

THE PALIVERSE PROJECT

The Universe of Buddha's Wisdom

The Triple Canon (Tipiṭaka)

The Canon of Discourses (Sutta Piṭaka)

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5. The Chapter on Upāli (5. Upālivaggo)

[Tha Ap 43-52, PTS 1.92-1.103]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

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

5. The Chapter on Upāli

1. The Life History of the Elder Bhāgineyyupāli

- 1.** "Surrounded by a thousand who eliminated the mental corruptions, the leader of the world;
Engaged in seclusion, he goes to be in seclusion.
- 2.** "Clothed in a cheetah hide, bearing a tripod;
Surrounded by the community of monks, I saw the leader of the world.
- 3.** "Having arranged my antelope skin on one shoulder, having made a salutation with joined palms at my head;
Having paid respect to the Perfectly Enlightened One, I praised the leader of the world.
- 4.** "Just as those born in eggs and those born in moisture, spontaneously born and those born in wombs;
All birds such as crows and so on, always moving through the sky.
- 5.** "Whatever living beings there are, whether percipient or non-percipient;
All these are within your knowledge, plunged inside.
- 6.** "Whatever mountain odours there are, in the highest mountain Himavant;
All those do not equal even a fraction of your morality.
- 7.** "Plunged into the darkness of delusion, this world with its gods;
When your knowledge is shining, the darkness is destroyed.
- 8.** "Just as when the sun has set, beings are gone to darkness;
So when a Buddha has not arisen, the world is gone to darkness.
- 9.** "Just as the rising sun always dispels darkness;
Just so you, O best of Buddhas, always destroy darkness.
- 10.** "You are resolute in striving, the Buddha in the world with its gods;
By your accomplished work, you please many people.
- 11.** "Having given thanks for all that, Padumuttara, the great sage;
The wise one rose up into the sky, like a king of swans in the firmament.
- 12.** "Having risen up, the Perfectly Enlightened One, the great sage Padumuttara;
The Teacher, standing in the sky, spoke these verses.
- 13.** "By whom this knowledge was praised, combined with similes;

Him I will explain, listen to me as I speak.

- 14.** "And eighteen times he will be a king of gods;
Three hundred times kingship on earth, he will inhabit the earth.
- 15.** "And twenty-five times he will be a wheel-turning monarch;
Principality over a district, extensive, incalculable by counting.
- 16.** "In a hundred thousand cosmic cycles, of the Okkāka clan origin;
Gotama by name, by clan, the Teacher in the world will be.
- 17.** "Having fallen away from Tusita, urged on by wholesome root;
Being as if low by birth, he will be named Upāli.
- 18.** "He, having gone forth afterwards, having discarded evil;
Having fully understood all mental corruptions, he will attain nibbāna, without
mental corruptions.
- 19.** "And the Buddha Gotama, satisfied, the Sakyan son of great fame;
Will establish him in the foremost position for attainment in the Discipline.'
- 20.** "Through faith I have gone forth, with obligations fulfilled, without mental
corruptions;
Having fully understood all mental corruptions, I dwell without mental
corruptions.
- 21.** "The Blessed One had compassion for me, I am confident in the discipline;
Satisfied by my own deeds, I dwell without mental corruptions.
- 22.** "Restrained in the principal monastic code, and in the five faculties;
I uphold the whole monastic discipline, the consummate jewel-mine.
- 23.** "Having understood my virtues, the Teacher, unsurpassed in the world,
Having sat down in the community of monks, established me in the foremost
position.
- 24.** "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 Upāli spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Bhāgineyyupāli is the first.

2. The Life History of the Elder Soṇakoḷivisa

- 25.** "For the sage Anomadassī, the foremost of the world, such a one;
Having made a coating with lime, I had a walking path built.
- 26.** "With flowers of various kinds, I spread out the walking path;
Having made a canopy in space, I fed the highest Buddha.

- 27.** "Having raised my joined palms, having paid respect to the one of good conduct;
I dedicated the Dīghasāla to the Blessed One then.
- 28.** "Having understood my thought, the Teacher, unsurpassed in the world,
The Blessed One accepted, the one with vision, out of compassion.
- 29.** "Having received, the Perfectly Enlightened One, worthy of offerings in the world with its gods;
Having sat down in the community of monks, he spoke these verses.
- 30.** "Whoever with a joyful mind, gave me the Dīghasāla;
Him I will explain, listen to me as I speak.
- 31.** "'At the time of death for this one, endowed with meritorious deeds;
A chariot yoked with a thousand horses will appear at that very moment.
- 32.** "By that vehicle this man will go to the heavenly world;
The gods will give thanks when one of wholesome existence has arrived.
- 33.** "'A very precious divine mansion, foremost, plastered with jewel-clay;
Endowed with excellent pinnacle buildings, he will dwell in the divine mansion.
- 34.** "'For thirty thousand cosmic cycles, he will delight in the heavenly world;
For twenty-five cosmic cycles, he will be a king of gods.
- 35.** "'And seventy-seven times, he will be a wheel-turning monarch;
All of them named Yasodhara, all having the same name.
- 36.** "'Having experienced the two successes, having increased the accumulation of merit;
In the twenty-eighth cosmic cycle, he will be a wheel-turning monarch.
- 37.** "'There too a divine mansion, excellent, created by Vissakamma;
That place, secluded from the ten sounds, will dwell in the middle of the city.
- 38.** "Immeasurable cosmic cycles from now, a protector of the earth of great supernormal power;
Okkāka by name, will be a king in the realm.
- 39.** 'Of sixteen thousand women, she is the most excellent of all;
A well-born woman of the warrior caste, she will give birth to nine sons.
- 40.** "'Having given birth to nine sons, the woman of the warrior caste will die;
And a young, dear maiden will become the chief queen.
- 41.** "'Having pleased Okkāka, the maiden will obtain a boon;
Having obtained the boon, that maiden will cause her sons to go forth.
- 42.** "'And all those who have gone forth will go to the best of mountains;
All, fearing the mixing of birth, will dwell with their sisters.

- 43.** "'And one maiden will be surrounded by diseases;
Lest our lineage be broken,' the warriors will bury her.
- 44.** "'The warrior, having taken her out, will dwell together with her;
There will be a schism then, of the Okkāka clan origin.
- 45.** "'Their offspring will be, by birth named Koliyas;
There he will experience no small human wealth.
- 46.** "'Having fallen away from that class of beings, he will go to the heavenly
world;
There too he will obtain an excellent divine mansion, delightful.
- 47.** "'Having fallen away from the world of the gods, urged on by wholesome root;
Having come to human existence, he will be named Soṇa.
- 48.** "'Putting forth strenuous energy, resolute, striving in the Teacher's
Dispensation;
Having fully understood all mental corruptions, he will attain nibbāna, without
mental corruptions.
- 49.** "'The Blessed One Anantadassī, Gotama, the bull of the Sakyans;
The great hero, knower of distinctions, will establish him in the highest state.'
- 50.** "When the sky has rained four inches, when the grass is stirred by the wind in
the open space;
Having stood firm, for one devoted to exertion, such a one, beyond that the
highest state is not found.
- 51.** "Tamed in the highest restraint, my mind is well directed;
All my burden has been laid down, I am quenched, without mental corruptions.
- 52.** "The Resplendent One, the great elephant, well-born like a lion;
Having sat down in the community of monks, established me in the foremost
position.
- 53.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."
Thus the Venerable Elder Soṇa Koḷivisa spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Soṇakoḷivisa is the second.

3. The Life History of the Elder Kāḷigodhāputtabhaddiya

- 54.** "Padumuttara, the Enlightened by himself, with a mind of friendliness, the
great sage;
All the populace approaches, the foremost leader of the entire world.
- 55.** "Both flour and bound provisions, material gains, drink and food;
All give to the Teacher, in the unsurpassed field of merit.
- 56.** "I too will give a gift, to the god of gods, such a one;

Having invited the foremost Buddha, and also the unsurpassed Community.

- 57.** "Instigated by me, these invited the Truth-finder;
And the whole community of monks, the unsurpassed field of merit.
- 58.** "A divan worth a hundred thousand, golden, spread with a woollen carpet with long fleece;
With a cotton-mattress and a woollen coverlet embroidered with flowers, with linen and cotton;
Very precious I prepared, a seat fit for a Buddha.
- 59.** "Padumuttara, knower of the world, god of gods, lord of men;
Surrounded by the community of monks, came to my door.
- 60.** "Having gone out to meet the Perfectly Enlightened One, the lord of the world, the famous one;
With a confident mind, glad at heart, I bowed down to the home of the Community.
- 61.** "A hundred thousand monks, and the Buddha, the leader of the world;
With a confident mind, glad at heart, I satisfied them with the finest food.
- 62.** "Padumuttara, knower of the world, the receiver of oblations;
Having sat down in the community of monks, he spoke these verses.
- 63.** "By whom this seat was given, golden, spread with a woollen carpet with long fleece;
Him I will explain, listen to me as I speak.
- 64.** "'Seventy-four times, he will exercise divine kingship;
He will experience success, honoured by the nymphs.
- 65.** "'A thousand times principality over a district, he will inhabit the earth;
And fifty-one times he will be a wheel-turning monarch.
- 66.** "'In all realms of becoming, he will be of high family;
And he, having gone forth afterwards, urged on by wholesome root;
Bhaddiya by name, will be a disciple of the Teacher.
- 67.** "I am devoted to seclusion, I dwell in a remote resting place;
And all the fruition has been attained, today I have abandoned the mental defilements.
- 68.** "'Having directly known all about me, the omniscient leader of the world;
Having sat down in the community of monks, established me in the foremost position.'
- 69.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."
Thus the Venerable Elder Bhaddiya the son of Kālīgodhā spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Bhaddiya the son of Kālīgodhā is the third.

4. The Life History of the Elder Sanniṭṭhāpaka

- 70.** "Having made a hut in the forest, I dwell in the mountain caves;
Content with gain and loss, with fame and disgrace.
- 71.** "Padumuttara, knower of the world, the receiver of oblations;
Came to my presence with a hundred thousand masters.
- 72.** "The great elephant who had arrived, named after the best of water-born
flowers;
Having prepared a grass mat, I gave it to the Teacher.
- 73.** "With a confident mind, glad at heart, a gallnut and drinking water I
Gave to one upright, with a clear mind.
- 74.** "A hundred thousand cosmic cycles ago from now, the gift that I gave then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the gallnut.
- 75.** "Forty-one cosmic cycles ago, I was the sole tamer of enemies;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 76.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."
Thus the Venerable Elder Sanniṭṭhāpaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Sanniṭṭhāpaka is the fourth.

5. The Life History of the Elder Pañcahatthiya

- 77.** "The Perfectly Enlightened One named Sumedha, going through the market
place;
With eyes downcast, speaking moderately, mindful, with controlled faculties.
- 78.** "Five bundles of water-lilies, for the purpose of a garland, were mine;
With those I venerated the Buddha, devoted, with my own hands.
- 79.** "And those flowers were placed as a roof for the Teacher;
They honoured the great elephant, as pupils their teacher.
- 80.** "In thirty thousand cosmic cycles, the flower that I offered;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of honouring the
Buddha.
- 81.** "Twenty hundred cosmic cycles from now, there were five warriors;
Hatthiya by name, wheel-turning monarchs of great power.
- 82.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."
Thus the Venerable Elder Pañcahatthiya spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Pañcahatthiya is the fifth.

6. The Life History of the Elder Padumacchadaniya

- 83.** "When the Lord of the World was quenched, Vipassī, the foremost person;
Having taken a fully blossomed lotus, I placed it on the funeral pyre.
- 84.** And when the funeral pyre was prepared, he rose up into the sky;
Having made a covering in space, he held it over the funeral pyre.
- 85.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I offered the flower;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of honouring the
Buddha.
- 86.** "Forty-seven cosmic cycles from now, named Padumissara;
Ruler of the four quarters, victorious, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 87.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."
Thus the Venerable Elder Padumacchadaniya spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Padumacchadaniya is the sixth.

7. The Life History of the Elder Sayanadāyaka

- 88.** "To the Blessed One Siddhattha, having a benevolent heart, such a one;
The finest bed was given by me, spread over with cloth goods.
- 89.** "The Blessed One accepted the allowable lodging;
Having risen from that bed, the Conqueror rose up into the sky.
- 90.** "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, when I gave a bed;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the bed.
- 91.** Fifty-one cosmic cycles from now, Varaka was his name, a god;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 92.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."
Thus the Venerable Elder Sayanadāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Sayanadāyaka is the seventh.

8. The Life History of the Elder Caṅkamanadāyaka

- 93.** "For the sage Atthadassī, the foremost of the world, such a one;
Having piled up bricks, I had a walking path built.
- 94.** "Five cubits in height, a walking path well created;
A hundred cubits in length, to be cultivated, delightful.
- 95.** "The Blessed One accepted, Atthadassī, the highest of men;
Having taken the sand with his hand, he spoke these verses.
- 96.** "'By this gift of sand, and by the well-made walking path;
He will experience a sandy bank endowed with the seven jewels.
- 97.** "'For three cosmic cycles among the gods, he will exercise divine kingship;

He will experience success, honoured by the nymphs.

- 98.** "'Having come to the human world, he will be a king in the realm;
Thrice he will be a wheel-turning monarch upon the earth.'
- 99.** "In eighteen hundred cosmic cycles, the action which I did then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the walking path.
- 100.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."
Thus the Venerable Elder Caṅkamanadāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Caṅkamanadāyaka is the eighth.

9. The Life History of the Elder Subhadda

- 101.** "Padumuttara, knower of the world, the receiver of oblations;
Having lifted up the populace, the one of great fame is extinguished.
- 102.** "And when the Enlightened by himself was passing away, the ten thousand
trembled;
The crowd of people was great, the gods gathered together then.
- 103.** "Having filled with sandalwood, tagara and jasmine;
Joyful, with a joyful mind, I placed the highest among men.
- 104.** "Having understood my thought, the Teacher, unsurpassed in the world,
The Perfectly Enlightened One, while lying down, spoke these verses.
- 105.** "He who in my last time, covered me with a garland of scents;
Him I will explain, listen to me as I speak.
- 106.** "Passed away from here, this man will go to the Tusita realm;
Having exercised kingship there, he will go to the Nimmāna realm.
- 107.** "By this very means, having given a garland, the excellent best;
Satisfied by his own deeds, he will experience success.
- 108.** "'Again, in the Tusita realm, this man will be reborn;
Having fallen away from that class of beings, he will go to human existence.
- 109.** "'The Sakyan son, the great elephant, the foremost in the world with its gods;
Having awakened many beings, the one with vision will attain final Nibbāna.
- 110.** "'Then he, having approached, being peaceful, urged on by wholesome root;
Having approached the Perfectly Enlightened One, will ask a question then.
- 111.** "'Having gladdened, the Perfectly Enlightened One, the omniscient leader of
the world;
Having fully understood meritorious action, will reveal the truths.
- 112.** "'And this question has been begun, satisfied, with a fully focused mind;

Having paid respect to the Teacher, he will ask for the going forth.

- 113.** "Having seen one with a gladdened mind, pleased by his own action;
That Buddha, skilled in the highest path, will give him the going forth.
- 114.** "Having striven, this man, in the teaching of the Perfectly Enlightened One;
Having fully understood all mental corruptions, he will attain nibbāna, without
mental corruptions.'

The fifth recitation section.

- 115.** "Connected with former action, fully focused, well concentrated;
A legitimate son of the Buddha, I am born of the Teaching, well created.
- 116.** "Having approached the King of the Teaching, I asked the highest question;
And speaking my question, he led me to the stream of the Teaching.
- 117.** "Having understood his Teaching, I dwelt delighted in the Dispensation;
Having fully understood all mental corruptions, I dwell without mental
corruptions.
- 118.** "A hundred thousand cosmic cycles ago, the highest leader born of water;
He attained Nibbāna without clinging, like a lamp with the elimination of oil.
- 119.** "The stupa was seven yojanas high, and made of jewels;
There I venerated a flag, entirely auspicious and delightful.
- 120.** And of the Buddha Kassapa, Tissa was the name of the chief disciple;
He was my legitimate son, an heir in the Conqueror's Dispensation.
- 121.** "With an inferior mind towards him, I spoke an unlucky word;
By the result of that action, afterwards there was good fortune for me.
- 122.** "In the Upavattana, in the Sāla grove, on his final bed, the sage;
The great hero gave me the going forth, beneficial, compassionate, the
Conqueror.
- 123.** "Today itself now is the going forth, today itself is the full ordination;
Today itself is the final nibbāna, in the presence of the highest of two-footed
beings.
- 124.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."
Thus the Venerable Elder Subhadda spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Subhadda is the ninth.

10. The Life History of the Elder Cunda

- 125.** "To the Blessed One Siddhattha, the foremost of the world, such a one;
Having had an oblation post made, I covered it with jasmine flowers.

- 126.** "Having finished arranging that flower, I offered it to the Buddha;
Having held up the remaining flowers, I placed them upon the Buddha.
- 127.** "Resembling a golden flame, the Buddha, the supreme leader of the world;
With a confident mind, glad at heart, I offered a flower oblation.
- 128.** "The Perfectly Enlightened One, who has crossed over uncertainty, honoured
by those who have crossed the mental floods;
Having sat down in the community of monks, he spoke these verses.
- 129.** "He who gave me the flower-offering, wafting divine fragrance;
Him I will explain, listen to me as I speak.
- 130.** "Passed away from here, this man, honoured by a host of gods;
Surrounded by jasmine flowers, will go to the heavenly world.
- 131.** "'His dwelling was lofty, made of gold and jewels;
A divine mansion will appear, brought forth by meritorious deeds.
- 132.** "'Seventy-four times, he will exercise divine kingship;
He will experience success, honoured by the nymphs.
- 133.** "Three hundred times kingship on earth, he will inhabit the earth;
And seventy-five times, he will be a universal monarch.
- 134.** "'Dujjaya by name, he will be lord of men;
Having experienced that merit, dependent on his own action.
- 135.** "'Not having gone to the nether world, he will go to human existence;
Unwrought gold accumulated for him, not less than a hundred million.
- 136.** "'He will be born in a womb, he will be a brahmin;
The wise son of Vaṅganta, the dear legitimate son of Sārī.
- 137.** "'And he, having gone forth afterwards, in the Dispensation of the Resplendent
One;
Cūḷacunda by name, will be a disciple of the Teacher.
- 138.** 'While still a novice, he will become one who has eliminated the mental
corruptions;
Having fully understood all mental corruptions, he will attain nibbāna, without
mental corruptions.'
- 139.** "I attended on the great hero, and many other well-behaved ones;
I also attended on my brother, for the attainment of the highest goal.
- 140.** "Having attended on my brother, having placed the relic in the bowl;
I offered it to the Perfectly Enlightened One, the elder of the world, the lord of
men.
- 141.** "Having held up with both hands, the Buddha in the world with its gods;

Displaying that relic, praised the chief disciple.

- 142.** "My mind is well liberated, faith is established in me;
Having fully understood all mental corruptions, I dwell without mental
corruptions.
- 143.** "The analytical knowledges have been attained, and the deliverances have
been touched;
The six higher knowledges have been realised, the Buddha's teaching has
been fulfilled."
Thus the Venerable Elder Cunda spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Cunda is the tenth.

The Chapter on Upāli is the fifth.

Its summary:

Upāli, Soṇa, Bhaddiya, the elephant of the one who concludes;
Roof, sleeping place and walking path, Subhadda, and the one named Cunda;
One hundred and forty verses, and four beyond that.



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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