

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)

5. The Chapter on the Fool (5. Bālavaggo)

[Dhp 60-75, PTS 10-11]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

02. The Teaching in Verses

5. The Chapter on Fools

- 60.** Long is the night for one who is awake, long is a yojana for one who is weary;
Long is the wandering in the round of rebirths for the foolish, not understanding the Good Teaching.
- 61.** If while walking one does not find a superior or an equal to oneself;
One should firmly pursue the solitary life, there is no companionship with a fool.
- 62.** "I have sons, I have wealth," thus the fool is vexed;
Indeed, oneself is not one's own, whence sons, whence wealth?
- 63.** Whoever, being a fool, imagines his folly, is wise or even like a wise person because of that;
But a fool who thinks himself wise, he indeed is called "a fool".
- 64.** Even if for life a fool attends on a wise person,
He does not know the Teaching, just as a ladle the flavour of curry.
- 65.** Even if for a moment a wise man attends on a wise person,
He quickly knows the Teaching, just as the tongue the flavour of curry.
- 66.** Fools, imprudent, wander about, with oneself as one's own enemy;
Doing evil action, which has bitter fruit.
- 67.** That action done is not good, which having done one regrets;
The result of which one experiences with tearful face, weeping.
- 68.** "And that action done is good, which having done one does not regret;
The result of which one experiences delighted, glad at heart.
- 69.** The fool imagines it is sweet, as long as evil does not ripen;
But when evil ripens, the fool undergoes suffering.
- 70.** Month after month with the tip of kusa grass, a fool might eat food;
He is not worth a sixteenth fraction of those who have comprehended the Dhamma.
- 71.** For evil action done does not emit instantly like milk;
Burning, it follows the fool, like fire covered with ashes.
- 72.** Only for harm does renown arise for a fool;
It destroys the fool's bright portion, splitting his head asunder.

- 73.** He might wish for unreal esteem, and honour among monks;
And supremacy in residences, and veneration among other families.
- 74.** "Let both householders and those gone forth think it was done by me alone;
Let them be under my control alone, in whatever duties or non-duties;
Such is the thought of a fool, desire and conceit grow.
- 75.** One is the proximate cause for material gain, another leads to Nibbāna;
Having understood this thus, a monk, a disciple of the Buddha;
Should not delight in honour, but should cultivate seclusion.

The Chapter on the Fool is concluded as fifth.



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: 14 September 2026

HOW TO CITE

PaliVerse (2026). The Triple Canon. The Canon of Discourses. 5. The Collection of Minor Texts. 02. The Teaching in Verses. 5. The Chapter on the Fool 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