in
Pāṭaliputta;
One of them, this venerable one, stands at the door, Khujjasobhita.
- 235.** "Those who are brilliant speakers, very learned, ascetics dwelling in
Pāṭaliputta;
One of them, this venerable one, stands at the door, stirred by the wind.
- 236.** "By fighting well, by sacrificing well, and by victory in battle;
By practising the holy life, thus this one thrives in happiness."

... The Elder Khujjasobhita...

7. Verses of the Elder Vāraṇa

- 237.** "Whoever among humans harms other living beings;
From this world and from the next, from both a man falls to ruin.
- 238.** "But whoever with a mind of friendliness has compassion for all living beings;
Such a person indeed generates much merit.
- 239.** "One should train in well-spoken speech, and in the attendance upon ascetics;
And in sitting alone in a secret place, and in the appeasement of the mind."

8. Verses of the Elder Vassika

- 240.** "Even one with faith, wise, among faithless relatives here;
Righteous, accomplished in morality, is for the benefit of kinsmen.
- 241.** "Having restrained with compassion, my relatives were urged by me;
With love for relatives and kinsmen, having done service to the monks.
- 242.** "They have passed away and died, they have attained the celestial abode of
happiness;
My brothers and mother rejoice, those who desire sensual pleasures."

... The Elder Vassika...

9. Verses of the Elder Yasoja

- 243.** "Resembling a black bamboo joint, emaciated, with veins spread over him;
Moderate in food and drink, a man of undepressed mind."
- 244.** "Touched by gadflies and mosquitoes, in the forest in a great wood;
Like an elephant at the head of battle, mindful, one should endure there.
- 245.** "As Brahmā, so is one alone; as a god, so are two;
As a village, so are three; beyond that is uproar."

... The Elder Yasoja...

10. Verses of the Elder Sāṭimattiya

- 246.** "You had faith before, that is not found in you today;
What is yours is yours alone, there is no misconduct of mine.
- 247.** "For faith is impermanent, unsteady, thus indeed it has been seen by me;
They become attached and become detached, therein what does the sage
lose?
- 248.** "Food is cooked for the sage, little by little, from family to family;
I shall walk for almsfood, I have strength in my legs."

... The Elder Sāṭimattiya...

11. Verses of the Elder Upāli

- 249.** "Having gone forth through faith, newly ordained, a novice;
One should associate with good friends, those of pure livelihood, not lazy.
- 250.** "Having gone forth through faith, newly ordained, a novice;
A monk dwelling in the Community, being wise, should train in the monastic
discipline.
- 251.** "Having gone forth through faith, newly ordained, a novice;

Skilled in what is allowable and not allowable, one should live without being led."

... The Elder Upāli...

12. Verses of the Elder Uttara-pāla

- 252.** "Indeed, though I was wise, fully capable of considering what is beneficial;
The five types of sensual pleasure in the world, through confusion, made me fall.
- 253.** "Having plunged into Māra's domain, pierced by a firm dart;
I was able to free myself from the snare of the King of Death.
- 254.** "All sensual pleasures have been abandoned by me, all existences have been destroyed;
The cycle of birth and wandering is eliminated, there is now no more rebirth."

... The Elder Uttara-pāla...

13. Verses of the Elder Abhibhūta

- 255.** "Listen, all you relatives, as many as are assembled here;
I will expound to you the Teaching, painful is birth again and again.
- 256.** "Begin, go forth, engage in the Buddha's teaching;
Shake off the army of Death, as an elephant a hut made of reeds.
- 257.** "Whoever in this Teaching and discipline will dwell diligently;
Having abandoned the round of rebirths, will make an end of suffering."

... The Elder Abhibhūta...

14. The Verses of the Elder Gotama

- 258.** "Wandering indeed, I went to hell, I went to the realm of ghosts again and again;
In suffering too in the animal realm, in many ways indeed I dwelt for a long time.
- 259.** "And human existence was attained, I went to the heavenly assembly again and again;
In the fine-material sphere elements, in the immaterial sphere elements, among those neither percipient nor non-percipient, and among the non-percipient I stood established.
- 260.** "Existences are well understood as coreless, conditioned, unstable, always in motion;
Having known that self-existence, mindful, I attained only peace."

... The Elder Gotama...

15. Verses of the Elder Hārita

- 261.** "He who wishes to do afterwards what should be done before;
He falls from a state of happiness, and afterwards he repents.
- 262.** "What one would do, that one should say; what one would not do, that one
should not say;
One not doing but speaking - the wise fully understand him.
- 263.** "Very happy indeed is Nibbāna, taught by the Perfectly Enlightened One;
Sorrowless, stainless, secure, where suffering ceases."

... The Elder Hārita...

16. The Verses of the Elder Vimala

- 264.** "Having avoided evil friends, one should associate with the highest person;
And one should stand firm in his exhortation, aspiring for unshakeable
happiness.
- 265.** "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.
- 266.** "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 Vimala...

The Book of Threes is concluded.

The summary therein:

Aṅgaṇika, Bhāradvāja, Paccaya, Bākula the sage;
Dhaniya, Mātāṅgaputta, Sobhita, Vāraṇa the sage.

Vassika and Yasoja, Sāṭimattiya and Upāli;
Uttarapāla, Abhibhūta, Gotama and also Hārita.

The elder in the Book of Threes, Vimala was made in Nibbāna;
Forty-eight verses, sixteen elders have been proclaimed.



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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