

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)

6. The Book of the Sixes (6. Chakkanipāto)

[Thag 6.1-14, PTS 42-48]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

08. Verses of the Elder Monks

6. The Book of the Sixes

1. Verses of the Elder Uruveḷakassapa

- 375.** Having seen the miracles of the famous Gotama;
I did not bow down for so long, deceived by jealousy and conceit.
- 376.** "Having understood my thought, the trainer of men reproved me;
Then there was spiritual urgency for me, wonderful and terrifying.
- 377.** "Formerly, when I was a matted-hair ascetic, whatever success I had was
small;
Having disregarded that then, I went forth in the Conqueror's Dispensation.
- 378.** "Formerly content with sacrifice, with the sensual element put foremost;
Afterwards I abolished lust and hate, and delusion too.
- 379.** "I know past lives, the divine eye has been purified;
Possessing supernormal power, a knower of others' minds, and I attained the
divine ear.
- 380.** "For whatever purpose I went forth, from home into homelessness;
That purpose has been attained by me, the destruction of all mental fetters."

... The Elder Uruveḷakassapa...

2. Verses of the Elder Tekicchakāri

- 381.** "The paddy has been stored away, the rice has gone to the threshing floor;
Yet I do not obtain almsfood, what shall I do?"
- 382.** "Recollect the immeasurable Buddha with devotion;
Your body pervaded with rapture, you will be constantly elated.
- 383.** "Recollect the immeasurable Dhamma with devotion;
Your body pervaded with rapture, you will be constantly elated.
- 384.** "Recollect the immeasurable Community with devotion;
Your body pervaded with rapture, you will be constantly elated.
- 385.** "You dwell in the open air, these nights are cold and wintry;
Do not be overcome by the cold and suffer hardship, enter the dwelling with
bolts fastened.
- 386.** "I shall experience the four boundless states, and happy with them I shall
dwell;

I shall not suffer hardship from the cold, dwelling unperturbed."

... The Elder Tekicchakārī...

3. Verses of the Elder Mahānāga

- 387.** "For one in whom respect towards fellow monks in the holy life is not found;
He falls away from the Good Teaching, like a fish in little water.
- 388.** "For one in whom respect towards fellow monks in the holy life is not found;
He does not grow in the Good Teaching, like a rotten seed in a field.
- 389.** "For one in whom respect towards fellow monks in the holy life is not found;
He is far from Nibbāna, in the Dispensation of the King of the Dhamma.
- 390.** "For one in whom respect towards fellow monks in the holy life is found;
He does not abandon the Good Teaching, like a fish in abundant water.
- 391.** "For one in whom respect towards fellow monks in the holy life is found;
He grows in the Good Teaching, like a good seed in a field.
- 392.** "For one in whom respect towards fellow monks in the holy life is found;
Nibbāna is near, in the Dispensation of the King of the Dhamma."

... The Elder Mahānāga...

4. Verses of the Elder Kulla

- 393.** Kulla, having gone to the charnel ground, saw a woman's body cast away;
Thrown aside in the cemetery, being eaten, pervaded with worms.
- 394.** "Afflicted, impure, putrid, see, Kulla, this body;
Oozing and dripping, delighted in by the foolish.
- 395.** "Having taken up the mirror of the Teaching, for the attainment of knowledge
and vision;
I reviewed this body, hollow within and without.
- 396.** "Just as this is, so is that; just as that is, so is this;
As below so above, as above so below.
- 397.** "As by day so by night, as by night so by day;
As before so after, as after so before.
- 398.** "With the five-part music, there is no such delight;
As for one with a fully focused mind, rightly seeing the Teaching with insight."

... The Elder Kulla...

5. Verses of the Elder Mālukiyaputta

- 399.** For one who lives heedlessly, craving grows like a creeper;
He floats from existence to existence, like a monkey in the forest desiring fruit.

- 400.** Whomever this contemptible craving in the world, this attachment, overcomes;
His sorrows increase, like bīraṇa grass rained upon.
- 401.** Whoever overcomes this contemptible craving in the world, difficult to pass
over;
Sorrows fall from him, like a water drop from a lotus.
- 402.** This I say to you, may you be blessed, as many as are assembled here;
Dig up the root of craving, as one desiring usīra digs up bīraṇa grass;
Let not Māra break you again and again, as a stream breaks a reed.
- 403.** "Practise the Buddha's teaching, let not the moment pass you by;
For those who have missed the moment grieve, consigned to hell.
- 404.** "Negligence is dust, negligence; affected by negligence is dust;
By diligence, by true knowledge, one should draw out the dart from oneself."

... The Elder Mālukiya-putta...

6. Verses of the Elder Sappadāsa

- 405.** "Twenty-five years, since I went forth;
Not even for a mere finger-snap, did I attain peace of mind.
- 406.** "Not having gained one-pointedness of mind, distressed by sensual lust;
Having raised my arms, weeping, I went out from the dwelling.
- 407.** "I will bring the knife, what use is life to me?
For how could one like me, having rejected the training, meet death?
- 408.** "Then I, having taken a razor, sat down on a small bed;
The razor was brought up, to cut my own vein.
- 409.** "Then wise attention arose in me;
Danger became manifest, disenchantment was established.
- 410.** "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."

... Sappadāsa the elder...

7. Verses of the Elder Kāṭiyāna

- 411.** "Get up, sit down, Kāṭiyāna, do not be given to much sleep, be wakeful;
Let not the King of Death, friend of the heedless, conquer you, the lazy one, as
if by deceit.
- 412.** "Just as the force of the great ocean, thus birth and ageing overwhelm you;
So make a good island for yourself, for indeed no other shelter for you exists.

- 413.** "The Teacher indeed has conquered this path, gone beyond attachment, birth, ageing and fear;
Diligent in the former and latter parts of the night, devote yourself, make your exertion firm.
- 414.** "Let go of the former bondages, wearing the double robe, shaven-headed, eating almsfood;
Do not engage in play and delight, nor in sleep, meditate, Kātiyāna.
- 415.** "Meditate, conquer, Kātiyāna, you are skilled in the paths to freedom from bondage;
Having attained the unsurpassed purification, you will attain final nibbāna like a flame by water.
- 416.** "The light-maker of slight rays, is bent by the wind like a creeper;
Even so you, not grasping, O kinsman of Indra, shake off Māra;
He, without lust for feelings, should await the time, become cool right here."

... Kātiyāna the elder...

8. Verses of the Elder Migajāla

- 417.** "Well expounded by the one with vision, by the Buddha, kinsman of the sun;
Gone beyond all fetters, destroyer of the entire round of rebirths.
- 418.** "Leading to liberation, crossing over, drying up the root of craving;
Having cut off the slaughter-house, the root of poison, it causes one to reach peace.
- 419.** "For the breaking of the root of not knowing, the destroyer of the machine of action;
In the possession of consciousnesses, the striker with the thunderbolt of knowledge.
- 420.** "The informer of feelings, the liberator from clinging;
Observing existence with knowledge as if it were a pit of embers.
- 421.** "Of great flavour, very profound, warding off ageing and death;
The noble eightfold path, alleviating suffering, secure.
- 422.** "Having known action as action, and result as result;
Of phenomena arisen through dependent origination, seeing according to the light of insight;
Going to great security, peaceful, auspicious at the final goal."

... Migajāla the elder...

9. Verses of the Elder Jenta, the Son of the Royal Chaplain

- 423.** "Intoxicated with the vanity of birth, and with wealth and supremacy;
With form, beauty and appearance, intoxicated with vanity I wandered.

- 424.** "I did not imagine anyone equal to myself, nor exceeding;
A fool destroyed by arrogance, very stiff, with banner raised.
- 425.** "Neither mother nor father, nor others held in esteem as venerable;
I saluted no one, stubborn in pride, disrespectful.
- 426.** "Having seen the guide, the highest, the excellent best among charioteers;
Shining like the sun, honoured by the community of monks.
- 427.** "Having abandoned conceit and vanity, with a clear mind;
With my head I saluted the highest of all beings.
- 428.** "Arrogance and inferiority complex, have been abandoned, well uprooted;
The conceit 'I am' is cut off, all discriminations of conceit are destroyed."

... Jenta, the son of the royal chaplain, the elder...

10. Verses of the Elder Sumana

- 429.** "When newly gone forth, seven years old by birth;
Having overcome by supernormal power, the serpent king of great
supernormal power.
- 430.** "Water for my preceptor, from Anotatta, the great lake;
I was bringing from there when, having seen me, the Teacher said this."
- 431.** "Sāriputta, see this boy coming;
Having taken a water-pot, internally well concentrated.
- 432.** "With pleasing conduct, of good deportment;
The novice of Anuruddha, confident in supernormal power.
- 433.** "A thoroughbred by a thoroughbred, well-trained by a good one;
Disciplined by Anuruddha, trained by one who has done his task.
- 434.** "He, having attained the supreme peace, having realised the unshakable;
That novice Sumana wishes 'May they not know me'."

... The Elder Sumana...

11. Verses of the Elder Nhātakamuni

- 435.** "You are afflicted by wind disease, dwelling in the forest grove;
In a miserable place with scarce alms-resort, monk, what will you do?"
- 436.** "With extensive rapture and happiness, having pervaded the body;
Even enduring rough conditions, I will dwell in the forest.
- 437.** "Developing the seven factors of enlightenment, the faculties and powers;
Accomplished in the fineness of meditative absorption, I shall dwell without
mental corruptions.

- 438.** "Free from mental defilements, with pure mind, undisturbed;
Repeatedly reviewing, I shall dwell without mental corruptions.
- 439.** "Internally and externally, whatever mental corruptions existed in me;
All without remainder have been cut off, and they will not arise again.
- 440.** "The five aggregates are fully understood, they remain with their roots cut off;
The elimination of suffering has been attained, there is now no more rebirth."

... Nhātakamuni the elder...

12. Verses of the Elder Brahmadaṭṭa

- 441.** "From where would wrath come to one without wrath, to one tamed, living
righteously;
To one completely liberated through final knowledge, to one at peace, to such
a one.
- 442.** "For that very one it is worse, who becomes angry in return at one who is
angry;
Not becoming angry in return at one who is angry, one wins a battle hard to
win.
- 443.** "One practises for the welfare of both, of oneself and of the other;
Knowing the other to be enraged, one who is mindful becomes calm.
- 444.** "Him who treats both, oneself and the other;
People think 'he is a fool' - those who are unskilled in the Teaching.
- 445.** "If wrath should arise in you, reflect on the simile of the saw;
If craving for flavour should arise, remember the simile of the son's flesh.
- 446.** "If your mind runs towards sensual pleasures and existences,
Quickly restrain it with mindfulness, like a bad beast that eats corn."

... Brahmadaṭṭa the elder...

13. Verses of the Elder Sirimaṇḍa

- 447.** "What is covered rains upon, what is opened does not rain upon;
Therefore open what is covered, thus it will not rain upon that.
- 448.** "By death is the world afflicted, by ageing is it surrounded;
By the dart of craving is it overcome, by desire is it always fuming.
- 449.** "By death is the world afflicted, and fenced in by ageing;
Without shelter, it is always destroyed, like a thief who has received the rod.
- 450.** "Like approaching masses of fire, death, illness, and ageing, these three;
There is no power to confront them, there is no speed to flee.
- 451.** "One should make the day not in vain, whether with little or with much;

Whatever night one passes, by that much is one's life diminished.

- 452.** "Whether walking or standing, or seated or lying down;
The final night approaches, this is not the time for you to be negligent."

... Sirimaṇḍa the elder...

14. Verses of the Elder Sabbakāmi

- 453.** "This two-footed one is impure, foul-smelling, it carries about;
Full of various corpses, oozing here and there.
- 454.** "Like a deer hidden by a trap, like a fish by a hook;
Like a monkey by bird-lime, they afflict the worldling.
- 455.** "Forms, sounds, flavours, odours, tangible objects and delightful things;
These five types of sensual pleasure are seen in the form of a woman.
- 456.** "Those worldlings with attached minds who associate with these women;
They increase the terrible cemetery, they accumulate rebirth.
- 457.** "Whoever avoids these, like a head from a snake's foot;
He, mindful, overcomes this clinging in the world.
- 458.** "Having seen the danger in sensual pleasures, having seen security in
renunciation;
Escaped from all sensual pleasures, the elimination of mental corruptions has
been attained by me."

... Sabbakāmi the elder...

The Chapter of Sixes is concluded.

The summary therein:

Uruveḷakassapa, the elder Tekicchakārī;
Mahānāga and Kulla, Mālukya and Sappadāsaka.

Kātiyāna, Migajāla, Jenta, the one named Sumana;
Nhātamuni, Brahmadatta, Sirimaṇḍa and Sabbakāmi;
Eighty-four verses, and fourteen elders herein.



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. 08. Verses of the Elder Monks. 6. The Book of the Sixes Retrieved from paliverse.org

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