

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)

11. Past Life Histories-2 - of the Elder Monks (11. Apadānapāḷi-2 -
Therāpadānapāḷi)

48. The Chapter on Naḷamāli (48. Naḷamālivaggo)

[Tha Ap 473-482, PTS 2.413-2.418]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

11. Past Life Histories-2 - of the Elder Monks

48. The Chapter on Naḷamāli

1. The Life History of the Elder Naḷamāliya

1. "The golden-coloured Enlightened by himself, the receiver of oblations;
Going through the forest top, I saw the leader of the world.
2. "Having taken a reed garland, and going out at that very moment;
There I saw the Enlightened by himself, a crosser of the mental floods, without
mental corruptions.
3. "With a confident mind, glad at heart, I made an offering of a garland of reeds;
To the one worthy of offerings, the great hero, who has compassion for all the
world.
4. "Thirty-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I placed that garland;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of honouring the
Buddha.
5. "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, all existences have been
uprooted;
Like an elephant having cut the bond, I dwell without mental corruptions.
6. "Indeed welcome it was for me, my coming to the Buddha's presence;
The three true knowledges have been attained, the Buddha's teaching has
been fulfilled.
7. "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 Naḷamāliya spoke these verses.

Thus he spoke.

The Life History of the Elder Naḷamāliya is the first.

2. The Life History of the Elder Maṇipūjaka

8. "The Conqueror named Padumuttara, who has gone beyond all phenomena;
The Perfectly Enlightened One, desiring seclusion, goes through the sky-path.
9. "Not far from the Himalayas, there was a great natural lake;
There my dwelling was, connected with meritorious action.
10. "Having gone forth from the dwelling, I saw the leader of the world;

Like a blazing blue water-lily, like a burning fire.

- 11.** "Selecting, I did not see a flower, they will honour the leader;
Having gladdened my own mind, I venerated the Teacher.
- 12.** "Having taken the gem from my head, I worshipped the leader of the world;
By this gem-offering, may the result be good.
- 13.** "Padumuttara, knower of the world, the receiver of oblations;
The Teacher, standing in the sky, spoke this verse.
- 14.** 'May that thought of yours succeed, may you obtain abundant happiness;
By this gem-offering, may you experience great fame.'
- 15.** Having said this, the Blessed One, named after the best of lotuses,
The Supreme Buddha went to where his mind was directed.
- 16.** "For sixty cosmic cycles as lord of the gods, I exercised divine kingship;
And many hundreds of times, I was a universal monarch.
- 17.** "Remembering my former action, having become a god, being mindful;
A gem arises for me, making light for me.
- 18.** "Eighty-six thousand women were my possessions;
Adorned with variegated garments and ornaments, wearing jewelled earrings.
- 19.** 'With long eyelashes, cheerful, with good perception, slender-waisted;
They surround me constantly, this is the fruit of gem-offering.
- 20.** "Made of gold, made of jewels, and likewise made of ruby;
My goods are well-made, ornaments if you wish.
- 21.** "Pinnacle-chambered dwellings, charming houses, and a very precious bed;
Having understood my thought, arise at will.
- 22.** "It is a gain for them, and well gained, who obtain the listening;
A field of merit for human beings, a medicine for all living beings.
- 23.** "By me too well-done action, I who saw the leader;
From the nether world I am freed, I have attained the unshakeable state.
- 24.** "Whatever realm of rebirth I am reborn in, whether divinity or human;
By day and by night, there is always light for me.
- 25.** "By that very gem-offering, having experienced accomplishment;
The light of knowledge was seen by me, I have attained the unshakeable state.
- 26.** "A hundred thousand cosmic cycles ago from now, the gem which I venerated;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of gem-offering.

- 27.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental corruptions.
- 28.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 29.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Mañipūjaka spoke these verses.

Thus he spoke.

The Life History of the Elder Mañipūjaka is the second.

3. The Life History of the Elder Ukkāsatika

- 30.** "The Blessed One named Kosika, at Cittakūṭa he dwelt then;
A meditator, delighting in meditative absorption, a Buddha, delighting in seclusion, a sage.
- 31.** "Having plunged into the Himalaya, attended by a group of women;
I saw the Buddha Kosika, like the full moon.
- 32.** "Having taken a hundred torches, I together with my retinue then;
Having stood for seven nights and days, on the eighth I came.
- 33.** "The Buddha Kosika, the Self-Become One, the unconquered, having emerged;
With a confident mind, having paid homage, I gave one almsfood.
- 34.** "By that action, lord of bipeds, eldest of the world, bull among men;
I was born in the Tusita realm, this is the fruit of one alms-giving.
- 35.** "By day and by night, there is always light for me;
A hundred yojanas all around, I pervade with radiance.
- 36.** For fifty-five cosmic cycles, I was a universal monarch;
Ruler of the four quarters, victorious, lord of the Indian subcontinent.
- 37.** "Then my city was prosperous, flourishing, well-fashioned;
Thirty yojanas in length, and twenty in breadth.
- 38.** "A city named Sobhaṇa, created by Vissakamma;
That place, secluded from the ten sounds, furnished with cymbals.
- 39.** "In that city there is not, creeper nor wood nor clay;
Entirely made of gold, it shines permanently.
- 40.** "Surrounded by four walls, three were made of jewels;
And in the middle a row of palm trees, created by Vissakamma.
- 41.** Ten thousand lotus ponds, covered with lotuses and waterlilies;
Full of white lotuses, stirred by various odours.

- 42.** "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, the torch which I held;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of holding a torch.
- 43.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental
corruptions.
- 44.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 45.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Ukkāsatika spoke these verses.

Thus he spoke.

The Life History of the Elder Ukkāsatika is the third.

4. The Life History of the Elder Sumanabījaniya

- 46.** "At the excellent Bodhi tree of the Blessed One Vipassī;
Sumana, having grasped a fan, fanned the highest enlightenment tree.
- 47.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, I fanned the highest enlightenment
tree;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of fanning.
- 48.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental
corruptions.
- 49.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 50.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Sumanabījaniya spoke these verses.

Thus he spoke.

The Life History of the Elder Sumanabījaniya is the fourth.

5. The Life History of the Elder Kummāsādāyaka

- 51.** "To Vipassī, the great sage, walking in search;
Having seen his empty bowl, I filled it with food made with flour.
- 52.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I gave that almsfood then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the food made with
flour.
- 53.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental
corruptions.
- 54.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 55.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Kummāsādāyaka spoke these verses.

Thus he spoke.

The Life History of the Elder Kummāsādāyaka is the fifth.

6. The Life History of the Elder Kusaṭṭhakadāyaka

- 56.** "To the Blessed One Kassapa, the brahmin who has lived the holy life;
With a confident mind, glad at heart, I gave eight portions of kusa-grass food.
- 57.** "In this very cosmic cycle, I gave eight portions of kusa-grass food;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the eight portions of
kusa-grass food.
- 58.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental
corruptions.
- 59.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 60.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Kusaṭṭhakadāyaka spoke these verses.

Thus he spoke.

The Life History of the Elder Kusaṭṭhakadāyaka is the sixth.

7. The Life History of the Elder Giripunnāgiya

- 61.** "Sobhita by name was the Perfectly Enlightened One, at Cittakūṭa he dwelt
then;
Having taken a mountain laurel, I venerated the Self-Become One.
- 62.** "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, when I honoured the Buddha;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of honouring the
Buddha.
- 63.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental
corruptions.
- 64.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 65.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Giripunnāgiya spoke these verses.

Thus he spoke.

The Life History of the Elder Giripunnāgiya is the seventh.

8. The Life History of the Elder Vallikāraphaladāyaka

- 66.** "The Perfectly Enlightened One named Sumana, at Takkara he dwelt then;

Having taken a vallikāra fruit, I gave to the Self-Become One.

- 67.** "Thirty-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I gave that fruit then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of giving fruit.
- 68.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental
corruptions.
- 69.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 70.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Vallikāraphaladāyaka spoke these

verses.

The Life History of the Elder Vallikāraphaladāyaka is the eighth.

9. The Life History of the Elder Pānadhīdāyaka

- 71.** "The Blessed One Anomadassī, the elder of the world, the lord of men;
Having come out from the day residence, the one with vision first ascended.
- 72.** "Having taken a well-made beverage vessel, I proceeded on the journey;
There I saw the Enlightened by himself, on foot, lovely to behold.
- 73.** "Having gladdened my own mind, having taken out the beverage vessel;
Having placed it at his feet, I spoke these words.
- 74.** "'Climb aboard, O great hero, lord of the Fortunate Ones, great leader;
From this I shall obtain fruit, may that purpose of mine succeed.'
- 75.** "The Blessed One Anomadassī, the elder of the world, the lord of men;
Having ascended the beverage vessel, spoke these words.
- 76.** "He who gave me a beverage vessel, devoted, with his own hands;
Him I will explain, listen to me as I speak."
- 77.** "Having understood the Buddha's word, all the gods assembled;
With elated minds, glad, filled with joy, with joined palms.
- 78.** "'By the giving of beverages, this one will be happy;
And fifty-five times he will exercise divine kingship.
- 79.** "A thousand times he will be a king, a universal monarch;
Principality over a district, extensive, incalculable by counting.
- 80.** "Immeasurable cosmic cycles from now, of the Okkāka clan origin;
Gotama by name, by clan, the Teacher in the world will be.
- 81.** "His heir in the teachings, legitimate, created by the Teaching;

Having fully understood all mental corruptions, he will attain nibbāna, without mental corruptions.

- 82.** "In the heavenly world or among human beings, the meritorious one will be reborn;
He will obtain a vehicle comparable to a divine chariot.
- 83.** "Mansions, palanquins, vehicles, elephants fully adorned;
Chariots yoked with thoroughbreds, always appear to me.
- 84.** "Even while going forth from home, I went forth by chariot;
While my hair was being cut, I attained arahantship.
- 85.** "It is a gain for me, it is well-gained for me, trade well undertaken;
Having given one beverage vessel, I have attained the unshakeable state.
- 86.** "Immeasurable cosmic cycles from now, when I gave a drink;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of offering a drink.
- 87.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental corruptions.
- 88.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 89.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Pānadhidāyaka spoke these verses.

Thus he spoke.

The Life History of the Elder Pānadhidāyaka is the ninth.

10. The Life History of the Elder Pulinacaṅkamiya

- 90.** "Formerly I was a deer hunter, in the forest grove;
Seeking a wind-deer, I saw a walking path.
- 91.** "Having taken sand in my lap, I scattered it on the walking path;
With a confident mind, glad at heart, for the glorious Fortunate One.
- 92.** "Thirty-one cosmic cycles ago from now, I scattered sand;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the sand.
- 93.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental corruptions.
- 94.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 95.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Pulinacaṅkamiya spoke these verses.

Thus he spoke.

The Life History of the Elder Pulinacaṅkamiya is the tenth.

The Naḷamālī Chapter is the forty-eighth.

Its summary:

Naḷamālī, Maṇidado, Ukkāsatikabījanī;
Kummāso and Kusaṭṭho, and also Giripunnāgiya.

Vallikāro, Pānadhido, and also Pulinacaṅkamo;
Ninety-five verses, counted by the wise.



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.

PDF Creation Date: 16 August 2026

HOW TO CITE

PaliVerse (2026). The Triple Canon. The Canon of Discourses. 5. The Collection of Minor Texts. 11. Past Life Histories-2 - of the Elder Monks. 48. The Chapter on Naḷamāli Retrieved from paliverse.org

© 2026 The PaliVerse Project · All Rights Reserved
Centre for Study and Practice of Theravāda Buddhism
Civic Non-Profit Company registered in Greece
This PDF may be freely distributed for study and practice.

PaliVerse.org