

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)

4. The Book of the Fours (4. Catukkanipāto)

[Thag 4.1-12, PTS 33-36]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

08. Verses of the Elder Monks

4. The Book of the Fours

1. Verses of the Elder Nāgasamāla

- 267.** "Adorned, well-dressed, garlanded, full of sandalwood;
In the middle of the highway, a woman, a dancing girl dances to music.
- 268.** "Having entered for almsfood, going I looked at her;
Adorned, well-dressed, like a snare of Death laid out.
- 269.** "Then wise attention arose in me;
Danger became manifest, disenchantment was established.
- 270.** "Thereupon my mind was liberated, see the excellence of the Teaching as Teaching;
The three true knowledges have been attained, the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

... The Elder Nāgasamāla...

2. Verses of the Elder Bhagu

- 271.** "I, overcome by torpor, went out from the dwelling;
Ascending the walking path, right there I fell to the ground.
- 272.** "Having rubbed my limbs, having ascended the walking path again;
I walked up and down on the walking path, internally well concentrated.
- 273.** "Then wise attention arose in me;
Danger became manifest, disenchantment was established.
- 274.** "Thereupon my mind was liberated, see the excellence of the Teaching as Teaching;
The three true knowledges have been attained, the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

... The Elder Bhagu...

3. Verses of the Elder Sabhiya

- 275.** "Others do not understand that we here are perishing;
Those who understand this, thereby their quarrels are appeased.
- 276.** "And when those not understanding, behave as if immortal;

But those who understand the Teaching, are free from affliction among the afflicted.

277. "Whatever lax action, and whatever defiled religious duty;
A suspicious holy life - that is not of great fruit.

278. "For one in whom respect towards fellow monks in the holy life is not found;
He is far from the Good Teaching, as the sky from the earth."

... The Elder Sabhiya...

4. Verses of the Elder Nandaka

279. "Shame on you, full of foul odour, on Māra's side, filled with desire;
Nine streams in your body, which flow always.

280. "Do not imagine the old, do not insult the Truth-finders;
Even in heaven they find no pleasure, how much less then in human pleasures.

281. "But those who are foolish, imprudent, ill-counselled, wrapped in delusion;
Such ones find pleasure there, in the snare cast by Māra.

282. "Those for whom lust and hate and ignorance have faded away;
Such ones find no pleasure there, with strings cut, unfettered."

... The Elder Nandaka...

5. Verses of the Elder Jambuka

283. "For fifty-five years, I bore dust and dirt;
Eating a monthly meal, I plucked out my hair and beard.

284. "I stood on one foot, I avoided sitting;
And I ate dry dung, and I did not consent to recitation.

285. "Having done such, leading to many bad destinations;
Floating along in the great flood, I came for refuge to the Buddha.

286. "See my going for refuge, see the excellence of the Teaching as Teaching;
The three true knowledges have been attained, the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

... The Elder Jambuka...

6. Verses of the Elder Senaka

287. "Indeed welcome it was for me, at Gayā during the Gayā-Phaggu festival;
Because I saw the Enlightened by himself, teaching the highest Teaching.

288. "The one of great radiance, the teacher of groups, the one who has attained
the highest, the guide;

The Victor of the world with its gods, of incomparable vision.

289. "The great elephant, the great hero, of great effulgence, without mental corruptions;
With all mental corruptions eliminated, the Teacher, safe from every quarter.

290. "Indeed, me who was long defiled, bound by the chain of views;
That Blessed One released, Senaka, from all mental knots."

... The Elder Senaka...

7. Verses of the Elder Sambhūta

291. "He who hurries when he should delay, and delays when he should hurry;
Through unwise arrangement, the fool undergoes suffering.

292. "His benefits decline, like the moon in the dark fortnight;
And he attains ill repute, and is hostile to friends.

293. "He who delays when he should delay, and hurries when he should hurry;
Through wise arrangement, the wise one attains happiness.

294. "His benefits are fulfilled, like the moon in the bright fortnight;
And he attains fame and renown, and is not hostile to friends."

... The Elder Sambhūta...

8. Verses of the Elder Rāhula

295. "Accomplished in both, they knew me as Rāhula the Fortunate;
In that I am the son of the Buddha, and in that I have vision regarding phenomena.

296. "And in that my mental corruptions are eliminated, and in that there is no more rebirth;
I am a Worthy One, worthy of offerings, a possessor of the threefold true knowledge, one who sees the Deathless.

297. "Blinded by sensual pleasures, covered by a net, veiled by the veil of craving;
Bound by the kinsman of the heedless, like fish in the mouth of a trap.

298. "Having forsaken that sensual pleasure, having cut off Māra's bondage;
Having uprooted craving with its root, I have become cool, quenched."

... The Elder Rāhula...

9. Verses of the Elder Candana

299. "Covered with gold, attended by a group of female slaves;
Having taken my son on her hip, my wife approached me.

300. "And having seen her coming, the mother of my own son;

Adorned, well-dressed, like a snare of Death laid out.

- 301.** "Then wise attention arose in me;
Danger became manifest, disenchantment was established.
- 302.** "Thereupon my mind was liberated, see the excellence of the Teaching as
Teaching;
The three true knowledges have been attained, the Buddha's teaching has
been fulfilled."

... The Elder Candana...

10. Verses of the Elder Dhammika

- 303.** "The Teaching indeed protects one who practises the Teaching, the Teaching
well practised brings happiness;
This is the benefit when the Teaching is well practised, one who practises the
Teaching does not go to an unfortunate realm.
- 304.** "For the Teaching and what is not the Teaching, both do not have similar
results;
What is not the Teaching leads to hell, the Teaching causes one to reach a
good destination.
- 305.** "Therefore one should make desire for the teachings, thus rejoicing with the
Fortunate One, such a one;
Established in the Teaching, the disciples of the excellent Fortunate One, the
wise are led forth, going to the foremost excellent refuge.
- 306.** "The root of the boil has been burst open, the snare of craving has been
uprooted;
He whose wandering in the round of rebirths is ended, there is no possession
for him,
Like the moon on a moonlit full-moon night."

... The Elder Dhammika...

11. Verses of the Elder Sappaka

- 307.** "When the cranes with pure white wings, frightened by fear of the dark cloud;
Will fly away seeking an abode, then the river Ajakaraṇī delights me.
- 308.** "When the cranes of very pure white, frightened by fear of the dark cloud;
Seek a shelter, not seeing a shelter, then the river Ajakaraṇī delights me.
- 309.** "Whom do they not delight there, the rose-apple trees on both sides in that
place;
They adorn the river bank, behind my cave.
- 310.** "Those places well free from the swarm of venomous snakes,
Frogs with soft voices resound there;

'Today is not a time for separation from the mountain rivers,
The Ajakaraṇī is secure, safe, and delightful.'

... The Elder Sappaka...

12. Verses of the Elder Mudita

- 311.** "I went forth for the sake of livelihood, having received full ordination;
From that I gained faith, with firm energy I strove.
- 312.** "Let this body be broken, let the slices of flesh fall apart;
Let both my calves fall from the knee joints.
- 313.** "I shall not eat, I shall not drink, nor shall I leave the dwelling;
Nor shall I lay down my side, while the dart of craving is not rooted out.
- 314.** "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 Mudita...

The Book of Fours is concluded.

The summary therein:

Nāgasamāla and Bhagu, and Sabhiya and Nandaka;
Jambuka, the Elder Senaka, Sambhūta and Rāhula too.

There is the Elder Candana, these ten are disciples of the Buddha;
The Elder Dhammika, the Elder Sappaka, and Mudita too, those three;
Fifty-two verses, all thirteen elders thus.



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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