

THE DHAMMAPADA

The Buddha's Path to Freedom

Translated from the Pāli by
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Buddhist Publication Society
Kandy • Sri Lanka

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Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato Sammāsambuddhassa

Homage to Him, the Blessed One, the Perfected One,
the Supremely Enlightened One!

1

Yamakavagga

The Pairs

1. *Manopubbaṅgamā dhammā manosetthā manomayā;
manasā ce paduṭṭhena bhāsati vā karoti vā
tato naṃ dukkham anveti cakkani va vahato padaṇi.*

1. Mind precedes all mental states. Mind is their chief; they are all mind-wrought. If with an impure mind a person speaks or acts, suffering follows him like the wheel that follows the foot of the ox. 1

2. *Manopubbaṅgamā dhammā manosetthā manomayā;
manasā ce pasannena bhāsati vā karoti vā
tato naṃ sukham anveti chāyā va anapāyinī.*

2. Mind precedes all mental states. Mind is their chief; they are all mind-wrought. If with a pure mind a person speaks or acts, happiness follows him like his never-departing shadow. 2

3. *“Akkocchi maṃ, avadhi maṃ, ajini maṃ, ahāsi me,”
ye ca taṃ upanayhanti, veraṃ tesāṃ na sammati.*

3. “He abused me, he struck me, he overpowered me, he robbed me”—those who harbour such thoughts do not still their hatred. 3

4. *“Akkocchi maṇi, avadhi maṇi, ajini maṇi, ahāsi me,”
ye ca taṇi n’upanayhanti, veraṇi tes’ūpasammati.*

4. “He abused me, he struck me, he overpowered me, he robbed me”—those who do not harbour such thoughts still their hatred. 4

5. *Na hi verena verāni sanmant’īdha kudācanaṇi,
averena ca sanmanti: esa dhammo sanantano.*

5. Hatred is never appeased by hatred in this world; by non-hatred alone is hatred appeased. This is an eternal law. 5

6. *Pare ca na vijānanti, mayam ettha yamāse;
ye ca tattha vijānanti, tato sanmanti medhagā.*

6. There are those who do not realize that one day we all must die, but those who realize this settle their quarrels. 6

7. *Subhānupassiṇi viharantaṇi indriyesu asaṇivutaṇi
bhojananhi cāmattaññiṇi kusitaṇi hīnavīriyaṇi,
taṇi ve pasahati Māro vāto rukkhaṇi va dubbalaṇi.*

7. Just as a storm throws down a weak tree, so does Māra overpower one who lives for the pursuit of pleasures, who is uncontrolled in his senses, immoderate in eating, indolent and dissipated.² 7

² Māra: the Tempter in Buddhism, represented in the scriptures as an evil-minded deity who tries to lead people away from the path to liberation. The commentaries explain Māra as the lord of evil forces, as mental defilements, and as death.

8. *Asubhānupassiṇi viharantaṇi indriyesu susaṇṇvutaṇi
bhojanaṇhi ca mattaññiṇi saddhaṇi āradhāvīriyaṇi,
taṇi ve nappasahati Māro vāto selañi va pabbataṇi.*

8. Just as a storm cannot throw down a rocky mountain, so Māra can never overpower one who lives meditating on the impurities, who is controlled in his senses, moderate in eating, and filled with faith and earnest effort.³ 8

9. *Anikkasāvo kāsāvaṇi yo vatthaṇi paridahissati
upeto damasaccena, na so kāsāvam arahati.*

9. Whoever wears the monk's yellow robe while being depraved, devoid of self-control and truthfulness, he surely is not worthy of the yellow robe. 9

10. *Yo ca vantakasāv'assa sīlesu susamāhito
upeto damasaccena, sa ve kāsāvam arahati.*

10. But whoever is purged of depravity, well established in virtues, and filled with self-control and truthfulness, he indeed is worthy of the yellow robe. 10

11. *Asāre sāramatino sāre cāsāradassino,
te sāraṇi nādhigacchanti micchāsāṅkappagocarā.*

11. Those who mistake the unessential to be essential and the essential to be unessential, dwelling in wrong thoughts, never arrive at the essential. 11

³ The impurities (*asubha*): subjects of meditation which focus on the inherent repulsiveness of the body, recommended especially as powerful antidotes to lust.

12. *Sāraṇi ca sārato ñatvā asāraṇi ca asārato,
te sāraṇaṃ adhigacchanti sammāsaṅkappagocārā.*

12. Those who know the essential to be essential and the unessential to be unessential, dwelling in right thoughts, arrive at the essential. 12

13. *Yathā agāraṇi ducchannaṇi vuṭṭhi samativijjhati,
evaṇi abhāvitaṇi cittaṇi rāgo samativijjhati.*

13. Just as the rain breaks through an ill-thatched house, even so passion penetrates an undeveloped mind. 13

14. *Yathā agāraṇi succhannaṇi vuṭṭhi na samativijjhati,
evaṇi subhāvitaṇi cittaṇi rāgo na samativijjhati.*

14. Just as the rain does not break through a well-thatched house, even so passion never penetrates a well-developed mind. 14

15. *Idha socati pecca socati, pāpakārī ubhayattha socati;
so socati so vihaññati, disvā kammakiliṭṭham attano.*

15. The evil-doer grieves here, he grieves hereafter; he grieves in both worlds. He laments and is afflicted, recollecting his own impure deeds. 15

16. *Idha modati pecca modati, katapuñño ubhayattha modati;
so modati so pamodati, disvā kammaṃvisuddhim attano.*

16. The doer of good rejoices here, he rejoices hereafter; he rejoices in both worlds. He rejoices and exults, recollecting his own pure deeds. 16

17. *Idha tappati pecca tappati, pāpakārī ubhayattha tappati;
pāpaṇi me katan ti tappati, bhīyyo tappati duggaṭṭhi gato.*

17. The evil-doer suffers here, he suffers hereafter; he suffers in both worlds. The thought, “Evil have I done,” torments him, and he suffers even more when gone to realms of woe. 17

18. *Idha nandati pecca nandati, katapuñño ubhayattha nandati;
puññaṇi me katan ti nandati, bhīyyo nandati suggaṭṭhi gato.*

18. The doer of good delights here, he delights hereafter; he delights in both worlds. The thought, “Good have I done,” delights him, and he delights even more when gone to realms of bliss. 18

19. *Baluṃ pi ce sahitaṇi bhāsamāno na takkaro hoti naro pamatto
gopo va gāvo gaṇayaṇi paresaṇi na bhāgavā sāmāññaṇa hoti.*

19. Although he recites many sacred texts, if he does not act accordingly, that heedless man is like a cowherd who only counts the cattle of others—he does not partake of the blessings of a holy life. 19

20. *Appaṃ pi ce sahitaṇi bhāsamāno dhammassa hoti
anudhammacārī
rāgaṇi ca dosaṇi ca pahāya mohaṇi sanmappajāno
suvīnuttacitto
anupādiyāno idha vā huraṇi vā, sa bhāgavā sāmāññaṇa hoti.*

20. Although he recites few sacred texts, if he puts the Dhamma into practice, forsaking lust, hatred, and delusion, with true wisdom and emancipated mind, clinging to nothing in this or any other world—he, indeed, partakes of the blessings of a holy life. 20

2

Appamādavagga

Heedfulness

21. *Appamādo amatapadaṇi, pamādo maccuno padaṇi;
appamattā na mīyanti, ye pamattā yathā matā.*

21. Heedfulness is the path to the Deathless, heedlessness is the path to death. The heedful do not die, the heedless are already dead.⁴ 1

22. *Etaṇi visesato ñatvā appamādanhi paṇḍitā,
appamāde pamodanti ariyānaṇi gocare ratā.*

22. Clearly understanding this excellence of heedfulness, the wise exult therein and enjoy the resort of the noble ones.⁵ 2

23. *Te jhāyino sātatikā niccaṇi daḷhaparakkamā,
phusanti dhīrā nibbānaṇi yogakkhemaṇi anuttaraṇi.*

23. The wise ones, ever meditative and steadfastly persevering, experience Nibbāna, the incomparable freedom from bondage. 3

⁴ The Deathless (*amata*): Nibbāna, so called because those who attain it are freed from the cycle of repeated birth and death.

⁵ The noble ones (*ariya*): those who have reached any of the four stages of supramundane attainment leading irreversibly to Nibbāna. See Introduction, pp.13–15.

24. *Uṭṭhānavato satimato sucikanmassa nisanmakārino
saññatassa ca dhanmajjvino appamattassa yaso'
bhivaḍḍhati.*

24. Ever grows the glory of one who is energetic, mindful, and pure in conduct, discerning and self-controlled, righteous and heedful. 4

25. *Uṭṭhānen' appamādena saññāmena damena ca
dīpaṇi kayirātha medhāvī yaṇi ogho nābhikīrati.*

25. By effort and heedfulness, discipline and self-mastery, let the wise one make for himself an island which no flood can overwhelm. 5

26. *Pamādam anuyuñjanti bālā dummedhino janā,
appamādañ ca medhāvī dhanāṇi seṭṭhaṇi va rakkhati.*

26. The foolish and ignorant indulge in heedlessness, but the wise one guards heedfulness as his best treasure. 6

27. *Mā pamādam anuyuñjetha, mā kāmaratisanthavaṇi;
appamatto hi jhāyanto pappoti vipulaṇi sukhaṇi.*

27. Do not give way to heedlessness; do not indulge in sensual pleasures. Only the heedful and meditative attain great happiness. 7

28. *Pamādaṇi appamādena yadā nudati paṇḍito,
paññāpāsādam āruyha asoko sokiniṇi pajaṇi,
pabbataṭṭho va bhummattṭhe, dhīro bāle avekkhati.*

28. Just as one upon the summit of a mountain beholds the groundlings, even so when the wise man casts away heedlessness by heedfulness and ascends the high tower of wisdom, this sorrowless sage beholds the sorrowing and foolish multitude. 8

29. *Appamatto pamattesu suttesu baluujāgaro
abalassaṇi va sīghasso hitvā yāti sumedhaso.*

29. Heedful among the heedless, wide awake among the sleepy, the wise man advances like a swift horse leaving behind a weak nag. 9

30. *Appamādena Maghavā devānaṇi seṭṭhataṇi gato;
appamādaṇi pasasanti pamādo garahito sadā.*

30. By heedfulness did Indra become the overlord of the gods. Heedfulness is ever praised, and heedlessness ever despised.⁶ 10

31. *Appamādarato bhikkhu pamāde bhayadassivā
saññojanaṇi aṇuṇi thūlaṇi ḍahaṇi aggī va gacchati.*

31. The monk who delights in heedfulness and looks with fear at heedlessness advances like fire, burning all fetters subtle and coarse. 11

32. *Appamādarato bhikkhu pamāde bhayadassivā
abhabbo parihānāya, nibbānass'eva santike.*

32. The monk who delights in heedfulness and looks with fear at heedlessness will not fall. He is close to Nibbāna. 12

⁶ Indra: the ruler of the gods in ancient Indian mythology.

3

Cittavagga

The Mind

33. *Phandanani capalanu cittanu durakkhanu dunnivārayanu
ujuṇu karoti medhāvī usukāro va tejananu.*

33. Just as an arrow-maker straightens an arrow shaft, even so the discerning person straightens his mind—so fickle and unsteady, so difficult to guard and control. 1

34. *Vārijo va thale khitto okamokata ubbhato,
pariṇhandat'idanu cittanu Māradheyyanu pahātave.*

34. As a fish when pulled out of water and cast on land throbs and quivers, even so is this mind agitated. Hence one should leave the realm of Māra. 2

35. *Dunnigghassa lahuno yatthakāmanipātino
cittassa damatho sādhu: cittanu dantanu sukhāvahanu.*

35. Wonderful, indeed, it is to subdue the mind, so difficult to subdue, ever swift, and wandering wherever it desires. A tamed mind brings happiness. 3

36. *Sududdasaṇu sunipūṇaṇu yatthakāmanipātinaṇu
cittanu rakkhettha medhāvī: cittanu guttanu sukhāvahanu.*

36. Let the discerning person guard his mind, so difficult to detect and extremely subtle, wandering wherever it desires. A guarded mind brings happiness. 4

37. *Dūraṅgamaṇi ekacaraṇi asarīraṇi gihāsayaṇi
ye cittaṇi saññāmessanti mokkhanti Mārabandhanā.*

37. Dwelling in the cave (of the heart), without form, the mind wanders far and moves alone. Those who subdue this mind are liberated from the bonds of Māra. 5

38. *Anavaṭṭhitacittassa saddhammaṇi avijānato
pariplavāpasādassa paññā na paripūراتi.*

38. Wisdom is not perfected in one whose mind is not steadfast, who knows not the Good Teaching, and whose faith wavers. 6

39. *Anavassutacittassa ananvāhatacetaso
puññapāpapahīnassa natthi jāgarato bhayaṇi.*

39. There is no fear for an Awakened One, whose mind is not sodden (by lust) nor afflicted (by hate), and who has gone beyond both merit and demerit.⁷ 7

40. *Kumbhūpamaṇi kāyaṇi imaṇi viditvā, nagarūpamaṇi cittaṇi
idaṇi ṭhapetvā,
yodhetha Māraṇi paññāvudhena, jitaṇi ca rakkhe anivesano
siyā.*

40. Realizing that this body is as fragile as a clay pot, and fortifying this mind like a well-fortified city, fight out Māra with the sword of wisdom. Then, guarding the conquest, remain unattached. 8

⁷ The arahat is said to be beyond both merit and demerit because, as he has abandoned all defilements, he can no longer perform evil actions; and as he has no more attachment, his virtuous actions no longer bear kammic fruit.

41. *Aciraṇi vat'ayaṇi kāyo paṭhaviṇi adhisessati
chuddho apetaṇiṇiṇiṇi nīratthani va kaliṅgani.*

41. Before long, alas, this body will lie upon the earth, cast away and lifeless, like a useless log. 9

42. *Diso disani yaṇi taṇi kayirā verī vā pana verinani,
micchāpaṇiḥiṭani cittaṇi pāpiyo nani tato kare.*

42. Whatever harm an enemy may do to an enemy, or a hater to a hater, an ill-directed mind inflicts on oneself greater harm. 10

43. *Na taṇi mātā pitā kayirā aññe vāpi ca ñātakā,
samiāpaṇiḥiṭani cittaṇi seyyaso nani tato kare.*

43. Neither mother, father, nor any other relative can do one greater good than one's own well-directed mind. 11

4

Pupphavagga

Flowers

44. *Ko imaṇi paṭhaviṇi vijessati Yamalokaṇi ca imaṇi sadevakaṇi?
ko dhammapadaṇi sudesitaṇi kusalo puppham iva pacesati?*

44. Who shall overcome this earth, the world of misery, and this sphere of humans and gods? Who shall bring to perfection the well-taught path of wisdom as an expert garland-maker would his floral design? 1

45. *Sekho paṭhaviṇi vijessati Yamalokaṇi ca imaṇi sadevakaṇi,
sekho dhammapadaṇi sudesitaṇi kusalo puppham iva
paccessati.*

45. A striver-on-the-path shall overcome this earth, the world of misery, and this sphere of humans and gods. The striver-on-the-path shall bring to perfection the well-taught path of wisdom, as an expert garland-maker would his floral design.⁸ 2

⁸ The striver-on-the-path (*sekha*): one who has achieved any of the first three stages of supramundane attainment: a stream-enterer, once-returner, or non-returner.

46. *Pheṇūpamaṇi kāyaṃ imaṇi viditvā marīcidhammaṇi
abhisambudhāno
chetvāna Mārassa papupphakāni adassanaṇi Maccurājassa
gacche.*

46. Realizing that this body is like froth, penetrating its mirage-like nature, and plucking out Māra's flower-tipped arrows (of sensuality), go beyond sight of the King of Death! 3

47. *Pupphāni h'eva pacinantaṇi byāsattamanasaṇi naraṇi
suttaṇi gāmaṇi mahogho va maccu ādāya gacchati.*

47. As a mighty flood sweeps away the sleeping village, so Death carries away the person of grasping mind who only collects the flowers (of pleasure). 4

48. *Pupphāni h'eva pacinantaṇi byāsattamanasaṇi naraṇi
atittaṇi yeva kāmesu antako kurute vasaṇi.*

48. The Destroyer brings under his sway the person of grasping mind who, insatiate in sense desires, only collects the flowers (of pleasure). 5

49. *Yathāpi bhamaro pupphaṇi vaṇṇagandhaṇi aheṭṭhayaṇi
paleti rasam ādāya evaṇi game muni care.*

49. As a bee gathers honey from the flower without injuring its colour or fragrance, even so the sage should go on his alms round in the village.⁹ 6

⁹. The "sage in the village" is the Buddhist monk who receives his food by going silently from door to door with his almsbowl, accepting whatever is offered.

50. *Na paresaṇi vilomāni na paresaṇi katākataṇi
attano va avekkhēyya katāni akatāni ca.*

50. Let none find fault with others; let none see the omissions and commissions of others. But let one see one's own acts, done and undone. 7

51. *Yathāpi ruciraṇi pupphaṇi vaṇṇavantaṇi agandhakaṇi,
evaṇi subhāsītā vācā aphalā hoti akubbato.*

51. Like a beautiful flower full of colour but without fragrance, even so, fruitless are the fair words of one who does not practise them. 8

52. *Yathāpi ruciraṇi pupphaṇi vaṇṇavantaṇi sagandhakaṇi,
evaṇi subhāsītā vācā saphalā hoti sakubbato.*

52. Like a beautiful flower full of colour and also fragrant, even so, fruitful are the fair words of one who practises them. 9

53. *Yathāpi puppharāsinihā kayirā mālāguṇṇe bahu,
evaṇi jātena maccena kattabbaṇi kusalaṇi bahuni.*

53. As from a great heap of flowers many garlands can be made, even so should many good deeds be done by one born a mortal. 10

54. *Na pupphagandho paṭivātam eti, na candanaṇi
tagaramallikā vā,
satañ ca gandho paṭivātam eti; sabbā disā sappuriso pavāti.*

54. Not the sweet smell of flowers, not even the fragrance of sandal, *tagara*, or jasmine goes against the wind. But the fragrance of the virtuous goes against the wind. The virtuous person pervades all directions with the fragrance of virtue.¹⁰ 11

¹⁰ *Tagara*: a fragrant powder obtained from a particular kind of shrub.

55. *Candanani tagarani vāpi uppalaṇi atha vassikī,
etesani gandhajātānaṇi sīlagandho anuttaro.*

55. Of all the fragrances—sandal, *tagara*, blue lotus, and jasmine—the fragrance of virtue is by far the sweetest. 12

56. *Appamatto ayaṇi gandho yāyaṇi tagaracandanī,
yo ca sīlavataṇi gandho vāti devesu uttamo.*

56. Faint is the fragrance of *tagara* and sandal, but the fragrance of the virtuous is excellent, wafting even among the gods. 13

57. *Tesaṇi sampannasīlānaṇi appamādavihāriṇaṇi
samnadaññā vimuttānaṇi Māro maggaṇi na vindati.*

57. Māra never finds the path of the truly virtuous, who abide in vigilance and are freed by perfect knowledge. 14

58. *Yathā saṅkāradhānasmiṇi ujjhitasmiṇi mahāpathe
padumaṇi tattha jāyetha sucigandhaṇi manoramaṇi.*

59. *Evaṇi saṅkārabhūtesu andhabhūte puthujjane
atirocata paññāya Sammāsambuddhasāvako.*

58–59. As upon a heap of rubbish in the roadside ditch blooms a lotus, fragrant and pleasing, even so, on the rubbish heap of blind worldlings the disciple of the Supremely Enlightened One shines resplendent in wisdom. 15–16

5

Bālavagga

The Fool

60. *Dīghā jāgarato ratti, dīghaṃ santassa yojanaṃ,
dīgho bālānaṃ saṃsāro saddhanuṃaṃ avijānataṃ.*

60. Long is the night to the sleepless; long is the league to the weary; long is worldly existence to fools who know not the Good Teaching. 1

61. *Caraṇ ce nādhigaccheyya seyyaṃ sadisaṃ attano,
ekacariyaṃ daḷhaṃ kayirā: natthi bāle sahāyatā.*

61. Should a seeker not find a companion who is his better or equal, let him resolutely pursue a solitary course; there is no fellowship with a fool. 2

62. *“Puttā m’atthi dhanam m’atthi,” iti bālo vihaññati,
attā hi attano natthi kuto puttā kuto dhanam?*

62. The fool worries, thinking, “I have sons, I have wealth.” Indeed, when he himself is not his own, whence are sons, whence is wealth? 3

63. *Yo bālo maññati bālyam, paṇḍito vāpi tena so,
bālo ca paṇḍitamānī sa ve bālo ti vuccati.*

63. A fool who knows his foolishness is wise at least to that extent, but a fool who thinks himself wise is called a fool indeed. 4

64. *Yāvajīvam pi ce bālo paṇḍitaṃ payirupāsati,
na so dhammaṃ vijānāti dabbī sūparasaṃ yathā.*

64. Though all his life a fool associate with a wise man, he no more comprehends the Dhamma than a spoon tastes the flavour of the soup. 5

65. *Muhuttam api ce viññū paṇḍitaṃ payirupāsati,
khippaṃ dhammaṃ vijānāti jivhā sūparasaṃ yathā.*

65. Though only for a moment a discerning person associate with a wise man, quickly he comprehends the Dhamma, just as the tongue tastes the flavour of the soup. 6

66. *Caranti bālā dummedhā amitten'eva attanā
karontā pāpakaṃ kammaṃ yaṃ hoti kaṭukapphalaṃ.*

66. Fools of little wit are enemies unto themselves as they move about doing evil deeds, the fruits of which are bitter. 7

67. *Na taṃ kammaṃ kataṃ sādhu yaṃ katvā anutappati,
yassa assumukho rodanṃ vipākaṃ paṭisevati.*

67. Ill done is that action which, having been done, is repented later, and the fruits of which one reaps weeping with a tearful face. 8

68. *Taṃ ca kammaṃ kataṃ sādhu yaṃ katvā nānutappati,
yassa patīto sumano vipākaṃ paṭisevati.*

68. Well done is that action which, having been done, is not repented later, and the fruits of which one reaps with delight and happiness. 9

69. *Madhu va maññati bālo yāva pāpaṇi na paccati,
yadā ca paccati pāpaṇi atha bālo dukkhaṇi nigacchati.*

69. So long as an evil deed has not ripened, the fool thinks it as sweet as honey. But when the evil deed ripens, the fool comes to grief. 10

70. *Māse māse kusaggena bālo bhūñjetha bhōjanaṇi,
na so sañkhātadhammānaṇi kalaṇi agghati soḷasiṇi.*

70. Month after month a fool may eat his food with the tip of a blade of grass, but he still is not worth a sixteenth part of those who have comprehended the Dhamma. 11

71. *Na hi pāpaṇi kataṇi kammaṇi sajjū khūraṇi va nuccati,
ḍahantaṇi bālam anveti bhasmacchanno va pāvako.*

71. Truly, an evil deed committed does not immediately bear fruit, like milk that does not turn sour all at once. But smouldering, it follows the fool like fire covered by ashes. 12

72. *Yāvadeva anattāya ñattaṇi bālassa jāyati,
hanti bālassa sukkaṇisaṇi muddham assa vipātayaṇi.*

72. To his own ruin the fool gains knowledge, for it cleaves his head and destroys his innate goodness. 13

73. *Asantaṇi bhāvanam iccheyya, purekkhāraṇi ca bhikkhusu,
āvāsesu ca issariyaṇi, pūjaṇi parakulesu ca.*

73. The fool seeks undeserved reputation, precedence among monks, authority over monasteries, and honour among householders. 14

74. *“Mam’eva katam maññantu gilī pabbajitā ubho,
mam’ev’ātivāsā assu kiccākiccesu kismici,”
iti bālassa saṅkappo icchā māno ca vaḍḍhati.*

74. “Let both laymen and monks think that it was done by me. In every work, great and small, let them follow me”—such is the ambition of the fool; thus his desire and pride increase. 15

75. *Aññā hi lābhūpanisā aññā nibbānagāminī,
evam etaṇi abhiññāya bhikkhu Buddhassa sāvako
sakkāraṇi nābhinandeyya vivekam anubrūhaye.*

75. One is the quest for worldly gain, and quite another is the path to Nibbāna. Clearly understanding this, let not the monk, the disciple of the Buddha, be carried away by worldly acclaim, but develop detachment instead. 16

6

Paṇḍitavagga

The Wise Man

76. *Nidhīnaṃ va pavattāraṃ yaṃ passe vajjadassinaṃ,
niggayhavādiṃ medhāvīṃ tādisaṃ paṇḍitaṃ bhaje;
tādisaṃ bhajamānassa seyyo hoti na pāpiyo.*

76. If one finds someone who points out faults and who reproves, one should follow such a wise and sagacious person as one would a guide to hidden treasure. It is always better, and never worse, to cultivate such an association. 1

77. *Ovadeyy'ānusāseyya, asabbhā ca nivāraye,
sataṃ hi so piyo hoti, asataṃ hoti appiyo.*

77. Let him admonish, instruct, and shield one from wrong; he, indeed, is dear to the good and detestable to the evil. 2

78. *Na bhaje pāpake mitte, na bhaje purisādhame,
bhajetha mitte kalyāṇe, bhajetha purisuttame.*

78. Do not associate with evil companions; do not seek the fellowship of the vile. Associate with good friends; seek the fellowship of noble persons. 3

79. *Dhammapīti sukhaṃ seti vipphasannena cetasā,
ariyappavedite dhamme sadā ramati paṇḍito.*

79. One who drinks deep the Dhamma lives happily with a tranquil mind. The wise person ever delights in the Dhamma made known by the Noble One (the Buddha). 4

80. *Udakaṇi hi nayanti nettikā, usukārā namayanti tejanaṇi,
dāruṇi namayanti tacchakā, attānaṇi damayanti paṇḍitā.*

80. Irrigators regulate the waters; arrow-makers straighten the arrow shaft; carpenters shape the wood; the wise control themselves. 5

81. *Selo yathā ekaghano vātena na samīrati,
evaṇi nindāpasaṇisāsu na samiiṇjanti paṇḍitā.*

81. Just as a solid rock is not shaken by the wind, even so the wise are not affected by praise or blame. 6

82. *Yathāpi rahado gambhīro vipprasanno anāvilo,
evaṇi dhammāni sutvāna vipprasīdanti paṇḍitā.*

82. On hearing the teachings, the wise become perfectly purified like a lake deep, clear, and limpid. 7

83. *Sabbattha ve sappurisā cajanti; na kāmakānū lapayanti
santo.
Sukhena phuṭṭhā atha vā dukhena n'uccāvacaṇi paṇḍitā
dassayanti.*

83. The good renounce (attachment for) everything; the virtuous do not prattle with a yearning for pleasures. The wise show no elation or depression when touched by happiness or sorrow. 8

84. *Na attahetu na parassa hetu, na puttam icche na dhanāṇi na
raṭṭhaṇi,
na iccheyya adhammena samiddhim attano, sa sīlavā
paññāvā dhammiko siyā.*

84. He is truly virtuous, wise, and righteous, who neither for his own sake nor for the sake of another (does any wrong), who does not crave for sons, wealth, or kingdom, and does not desire his own success by unjust means. 9

85. *Appakā te manussesu ye janā pāragāmino,
ath'āyaṇi itarā pajā tiram ev'ānuudhāvati.*

85. Few among human beings are those who cross to the farther shore. The rest, the bulk of people, only run up and down the hither bank. 10

86. *Ye ca kho sammadakkhāte dhamme dhammānurvattino,
te janā pārami essanti maccudheyyaṇi suduttaraṇi.*

86. But those people who act according to the perfectly taught Dhamma will cross the realm of Death, so difficult to cross. 11

87. *Kaṇhaṇi dhammaṇi vippahāya sukkaṇi bhāvetha paṇḍito,
okā anokaṇi āganma viveke yattha dūramaṇi.*
88. *Tatrābhiratini iccheyya hitvā kāme akiñcano,
pariyodapeyya attānaṇi cittakleshi paṇḍito.*

87–88. Abandoning the dark way, let the wise man cultivate the bright path. Having gone from home to homelessness, let him yearn for that delight in detachment, so difficult to enjoy. Giving up sensual pleasures, with no attachment, the wise man should cleanse himself of defilements of the mind. 12–13

89. *Yesaṇi sambodhi-aṅgesu sammā cittaṇi subhāvitaṇi,
ādānapaṭinissagge anupādāya ye ratā,
khīṇāsavā jutīmanto te loka parinibbutā.*

89. Those whose minds have reached full excellence in the factors of enlightenment, who, having renounced acquisitiveness, rejoice in not clinging to things—rid of cankers, glowing with wisdom, they have attained Nibbāna in this very life.¹¹ 14

7

Arahantavagga

The Arahāt or Perfected One

90. *Gataddhino visokassa vippanuttassa sabbadhi
sabbaganthappahīnassa pariḷāho na vijjati.*

90. The fever of passion does not exist for one who has completed the journey, who is sorrowless and wholly set free, and has broken all ties. 1

91. *Uyyuñjanti satīmanto, na nikete ramanti te,
haṇṣā va pallalaṇi hitvā okamokaṇi jahanti te.*

91. The mindful ones exert themselves. They are not attached to any home; like swans that abandon the lake, they leave home after home behind. 2

92. *Yesaṇi saṇnicayo natthi, ye pariññātabhojanā,
suññato animitto ca vimokkho yesaṇi gocaro,
ākāse va sakuntānaṇi gati tesaṇi durannayā.*

92. Those who do not accumulate and are wise regarding food, whose object is the Void, the unconditioned freedom—their track, like that of birds in the air, cannot be traced. 3

¹¹ This verse describes the arahāt, dealt with more fully in the following chapter. The “cankers” (*āsava*) are the four basic defilements of sensual desire, desire for continued existence, false views, and ignorance.

93. *Yass'āsavā parikkhīṇā āhāre ca anissito,
suññato animitto ca vimokkho yassa gocaro,
ākāse va sakuntānaṃ padaṇi tassa durannayaṇi.*

93. He whose cankers are destroyed and who is not attached to food, whose object is the Void, the unconditioned freedom—his path, like that of birds in the air, cannot be traced. 4

94. *Yass'indriyāni samathaṅgatāni, assā yathā sārathinā
sudantā,
pahīnamānassa anāsavassa devā pi tassa pihayanti tādino.*

94. Even the gods hold dear the steadfast one, whose senses are subdued like horses well trained by a charioteer, whose pride is destroyed, and who is free from the cankers. 5

95. *Paṭhavīsamo no virujjhati, indakhilūpamo tādī subbato,
rahado va apetakaddamo, saṅṣārā na bhavanti tādino.*

95. There is no more worldly existence for the steadfast one, who, like the earth, resents nothing; who is as firm as a high pillar and as pure as a deep pool free from mud. 6

96. *Santaṃ tassa manaṃ hoti santā vācā ca kamma ca,
sammadāññā vimuttassa upasantassa tādino.*

96. Calm is his thought, calm his speech, and calm his deed, who, truly knowing, is wholly freed, perfectly tranquil, and steadfast. 7

97. *Assaddho akataññū ca sandhicchedo ca yo naro,
hatāvakāso vantāso sa ve uttamaporiso.*

97. The man who is without blind faith, who knows the Uncreate, who has severed all links, who has destroyed all causes (for kamma, good and evil), and who has thrown out all desires—he truly is the most excellent of men.¹² 8

98. *Gāme vā yadi vā'raññe ninne vā yadī vā thale,
yatth'ārahānto vīharanti taṇi bhūmiṇi rāmaṇeyyakaṇi.*

98. Inspiring, indeed, is that place where arahats dwell, be it a village, a forest, a vale, or a hill. 9

99. *Ramaṇīyāni araññāni, yattha na ramatī jano,
vītarāgā ramissanti, na te kāmagavesino.*

99. Inspiring are the forests where worldlings find no pleasure. There the passionless will rejoice, for they seek no sensual pleasures. 10

¹². In the Pali this verse presents a series of puns, and if the “under-side” of each pun were to be translated, the verse would read thus: “The man who is faithless, ungrateful, a burglar, who destroys opportunities and eats vomit—he truly is the most excellent of men.”

8

Sahassavagga

The Thousands

100. *Sahassam api ce vācā anattapadasaṅhiṭā,
ekaṅ atthapadaṅ seyyo yaṅ sutvā upasammati.*

100. Better than a thousand meaningless words is one meaningful word, hearing which one attains peace. 1

101. *Sahassam api ce gāthā anattapadasaṅhiṭā,
ekaṅ gāthāpadaṅ seyyo yaṅ sutvā upasammati.*

101. Better than a thousand meaningless verses is one meaningful verse, hearing which one attains peace. 2

102. *Yo ca gāthāsataṅ bhāse anattapadasaṅhiṭā,
ekaṅ dhammapadaṅ seyyo yaṅ sutvā upasammati.*

102. Better than reciting a hundred meaningless verses is the reciting of one verse of Dhamma, hearing which one attains peace. 3

103. *Yo sahaṣsaṅ sahaṣṣena saṅgāme mānuse jine,
ekaṅ ca jeyyam attānaṅ sa ve saṅgāmajuttamo.*

103. Though one may conquer a thousand times a thousand men in battle, yet he indeed is the noblest victor who conquers himself. 4

104. *Attā have jitaṇi seyyo yā c'āyaṇi itarā pajā,
attadantassa posassa niccaṇi saññātacārino.*
105. *N'eva devo na gandhabbo, na Māro saha Brahmūnā,
jitaṇi apajitaṇi kayirā tathārūpassa jantuno.*

104–105. Self-conquest is far better than the conquest of others. Not even a god, an angel, Māra, or Brahmā can turn into defeat the victory of such a person who is self-subdued and ever restrained in conduct.¹³ 5–6

106. *Māse māse sahasseṇa yo yajetha sataṇi samaṇi,
ekaṇ ca bhāvitattānaṇi nuhuttam api pūjaye,
sā yeva pūjanā seyyo yaṇi ce vassasataṇi hutaṇi.*

106. Though month after month for a hundred years one should offer sacrifices by the thousands, yet if only for a moment one should worship those of developed mind, that worship is indeed better than a century of sacrifice. 7

107. *Yo ce vassasataṇi jantu aggiṇi paricare vane,
ekaṇ ca bhāvitattānaṇi nuhuttam api pūjaye,
sā yeva pūjanā seyyo yaṇi ce vassasataṇi hutaṇi.*

107. Though for a hundred years one should tend the sacrificial fire in the forest, yet if only for a moment one should worship those of developed mind, that worship is indeed better than a century of sacrifice. 8

¹³. Brahmā: a high divinity in ancient Indian religion.

108. *Yaṇi kiñci yiṭṭhaṇi va hutaṇi va loke saṇṇvaccharaṇi yajetha
puññapekko,
sabbampi taṇi na catubhāgam eti abhivādanā ujjugatesu
seyyo.*

108. Whatever gifts and oblations one seeking merit might offer in this world for a whole year, all that is not worth one fourth of the merit gained by revering the upright ones, which is truly excellent. 9

109. *Abhivādanasīlissa niccaṇi vuḍḍhāpacāyino
cattāro dhammā vadḍhanti: āyu vaṇṇo sukhaṇi balaṇi.*

109. To one ever eager to revere and serve the elders, these four blessings accrue: long life and beauty, happiness and power. 10

110. *Yo ca vassasataṇi jīve dussīlo asaṇṇāhito,
ekāhaṇi jīvitaṇi seyyo sīlavantassa jhāyino.*

110. Better it is to live one day virtuous and meditative than to live a hundred years immoral and uncontrolled. 11

111. *Yo ca vassasataṇi jīve duppañño asaṇṇāhito,
ekāhaṇi jīvitaṇi seyyo paññāvantassa jhāyino.*

111. Better it is to live one day wise and meditative than to live a hundred years foolish and uncontrolled. 12

112. *Yo ca vassasataṇi jīve kusīto hīnavīriyo,
ekāhaṇi jīvitaṇi seyyo viriyam ārabhato daḍḍhaṇi.*

112. Better it is to live one day strenuous and resolute than to live a hundred years sluggish and dissipated. 13

113. *Yo ca vassasataṃ jīve apassaṃ udayabbayaṃ,
ekāhaṃ jīvitaṃ seyyo passato udayabbayaṃ.*

113. Better it is to live one day seeing the rise and fall of things than to live a hundred years without ever seeing the rise and fall of things. 14

114. *Yo ca vassasataṃ jīve apassaṃ amataṃ padaṃ,
ekāhaṃ jīvitaṃ seyyo passato amataṃ padaṃ.*

114. Better it is to live one day seeing the Deathless than to live a hundred years without ever seeing the Deathless. 15

115. *Yo ca vassasataṃ jīve apassaṃ dhammaṃ uttamaṃ,
ekāhaṃ jīvitaṃ seyyo passato dhammaṃ uttamaṃ.*

115. Better it is to live one day seeing the Supreme Truth than to live a hundred years without ever seeing the Supreme Truth. 16

9

Pāpavagga

Evil

116. *Abhittharetha kalyāṇe, pāpā cittaṃ nivāraye,
dandhaṃ hi karoto puññaṃ pāpasmīṃ ramatī mano.*

116. Hasten to do good and restrain your mind from evil.
When one is slow in doing good, one's mind delights in evil. 1

117. *Pāpaṃ ce puriso kayirā na taṃ kayirā punappunaṃ,
na taṃhi chandaṃ kayirātha, dukkha pāpassa uccayo.*

117. Should a person commit evil, let him not do it again
and again. Let him not form a desire for it, for painful is the
accumulation of evil. 2

118. *Puññaṃ ce puriso kayirā kayirāth'etaṃ punappunaṃ,
taṃhi chandaṃ kayirātha, sukha puññaṃssa uccayo.*

118. Should a person do good, let him do it again and again.
Let him form a desire for it, for blissful is the accumulation of
good. 3

119. *Pāpo pi passatī bhadrāṃ yāva pāpaṃ na paccatī,
yadā ca paccatī pāpaṃ atha pāpo pāpāni passatī.*

119. It may be well with the evil-doer as long as the evil has
not ripened, but when it does ripen, then the evil-doer sees
(the painful results of) his evil deeds. 4

120. *Bhadro pi passatī pāpaṇi yāva bhadraṇi na paccati,
yadā ca paccatī bhadraṇi atha bhadro bhadrāni passati.*

120. It may be ill with the doer of good as long as the good has not ripened, but when it does ripen, then the doer of good sees (the pleasant results of) his good deeds. 5

121. *Māvamaññiccha pāpassa “Na maṇi taṇi āgamissati,”
udabindunipātena udakumbho pi pūrati,
pūrati bālo pāpassa thokathokam pi ācinaṇi.*

121. Do not think lightly of evil, saying, “It will not come to me.” Drop by drop is the water pot filled; likewise the fool, gathering it little by little, fills himself with evil. 6

122. *Māvamaññiccha puññassa “Na maṇi taṇi āgamissati,”
udabindunipātena udakumbho pi pūrati,
pūrati dhīro puññassa thokathokam pi ācinaṇi.*

122. Do not think lightly of good, saying, “It will not come to me.” Drop by drop is the water pot filled; likewise the wise man, gathering it little by little, fills himself with good. 7

123. *Vāṇijo va bhayaṇi maggaṇi appasattho mahaddhano,
visaṇi jivitukāmo va pāpāni parivajjaye.*

123. Just as a trader with a small escort and great wealth would avoid a perilous route, or just as one desiring to live avoids poison, even so should one shun evil deeds. 8

124. *Pāṇimhi ce vaṇo nāssa hareyya pāṇinā visam;
nābbaṇam visam anveti natthi pāpam akubbato.*

124. If on the hand there is no wound, one may even carry poison in it. Poison does not affect one who is free from wounds, and for him who does no evil, there is no ill. 9

125. *Yo appaduṭṭhassa narassa dussati suddhassa posassa
 anaṅgaṇassa,
 tam eva bālaṇi pacceṭi pāpaṇi sukhumo rajo paṭivātaṇi va
 khitto.*

125. Like fine dust thrown against the wind, evil falls back upon that fool who offends an inoffensive, pure, and guiltless man. 10

126. *Gabbham eke uppajjanti nirayaṇi pāpakammino,
 saggāṇi sugatino yanti parinibbanti anāsaṅgā.*

126. Some are born in the womb; the wicked are born in hell; the devout go to heaven; the canker-free attain Nibbāna. 11

127. *Na antalikkhe na samuddamajjhe na pabbatānaṇi vivaraṇi
 pavissa
 na vijjatī so jagatippadeso yatthaṭṭhito muñceyya
 pāpakammiṇā.*

127. Neither in the sky, nor in mid-ocean, nor by entering into mountain clefts—nowhere in the world is there a place where one may escape from the result of an evil deed. 12

128. *Na antalikkhe na samuddamajjhe na pabbatānaṇi vivaraṇi
 pavissa
 na vijjatī so jagatippadeso yatthaṭṭhito nappasaheyya maccu.*

128. Neither in the sky, nor in mid-ocean, nor by entering into mountain clefts—nowhere in the world is there a place where one will not be overcome by death. 13

10

Daṇḍavagga

Violence

129. *Sabbe tasanti daṇḍassa sabbe bhāyanti maccuno,
attānaṃ upamaṃ katvā na haneyya na ghātaye.*

129. All tremble at violence, all fear death. Putting oneself in the place of another, one should not kill nor cause another to kill. 1

130. *Sabbe tasanti daṇḍassa sabbesaṃ jīvitaṃ piyaṃ,
attānaṃ upamaṃ katvā na haneyya na ghātaye.*

130. All tremble at violence, life is dear to all. Putting oneself in the place of another, one should not kill nor cause another to kill. 2

131. *Sukhākāmaṇi bhūtāni yo daṇḍena vihiṇṣati,
attano sukham esāno pecca so na labhate sukhaṃ.*

131. One who, while himself seeking happiness, oppresses with violence other beings who also desire happiness, will not attain happiness hereafter. 3

132. *Sukhākāmaṇi bhūtāni yo daṇḍena na hiṇṣati,
attano sukham esāno pecca so labhate sukhaṃ.*

132. One who, while himself seeking happiness, does not oppress with violence other beings who also desire happiness, will find happiness hereafter. 4

133. *Māvoca pharusañ kañci, vuttā paṭivadeyyu taṇi,
dukkhā hi sārambhakathā paṭidaṇḍā phuseyyu taṇi.*

133. Do not speak harshly to anyone; for those thus spoken to might retort. Indeed, vindictive speech hurts, and retaliation may overtake you. 5

134. *Sace neresi attānaṇi kaṇiso upahato yathā,
esa patto'si nibbānaṇi, sārambho te na vijjati.*

134. If, like a broken gong, you silence yourself, you have approached Nibbāna, for vindictiveness is no more in you. 6

135. *Yathā daṇḍena gopālo gāvo pājeti gocaraṇi,
evaṇi jarā ca maccū ca āyusaṇi pājenti pāṇinaṇi.*

135. Just as a cowherd drives the cattle to pasture with a staff, so do old age and death drive the life force of beings (from existence to existence). 7

136. *Atha pāpāni kammaṇi karaṇi bālo na bujjhati,
sehi kammehi dummedho aggidaḍḍho va tappati.*

136. When the fool commits evil deeds, he does not realize (their evil nature). The witless man is tormented by his own deeds like one burnt by fire. 8

137. *Yo daṇḍena adaṇḍesu appaduṭṭhesu dussati,
dasannam aññataraṇi ṭhānaṇi khippam eva nigacchati.*

137. One who uses violence against those who are unarmed, and offends those who are inoffensive, will soon come upon one of these ten states: 9

138. *Vedanaṃ pharusaṃ jāniṃ, sarīrassa ca bhedananaṃ,
garukaṃ vāpi ābādhaṃ, cittaḥkhepaṃ va pāpuṇe.*

138. He will incur sharp pain, disaster, and bodily injury, or serious illness, or derangement of mind. 10

139. *Rājato va upasaggaṃ, abbhakkhānaṃ va dāruṇaṃ,
parikkhayaṃ va ñātīnaṃ, bhogaṇaṃ va pabhaṅguraṃ.*

139. Or he will meet with trouble from the government, or grave charges, loss of relatives, or loss of wealth. 11

140. *Atha vā'ssa agārāni aggi dahati pāvako,
kāyassa bhedaṃ duppañño nirayaṃ sopapajjati.*

140. Or his houses will be destroyed by a ravaging fire, and upon dissolution of the body that ignorant person will be reborn in hell. 12

141. *Na naggacariyā na jaṭā na paṅkā nānāsakā thaṇḍilasāyikā vā,
rajo ca jallaṃ ukkuṭṭikappadhānaṃ soḍhenti maccaṃ
avitiṇṇakaniḥhaṃ.*

141. Neither going about naked, nor matted locks, nor filth, nor fasting, nor lying on the ground, nor smearing oneself with ashes and dust, nor sitting on the heels (in penance) can purify a mortal who has not overcome mental wavering. 13

142. *Alaṅkato ce pi samaṇṇaṃ careyya santo danto niyato brahmacārī
sabbesu bhūtesu nidhāya daṇḍaṃ so brāhmaṇo so samaṇo sa
bhikkhu.*

142. Even though he be well adorned, yet if he is poised, calm, controlled, and established in the holy life, having laid aside violence towards all beings—he, truly, is a holy man, a renunciate, a monk. 14

143. *Hirīnisedho puriso koci lokasmiṇi vījjati
yo nindaṇi apabodheti, asso bhadro kasāmi iva.*

143. Only rarely is there a man in this world who, restrained by modesty, avoids reproach, as a thoroughbred horse avoids the whip. 15

144. *Asso yathā bhadro kasāniviṭṭho ātāpino saṇivogino bhavātha;
saddhāya sīlena ca viriyena ca samādhinā
dhammavinicchayena ca
sampaṇṇavijjācaraṇā patissatā pahassatha dukkham idaṇi
anappakaṇi.*

144. Like a thoroughbred horse touched by the whip, be strenuous, be filled with spiritual yearning. By faith and moral purity, by effort and meditation, by investigation of the truth, by being rich in knowledge and virtue, and by being mindful, destroy this unlimited suffering. 16

145. *Udakaṇi hi nayanti nettikā, usukārā namayanti tejanaṇi,
dāruṇi namayanti tacchakā, attānaṇi damayanti subbatā.*

145. Irrigators regulate the waters; arrow-makers straighten arrow shafts; carpenters shape wood; and the good control themselves. 17

11

Jarāvagga

Old Age

146. *Ko nu hāso kim ānando niccaṇi pajjalite sati?*
Andhakārena onaddhā padīpaṇi na gavessatha?

146. When this world is ever ablaze, why this laughter, why this jubilation? Shrouded in darkness, why don't you seek the light? 1

147. *Passa cittakataṇi binbaṇi arukāyaṇi samussitaṇi*
āturaṇi bahusaṅkappaṇi yassa natthi dhuvaṇi ṭhiti.

147. Behold this body, a painted image, a mass of heaped up sores—infirm, full of hankering, with nothing lasting or stable. 2

148. *Parijiṇṇaṇi idaṇi rūpaṇi rogaṇiddhaṇi pabhaṅguraṇi,*
bhijjati pūtisandeho maraṇantaṇi hi jīvitaṇi.

148. Fully worn out is this body, a nest of disease, and fragile. This foul mass breaks up, for life ends in death. 3

149. *Yān'imāni apatthāni alāpūn'eva sārade*
kāpotakāni aṭṭhīni tāni disvāna kā rati?

149. These dove-coloured bones are like gourds that lie scattered about in autumn; having seen them, how can one seek delight? 4

150. *Aṭṭhīnaṇi nagaraṇi kataṇi maṇisalohitalepanaṇi
yattha jarā ca maccū ca māno makkho ca ohito.*

150. The body is a city built of bones, plastered with flesh and blood, containing within decay and death, pride and contempt. 5

151. *Jīranti ve rājarathā sucittā atho sarīram pi jaraṇi upeti,
sataṇi ca dhammo na jaraṇi upeti, santo hāve sabbhi
pavedayanti.*

151. Even gorgeous royal chariots wear out, and this body too wears out. But the Dhamma of the good does not age; thus the good make it known to the good. 6

152. *Appassut'āyaṇi puriso balivaddo va jīrati;
maṇṣāṇi tassa vadḍhanti, paññā tassa na vadḍhati.*

152. The man of little learning grows old like a bull: he grows only in bulk, but his wisdom does not grow. 7

153. *Aneka jātisaṇṣāraṇi sandhāvissaṇi anibbisaṇi
gahakāraṇi gavesanto: dukkhā jāti punappunaṇi.*

153. Through many a birth in saṃsāra have I wandered in vain, seeking the builder of this house (of life). Repeated birth is indeed suffering! 8

154. *Gahakāraka diṭṭho'si puna gehaṇi na kāhasi,
sabbā te phāsukā bhaggā, gahakūṭaṇi visaiṅkhitaṇi;
visaiṅkhāragataṇi cittaṇi taṇhānaṇi khayam ajjhagā.*

154. O house-builder, you are seen! You will not build this house again. For all your rafters are broken and your ridge-pole shattered. My mind has reached the Unconditioned: I have attained the destruction of cravings.¹⁴ 9

155. *Acaritvā brahmacariyaṇi aladdhā yobbane dhanāṇi,
jññakoñcā va jhāyanti khīṇamacche va pallale.*

155. Those who in youth have not led the holy life, who have failed to acquire wealth, languish like old cranes in a pond without fish. 10

156. *Acaritvā brahmacariyaṇi, aladdhā yobbane dhanāṇi,
senti cāpātikhīṇā va purāṇāni amutthunaṇi.*

156. Those who in youth have not led the holy life, who have failed to acquire wealth, lie like worn-out arrows (shot from) a bow, sighing over the past. 11

¹⁴ According to the commentary, vv. 153–154 are the Buddha's "Song of Victory," his first utterance after his Enlightenment. The house is individualized existence in saṃsara; the house-builder craving; the rafters the passions; and the ridge-pole ignorance.

12

Attavagga

The Self

157. *Attānañ ce piyaṇi jaññā, rakkheyya naṇi surakkhitaṇi;
tiṇṇaṇi aññātaraṇi yāmaṇi paṭijaggeyya paṇḍito.*

157. If one holds oneself dear, one should diligently watch oneself. Let the wise person keep vigil during any of the three watches of the night. 1

158. *Attānam eva paṭhamaṇi patirūpe nivesaye,
ath'aññam anusāseyya, na kiliseyya paṇḍito.*

158. One should first establish oneself in what is proper; then only should one instruct others. Thus the wise person will not be reproached. 2

159. *Attānañ ce tathā kayirā yath'aññam anusāsati,
sudanto vata danmetha attā hi kira duddamo.*

159. One should do what one teaches others to do; if one would train others, one should be well-controlled oneself. Difficult, indeed, is self-control. 3

160. *Attā hi attano nātho; ko hi nātho paro siyā?
Attanā va suddantena nāthaṇi labhati dullabhaṇi.*

160. One is truly one's protector. Who else could the protector be? With oneself fully controlled one gains a protector which is hard to gain. 4

161. *Attanā va katanī pāpaṇi attajaṇi attasambhavaṇi,
abhimanthati dummedhaṇi vajiraṇi v'asmanayaṇi maṇiṇi.*

161. The evil a witless person does by himself, born of himself and produced by himself, grinds him as a diamond grinds a hard gem. 5

162. *Yassa accantadussīlyaṇi māluvā sālani iv'otthataṇi
karoti so tath'attānaṇi yathā naṇi icchatī diso.*

162. Just as a jungle creeper strangles the tree on which it grows, even so a person who is exceedingly depraved harms himself as an enemy might wish. 6

163. *Sukarāni asādhūni attano ahitāni ca,
yaṇi ve hitaṇi ca sādhuṇi ca, taṇi ve paramadukkaraṇi.*

163. Easy to do are things that are bad and harmful to oneself, but exceedingly difficult to do are things that are good and beneficial. 7

164. *Yo sāsanaṇi arahataṇi ariyānaṇi dhammajīvaṇi,
paṭikkosati dummedho diṭṭhiṇi nissāya pāpikaṇi,
phalāni kaṭṭhakkasseva attaghaṇiṇāya phallati.*

164. Whoever, on account of perverted views, reviles the teaching of the arahats, the noble ones of righteous life—that fool, like the bamboo, produces fruits only for self-destruction.¹⁵ 8

¹⁵ Certain reeds of the bamboo family perish immediately after producing fruits.

165. *Attanā va katanī pāpaṇi attanā saṅkilissati;
 attanā akatanī pāpaṇi attanā va visujjhati;
 suddhi asuddhi paccattanī nāññīo aññāṇi visodhaye.*

165. By oneself is evil done, by oneself is one defiled. By oneself is evil left undone, by oneself is one purified. Purity and impurity depend on oneself—no one can purify another. 9

166. *Attadatthaṇi paratthena bahunā pi na hāpaye;
 attadatthaṇi abhiññāya sadatthapasuto siyā.*

166. Let one not neglect one's own welfare for the sake of another, however great. Clearly understanding one's own welfare, let one be intent upon the good. 10

13

Lokavagga

The World

167. *Hīnaṃ dhammaṃ na seveyya, pamādena na saṃvase;*
micchādittḥiṃ na seveyya, na siyā lokavaḍḍhano.

167. Do not follow the vulgar way; do not live in heedlessness; do not hold false views; do not linger long in worldly existence. 1

168. *Uttiṭṭhe nappamajjeyya, dhammaṃ sucaritaṃ care,*
dhammacārī sukhaṃ seti asmiṃ loke paramhi ca.

168. Arise! Do not be heedless! Lead a life of good conduct. The righteous live happily both in this world and the next. 2

169. *Dhammaṃ care sucaritaṃ, na naṃ ducaritaṃ care,*
dhammacārī sukhaṃ seti asmiṃ loke paramhi ca.

169. Lead a life of good conduct. Do not lead a base life. The righteous live happily both in this world and the next. 3

170. *Yathā bubbulakaṃ passe, yathā passe marīcikaṃ,*
evaṃ lokaṃ avekkhantaṃ maccurājā na passati.

170. When one looks upon the world as a bubble and a mirage, the King of Death does not see one. 4

171. *Etha passath'imaṇi lokaṇi, cittaṇi rājarathūpanaṇi,
yattha bālā visīdanti natthi saṅgo vijānataṇi.*

171. Come! Behold this world, which is like a decorated royal chariot. Here fools flounder, but the wise have no attachment to it. 5

172. *Yo ca pubbe pamaññitvā pacchā so nappamaññati;
so imaṇi lokaṇi pabhāseti, abbhā mutto va candimā.*

172. One who having been heedless is heedless no more, illuminates this world like the moon freed from a cloud. 6

173. *Yassa pāpaṇi kataṇi kammaṇi kusalena pithīyati,
so imaṇi lokaṇi pabhāseti, abbhā mutto va candimā.*

173. One who by good covers the evil he has done, illuminates this world like the moon freed from a cloud. 7

174. *Andhabhūto ayaṇi loko tanuk'ettha vipassati,
sakunto jālamutto va appo saggāya gacchati.*

174. Blind is this world; here only a few possess insight. Only a few, like birds escaping from a net, go to the realm of bliss. 8

175. *Haṇṣādiccapathe yanti, ākāse yanti iddhiyā;
nīyanti dhīrā lokamhā jetvā māraṇi savāhiniṇi.*

175. Swans fly on the path of the sun; men pass through the air by psychic powers; the wise are led away from the world after vanquishing Māra and his host. 9

176. *Ekaṇi dhammaṇi atītassa musāvādissa jantuno
vitiṇṇaparalokassa natthi pāpaṇi akāriyaṇi.*

176. For a liar who has violated the one law (of truthfulness), who holds in scorn the hereafter, there is no evil that he cannot do. 10

177. *Na ve kadariyā devalokaṇi vajanti, bālā have nappasaṇṣanti
dānaṇi,
dhīro ca dānaṇi anuṃodamāno ten'eva so hoti sukhī parattha.*

177. Truly, misers fare not to heavenly realms; nor, indeed, do fools praise generosity. But the wise person rejoices in giving, and by that alone does he become happy hereafter. 11

178. *Pathavyā ekarajjena, saggassa gamanena vā,
sabbalokādhipaccena, sotāpattiḥalaṇi varaṇi.*

178. Better than sole sovereignty over the earth, better than going to heaven, better even than lordship over all the worlds is the fruition of stream-entry.¹⁶ 12

¹⁶. Stream-entry (*sotāpatti*): the first stage of supramundane attainment.

14

Buddhavāga

The Buddha

179. *Yassa jitaṃ nāvajīyati, jitaṃ assa no yāti koci loke,
taṃ Buddham anantagocaraṃ apadaṃ kena padena
nessatha?*

179. By what track can you trace that trackless one, the Buddha of limitless range, whose victory nothing can undo, whom none of the vanquished defilements can ever pursue? 1

180. *Yassa jālinī visattikā taṃhā natthi kuliñci netave,
taṃ Buddham anantagocaraṃ apadaṃ kena padena
nessatha?*

180. By what track can you trace that trackless one, the Buddha of limitless range, in whom exists no longer the entangling and embroiling craving that perpetuates becoming? 2

181. *Ye jhānapasutā dhīrā nekkhammūpasame ratā,
devāpi tesaṃ pihayanti sambuddhānaṃ satīmatāṃ.*

181. Those wise ones who are devoted to meditation and who delight in the calm of renunciation—such mindful ones, Supreme Buddhas, even the gods hold dear. 3

182. *Kiccho manussapaṭilābho, kicchanaṃ maccāna jīvitaṃ,
kicchanaṃ saddhammasavaṇaṃ, kiccho Buddhānaṃ uppādo.*

182. Hard is it to be born a human being, hard is the life of mortals. Hard is it to gain the opportunity to hear the Good Dhamma, and hard, indeed, to encounter the arising of the Buddhas. 4

183. *Sabbapāpassa akaraṇaṃ, kusalassa upasampadā,
sacittapariyodapanaṃ, etaṃ Buddhāna sāsaṇaṃ.*

183. To avoid all evil, to cultivate good, and to cleanse one's own mind—this is the teaching of the Buddhas. 5

184. *Khantī paramaṃ tapo titikkhā, nibbānaṃ paramaṃ vadanti
Buddhā;
na hi pabbajito parūpaghātī, samaṇo hoti paraṃ
viheṭṭhayanto.*

184. Enduring patience is the highest austerity. “Nibbāna is supreme,” say the Buddhas. He is not a true monk who harms another, nor a real renunciate who oppresses others. 6

185. *Anūpavādo anūpaghāto, pātimokkhe ca saṇivaro
mattaññūtā ca bhattasmiṃ, pantañ ca sayanāsanaṃ,
adhicitte ca āyogo, etaṃ Buddhāna sāsaṇaṃ.*

185. Not despising, not harming, restraint according to the code of monastic discipline, moderation in food, dwelling in solitude, devotion to meditation—this is the teaching of the Buddhas. 7

186. *Na kahāpaṇāvassena titti kāmesu vijjati,
appassādā dukkhā kāmā iti viññāya paṇḍito.*

187. *Api dibbesu kāmesu ratiṇi so nādhigacchati,
taṇhakkhayaṛato hoti sammāsambuddhasāvako.*

186–187. There is no satisfying sensual desires even with a rain of gold coins, for sense pleasures give little satisfaction and entail much pain. Having understood this, the wise man finds no delight even in heavenly pleasures. The disciple of the Supreme Buddha delights in the destruction of craving. 8–9

188. *Baluṇi ve saraṇaṇi yanti, pabbatāni vanāni ca
ārāma-rukka-cetyāni, manussā bhayatajjitā.*

188. People, driven by fear, go for refuge to many places—to hills, woods, groves, trees, and shrines. 10

189. *N’etaṇi kho saraṇaṇi khemaṇi n’etaṇi saraṇam uttamaṇi,
n’etaṇi saraṇam āganma sabbadukkhā paṇuccati.*

189. This, indeed, is no safe refuge; this is not the refuge supreme. Not by resorting to such a refuge is one released from all suffering. 11

190. *Yo ca Buddhaṇi ca dhammaṇi ca saṅghaṇi ca saraṇaṇi gato,
cattāri ariyasaccāni, sammappaññāya passati.*

191. *Dukkhaṇi dukkhasamuppādaṇi, dukkhassa ca atikkamaṇi,
ariyaṇi c’atṭhaṅgikaṇi maggaṇi, dukkhūpasamaḡamināṇi.*

190–191. One who has gone for refuge to the Buddha, the Dhamma, and the Sangha, penetrates with wisdom the Four Noble Truths—suffering, the cause of suffering, the cessation of suffering, and the Noble Eightfold Path leading to the cessation of suffering.¹⁷ 12–13

¹⁷ The Sangha: both the monastic order (*bhikkhu-saṅgha*) and the order of noble ones (*ariya-saṅgha*) who have reached the four supramundane stages.

192. *Etaṇi kho saraṇaṇi khemaṇi etaṇi saraṇam uttamaṇi,
etaṇi saraṇaṇi āganūna sabbaduḅkhā paṇuccati.*

192. This, indeed, is the safe refuge, this is the refuge supreme. Having gone to such a refuge, one is released from all suffering. 14

193. *Dullabho purisājaṇṇo, na so sabbattha jāyati,
yattha so jāyati dhīro taṇi kulaṇi sukham edhati.*

193. Hard to find is the thoroughbred man (the Buddha). He is not born everywhere. Where such a wise man is born, that clan thrives happily. 15

194. *Sukho Buddhānaṇi uppādo, sukhā saddhammadesanā,
sukhā saṅghassa sāmaggi, samaggānaṇi tapo sukho.*

194. Blessed is the birth of the Buddhas; blessed is the enunciation of the Good Dhamma; blessed is harmony in the Sangha; and blessed is the spiritual pursuit of the united truth-seekers. 16

195. *Pūjārahe pūjayato Buddhē yadi va sāvake
papaṇca-saṇatikkante tiṇṇa-soka-pariddave*

196. *Te tādisē pūjayato, nibbute akutoḅhaye,
na sakkā puṇṇaṇi saṅkhātuṇi, im'ettam iti kena ci.*

195–196. One who reveres those worthy of reverence, the Buddhas and their disciples, who have transcended all worldliness and passed beyond the reach of sorrow and lamentation—one who reveres such peaceful and fearless ones, his merit none can compute by any measure. 17–18

15

Sukhavagga

Happiness

197. *Susukhaṇi vata jīvāma verinesu averino;
verinesu manussesu viharāma averino.*

197. Happy indeed we live, friendly amidst the hostile!
Amidst hostile people we dwell free from hatred. 1

198. *Susukhaṇi vata jīvāma āturesu anāturā;
āturesu manussesu viharāma anāturā.*

198. Happy indeed we live, unafflicted amidst those afflicted
(by craving)! Amidst afflicted people we dwell free from
affliction. 2

199. *Susukhaṇi vata jīvāma ussukesu anussukā;
ussukesu manussesu viharāma anussukā.*

199. Happy indeed we live, free from avarice amidst the
avaricious! Amidst avaricious people we dwell free from
avarice. 3

200. *Susukhaṇi vata jīvāma yesaṇi no natthi kiñcanaṇi;
pītibhakkhā bhavissāma devā ābhassarā yathā.*

200. Happy indeed we live, we who possess nothing! We
shall be feeders on joy, like the radiant gods.¹⁸ 4

¹⁸. The radiant gods (*devā ābhassarā*): a class of gods in the realm of subtle form (*rūpa-dhātu*); they are said to subsist on joy instead of food.

201. *Jayaṃ veraṃ pasavati, dukkhaṃ seti parājito;
upasanto sukhaṃ seti hitvā jayaparājayaṃ.*

201. Victory begets enmity, the defeated dwell in pain. Happily the peaceful live, discarding both victory and defeat. 5

202. *Natthi rāgasamo aggi, natthi dosasamo kali,
natthi khandhasamā dukkhā, natthi santiparaṃ sukhaṃ.*

202. There is no fire like lust, no crime like hatred. There is no ill like the aggregates, no bliss higher than the peace (of Nibbāna).¹⁹ 6

203. *Jighacchāparamā rogā, saṅkhārā paramā dukkhā,
etaṃ ñatvā yathābhūtaṃ nibbānaṃ paramaṃ sukhaṃ.*

203. Hunger is the worst disease, conditioned things the worst suffering. Knowing this as it really is, the wise realize Nibbāna, the highest bliss. 7

204. *Ārogyaparamā lābhā, santuṭṭhiparamaṃ dhanaṃ,
vissāsaparamā ñātī, nibbānaṃ paramaṃ sukhaṃ.*

204. Health is the highest gain, contentment the greatest wealth. A trustworthy person is the best kinsman, Nibbāna the highest bliss. 8

205. *Pavivekaraṇaṃ pītvā rasaṃ upasamassa ca
niddaro hoti nippāpo dhammapīrasaṃ pibaṃ.*

205. Having savoured the taste of solitude and of peace, pain-free and stainless he becomes, drinking deep the taste of the bliss of the Dhamma. 9

¹⁹ Aggregates (*khandha*): the five groups into which the Buddha analyzes the living being—material form, feeling, perception, mental formations, and consciousness.

206. *Sāhu dassanam ariyānaṃ sannivāso sadā sukho,
adassanena bālānaṃ niccam eva sukhī siyā.*

206. Good it is to see the noble ones, to live with them is ever blissful. One will always be happy by not encountering fools. 10

207. *Bālasaṅgatacārī hi dīgham addhāna socati,
dukkho bālehi saṅgvāso amitten'eva sabbadā,
dhīro ca sukhasaṅgvāso nātīnaṃ va samāgamo.*

207. Indeed, one who moves in the company of fools grieves for a long time. Association with fools is ever painful, like partnership with an enemy. But happy is association with the wise, like meeting one's own relatives. 11

208. *Tasmā hi: dhīraṃ ca paññaṃ ca bahussutaṃ ca
dhorayhasīlaṃ vatavantam āriyaṃ,
taṃ tādisaṃ sappurisaṃ sumedhaṃ bhajetha
nakkhattapathaṃ va candimā.*

208. Therefore, follow the noble one, who is steadfast, wise, learned, dutiful, and devout. One should follow only such a person, who is truly good and discerning, even as the moon follows the path of the stars. 12

16

Piyavagga

Affection

209. *Ayoge yuñjam attānaṃ yogasmiñ ca ayojayaṃ,
atthaṃ hitvā piyaggālū pihet'attānuyojanaṃ.*

209. Giving himself to things to be shunned and not exerting himself where exertion is needed, a seeker after pleasures forsakes his own true welfare and will come to envy those intent upon their welfare. 1

210. *Mā piyehi samāgañchi, appiyehi kudācanaṃ,
piyānaṃ adassanaṃ dukkhaṃ appiyānañ ca dassanaṃ.*

210. Seek no intimacy with the beloved and also not with the unloved, for not to see the beloved and to see the unloved are both painful. 2

211. *Tasmā piyaṃ na kayirātha, piyāpāyo hi pāpako,
ganthā tesāṃ na vijjanti yesāṃ natthi piyāppiyaṃ.*

211. Therefore, hold nothing dear, for separation from the dear is painful. There are no bonds for those who have nothing beloved or unloved. 3

212. *Piyato jāyatī soko, piyato jāyatī bhayaṃ,
piyato vippanuttassa . natthi soko kuto bhayaṃ?*

212. From endearment springs grief, from endearment springs fear. For one who is wholly free from endearment there is no grief, whence then fear? 4

213. *Pemato jāyatī soko, Pemato jāyatī bhayaṇi,
Pemato vippanuttassa natthi soko kuto bhayaṇi?*

213. From affection springs grief, from affection springs fear. For one who is wholly free from affection there is no grief, whence then fear? 5

214. *Ratiyā jāyatī soko, ratiyā jāyatī bhayaṇi,
ratiyā vippanuttassa natthi soko kuto bhayaṇi?*

214. From enjoyment springs grief, from enjoyment springs fear. For one who is wholly free from enjoyment there is no grief, whence then fear? 6

215. *Kāmato jāyatī soko, kāmato jāyatī bhayaṇi,
kāmato vippanuttassa natthi soko kuto bhayaṇi?*

215. From lust springs grief, from lust springs fear. For one who is wholly free from lust there is no grief, whence then fear? 7

216. *Taṇhāya jāyatī soko, taṇhāya jāyatī bhayaṇi,
taṇhāya vippanuttassa natthi soko kuto bhayaṇi?*

216. From craving springs grief, from craving springs fear. For one who is wholly free from craving there is no grief, whence then fear? 8

217. *Sīladassanasampannaṇi dhammatṭhaṇi saccavedinaṇi
attano kammakubbānaṇi taṇi jano kurute piyaṇi.*

217. People hold dear one who embodies virtue and insight, who is principled, has realized the truth, and who himself does what he ought to be doing. 9

218. *Chandajāto anakkhāte, manasā ca phuṭṭo siyā,
kāmesu ca appaṭṭibaddhacitto, uddhaṇṇisoto ti vuccati.*

218. One who is intent upon the Ineffable (Nibbāna) and dwells with mind inspired (by wisdom), such a person—no more bound by sense pleasures—is called “one bound upstream.”²⁰ 10

219. *Cirappavāsiniṃ purisaṃ dūrato sotthim āgataṃ,
ñātimittā suhajjā ca, abhinandanti āgataṃ.*

219. When, after a long absence, a man safely returns home from afar, his relatives, friends, and well-wishers welcome him home on arrival. 11

220. *Tath’eva katapuññaṃ pi asmā lokā paraṃ gataṃ,
puññaṇi paṭigāṇhanti piyaṃ ñātiṃ va āgataṃ.*

220. As relatives welcome a dear one on arrival, even so his own good deeds will welcome the doer of good who has gone from this world to the next. 12

²⁰. One bound upstream: a particular type of non-returner (*anāgāmi*).

17

Kodhavagga

Anger

221. *Kodhaṇi jahe vippajaheyya mānaṇi, saññojanaṇi sabbam
atikkameyya;
taṇi nāmarūpasmiṇi asajjamānaṇi akiñcanaṇi nānupatanti
dukkhā.*

221. One should give up anger, renounce pride, and overcome all fetters. Suffering never befalls him who clings not to mind and body and is detached. 1

222. *Yo ve uppatitaṇi kodhaṇi rathaṇi bhantaṇi va dhāraye,
tam ahaṇi sārathīṇi brūmi, rasmiggāho itaro jano.*

222. One who checks rising anger as a charioteer checks a rolling chariot, him I call a true charioteer; others only hold the reins. 2

223. *Akkodhena jine kodhaṇi, asādhunṇi sādhunā jine,
jine kadariyaṇi dānena, saccena alikavāḍinaṇi.*

223. Overcome the angry by non-anger; overcome the wicked by goodness; overcome the miser by generosity; overcome the liar by truth. 3

224. *Saccaṇi bhaṇe na kujjheyya, dajjā appasmim pi yācito,
ctehi tili thānehi gacche devāna santike.*

224. Speak the truth; do not give way to anger; give of your little to him that asks of you; by these three things one may go to the realm of gods. 4

225. *Ahiṅṣakā ye munayo, niccaṇi kāyena saṅgoutā,
te yanti accutaṇi ṭhānaṇi, yattha gantvā na socare.*

225. Those sages who are inoffensive and ever restrained in body, go to the deathless state, where they grieve no more. 5

226. *Sadā jāgaramānānaṇi, ahorattānusikkhinaṇi,
nibbānaṇi adhimuttānaṇi, atthaṇi gacchanti āsavā.*

226. Those who are ever vigilant, who discipline themselves day and night, ever intent upon Nibbāna—their cankers fade away. 6

227. *Porāṇam etaṇi Atula n'etaṇi ajjatanām iva,
nindanti tuṅghim āsīnaṇi, nindanti balubhāṇinaṇi,
mitabhāṇinam pi nindanti, natthi loka anindito.*

227. O Atula! Indeed, this is an old pattern, not one only of today: they blame one who remains silent, they blame one who speaks much, they blame one who speaks in moderation. There is none in this world who is not blamed. 7

228. *Na c'āhu na ca bhavissati, na c'etarahi vijjati,
ekantaṇi nindito poso, ekantaṇi vā paṇaṇisito.*

228. There never was, there never will be, nor is there now, a person who is wholly blamed or wholly praised. 8

229. *Yaṅ ce viññū paṇaṇisanti anuvicca suve suve
acchiddavuttiṇi medhāvīṇi paññāsīlasamāhitaṇi—*

230. *Nekkhaṇi jambonadasseva ko taṇi ninditum arahati?
devā pi taṇi paṇaṇisanti, Brahmunā pi paṇaṇisito.*

229–230. But as to the person whom the wise praise after observing him day after day, one of flawless character, wise, and endowed with knowledge and virtue—who can blame such a one, as worthy as a coin of refined gold? Even the gods praise him; by Brahmā, too, is he praised. 9–10

231. *Kāyappakopaṇi rakkheyya, kāyena saṇivuto siyā,
kāyaduccaritaṇi hitvā kāyena sucaritaṇi care.*

231. One should guard oneself against irritability in bodily action; one should be controlled in deed. Having abandoned bodily misconduct, one should practise good conduct in deed. 11

232. *Vacīpakopaṇi rakkheyya, vācāya saṇivuto siyā,
vacīduccaritaṇi hitvā vācāya sucaritaṇi care.*

232. One should guard oneself against irritability in speech; one should be controlled in speech. Having abandoned verbal misconduct, one should practise good conduct in speech. 12

233. *Manopakopaṇi rakkheyya, manasā saṇivuto siyā,
manoduccaritaṇi hitvā manasā sucaritaṇi care.*

233. One should guard oneself against irritability in thought; one should be controlled in thought. Having abandoned mental misconduct, one should practise good conduct in thought. 13

234. *Kāyena saṇivutā dhīrā atho vācāya saṇivutā
manasā saṇivutā dhīrā te ve suparisaṇivutā.*

234. The wise are controlled in bodily deeds, controlled in speech, and controlled in thought. They are truly well controlled. 14

18

Malavagga

Impurity

235. *Paṇḍupalāso va dāni'si, yamaपुरिसā pi ca tam upaṭṭhitā,
uyyogamuḅhe ca tiṭṭhasi, pātheyyam pi ca te na vijjati.*

235. Like a withered leaf are you now; death's messengers are waiting for you. You stand on the eve of your departure, yet you have made no provision for your journey! 1

236. *So karohi dīpaṃ attano, khippaṇi vāyama paṇḍito bhava;
niddhantamalo anaṅgaṇo dibbaṇi ariyabhūmiṃ ehisi.*

236. Make an island for yourself! Strive hard and become wise! Rid of impurities and cleansed of stain, you shall enter the celestial abode of the noble ones. 2

237. *Upanītavayo va dāni'si, sampayāto'si Yamassa santike,
vāso pi ca te natthi antarā, pātheyyam pi ca te na vijjati.*

237. Your life has come to an end now; you are setting forth into the presence of Yama, the King of Death. No resting place is there for you on the way, yet you have made no provision for your journey! 3

238. *So karohi dīpaṃ attano, khippaṇi vāyama paṇḍito bhava;
niddhantamalo anaṅgaṇo na puna jātijaraṇi upehisi.*

238. Make an island for yourself! Strive hard and become wise! Rid of impurities and cleansed of stain, you shall not come again to birth and decay. 4

239. *Anupubbena medhāvī thokathokaṇi khaṇe khaṇe
kanumāro rajatasseva niddhame malam attano.*

239. One by one, little by little, moment by moment, a wise man should remove his own impurities, as a smith removes the dross of silver. 5

240. *Ayasā va malaṇi samuṭṭhitaṇi, taduṭṭhāya tam eva khādati,
evaṇi atidhonaacāriṇaṇi sakakanumāni nayanti duggatiṇi.*

240. Just as rust arising from iron eats away the base from which it has arisen, even so their own deeds lead transgressors to a state of woe. 6

241. *Asajjhāyamalā mantā, anuṭṭhānamalā gharā,
malaṇi vaṇṇassa kosajjaṇi, pamādo rakkhato malaṇi.*

241. Non-repetition is the bane of scriptures; neglect is the bane of a home; slovenliness is the bane of personal appearance; heedlessness is the bane of a watchman. 7

242. *Malitthiyā duccharitaṇi, maccheraṇi dadato malaṇi
malā ve pāpakā dhammā asmiṇi loke paramhi ca.*

242. Unchastity is the taint in a woman; niggardliness is the taint in a giver. Taints, indeed, are evil things, both in this world and the next. 8

243. *Tato malā malataṇi avijjā paramaṇi malaṇi,
etaṇi malaṇi pahatvāna ninmalā hoṭha bhikkhavo.*

243. A worse taint than these is ignorance, the worst of all taints. Destroy this one taint and become taintless, O monks! 9

244. *Sujṭvaṇi ahirikena kākasūrena dhaṇisinā
pakkhandinā pagabbhena saṅkiliṭṭhena jṭvitaṇi.*

244. Easy is life for the shameless one who is as impudent as a crow, back-biting and forward, arrogant and corrupt. 10

245. *Hirīmatā ca dujjīvaṇi niccaṇi sucigavesinā
alīnen'appagabbhena suddhājīvena passatā.*

245. Difficult is life for the modest one who always seeks purity, who is detached and unassuming, clean in life, and discerning. 11

246. *Yo pāṇaṃ atipātetī, musāvādaṇi ca bhāsati,
loke adinnaṇi ādiyati, paradāraṇi ca gacchati.*

247. *Surāmerayapānaṇi ca yo naro anuyuyūjati,
idh'eva-m-eso lokasmiṇi mūlaṇi khaṇati attano.*

246–247. One who destroys life, utters lies, takes what is not given, goes to another man's wife, and is addicted to intoxicating drinks—such a man digs up his own root even in this very world. 12–13

248. *Evaṇi bho purisa jānāhi: pāpadhammā asaṇṇatā;
mā taṃ lobho adhammo ca ciraṇi dukkhāya randhayuṇi.*

248. Know this, good man: those of evil character are uncontrolled. Let not greed and wickedness drag you to protracted misery. 14

249. *Dadāti ve yathāsaddhaṇi yathāpasādanaṇi jano,
tatha yo maṅku bhavati paresaṇi pānabhojane,
na so divā vā rattiṇi vā samādhiṇi adhigacchati.*

249. People give according to their faith, according to their trust. If one becomes discontented with the food and drink given by others, one does not attain meditative absorption, either by day or by night. 15

250. *Yassa c'etaṇi samucchinnaṇi mūlaghaccaṇi samūhataṇi,
sa ve divā vā rattiṇi vā samādhiṇi adhigacchati.*

250. But he in whom this (discontent) is fully destroyed, uprooted and extinct, he attains absorption, whether by day or by night. 16

251. *Natthi rāgasamo aggi, natthi dosasamo gaho,
natthi mohasamaṇi jālaṇi, natthi taṇhāsamaṇi nadī.*

251. There is no fire like lust; there is no grip like hatred; there is no net like delusion; there is no river like craving. 17

252. *Sudassaṇi vajjaṇi aññesaṇi, attano pana duddasaṇi,
paresaṇi hi so vajjāni, opuniāti yathābhūsaṇi;
attano pana chādeti, kaliṇi va kitavā saṭho.*

252. Easily seen are the faults of others, but one's own are difficult to see. Like chaff one winnows another's faults but hides one's own, even as a crafty fowler hides behind sham branches. 18

253. *Paravajjānupassissa, niccaṇi ujjhānasaññino,
āsavā tassa vadḍhanti, āra so āsavakkhayā.*

253. He who seeks another's faults, who is ever censorious—his cankers grow. He is far from the destruction of the cankers. 19

254. *Ākāse padaṇi natthi, samaṇo natthi bāhire,
papañcābhiratā pajā, nippapañcā Tathāgatā.*

254. There is no track in the sky, and no recluse outside (the Buddha's Dispensation). Humankind delights in worldliness, but the Buddhas are free from worldliness.²¹ 20

255. *Ākāse padaṇi natthi, samaṇo natthi bāhire,
saṅkhārā sassatā natthi, natthi Buddhānam iṅgitaṇi.*

255. There is no track in the sky, and no recluse outside (the Buddha's Dispensation). There are no conditioned things that are eternal, and no instability in the Buddhas. 21

²¹ Recluse (*samaṇa*): in vv.254-255 used in the special sense of those who have reached the four supramundane stages.

19

Dhammaṭṭhavagga

The Just

256. *Na tena hoti dhammaṭṭho yen'atthaṇi sahasā naye,
yo ca atthaṇi anattāṇi ca ubho niccheyya paṇḍito—*

257. *Asāhasena dhammena samena nayatī pare,
dhammassa gutto medhāvī dhammaṭṭho ti pavuccati.*

256–257. Not by passing arbitrary judgements does one become just; a wise person who investigates both right and wrong, who does not judge others arbitrarily but passes judgement impartially according to truth, a sagacious guardian of the law, is called just. 1–2

258. *Na tena paṇḍito hoti yāvātā bahu bhāsati,
khemī averī abhayo paṇḍito ti pavuccati.*

258. One is not wise because one speaks much; one who is peaceable, friendly, and fearless is called wise. 3

259. *Na tāvatā dhammadharo yāvātā bahu bhāsati,
yo ca appam pi sutvāna dhammaṇi kāyena passati,
sa ve dhammadharo hoti yo dhammaṇi nappamañjati.*

259. One is not versed in the Dhamma because one speaks much. One who, after hearing even a little Dhamma, does not neglect it but personally realizes its truth is truly versed in the Dhamma. 4

260. *Na tena thero hoti yen'assa palitaṃ siro,
paripakko vayo tassa moghajiṇṇo ti vuccati.*

260. A monk is not an elder because his head is gray; he is but ripe in age, and is called one grown old in vain. 5

261. *Yamhi saccaṃ ca dhammo ca ahimsā saññāmo damo,
sa ve vantamalo dhīro thero iti pavuccati*

261. One in whom there is truthfulness and virtue, inoffensiveness, restraint, and self-mastery, who is free from defilements and wise—he is truly called an elder. 6

262. *Na vākkaraṇamattena vaññāpokkharatāya vā
sādhurūpo naro hoti issukī maccharī saṭho.*

262. Not by mere eloquence nor by bodily beauty does a person become refined, should he be jealous, selfish, and deceitful. 7

263. *Yassa c'etaṃ samucchinnāṃ mūlaghaccaṃ samūhataṃ,
sa vantadoso medhāvī sādhurūpo ti vuccati.*

263. But he in whom these are wholly destroyed, uprooted and extinct, and who has cast out imperfection—that sagacious person is said to be refined. 8

264. *Na muṇḍakena samaṇo abbato alikaṃ bhayaṃ;
icchālobhasamāpanno samaṇo kiṃ bhavissati?*

264. Not by shaven head does one who is undisciplined and untruthful become a recluse. How can one who is full of desire and greed be a recluse? 9

265. *Yo ca sameti pāpāni aṇuṇi thūlāni sabbaso,
samiṭattā hi pāpānaṇi samaṇo ti pavuccati.*

265. One who wholly subdues evil both small and great is called a recluse, because he has overcome all evil.²² 10

266. *Na tena bhikkhu hoti yāvata bhikkhate pare;
vissaṇi dhanuṇaṇi samādāya bhikkhu hoti na tāvatā.*

266. He is not a monk just because he lives on other's alms. Not by adopting outward form does one become a true monk. 11

267. *Yo'dha puññaṇi ca pāpaṇi ca bāhetvā brahmacariyaṇā
saṅkhāya loke carati, sa ve bhikkhū ti vuccati.*

267. One here who lives the holy life and walks with understanding in this world, transcending both merit and demerit—he is truly called a monk. 12

268. *Na monena munī hoti mūḷharūpo aviddasu;
yo ca tulaṇi va paggayha varam ādāya paṇḍito—*

269. *Pāpāni parivajjeti, sa munī tena so munī;
yo munāti ubho loke munī tena pavuccati.*

268–269. Not by observing silence does one become a sage, if one is foolish and ignorant. But that wise person who, as if holding a balance-scale, accepts only the good and rejects the evil—he is truly a sage. Since he comprehends both (the present and future) worlds, he is called a sage. 13–14

²² This is an “edifying etymology” based on a pun in the Pali that cannot be satisfactorily reproduced in English.

270. *Na tena ariyo hoti yena pāṇāni hiṃsati;
ahimsā sabbapāṇānaṃ ariyo ti pavuccati.*

270. He is not a noble one who injures living beings. He is called a noble one because he is harmless towards all living beings. 15

271. *Na sīlabbatamattena bāhusaccena vā puna
atha vā samādhilābhena viviccasayanena vā—*

272. *Phusāmi nekkhammasukhaṃ aputhujjanasevitaṃ,
bhikkhu viссāsa māpādi appatto āsavakkhayaṃ.*

271–272. Not with mere rules and observances, nor even with much learning, nor with the gain of absorption, nor with a life of seclusion, nor with thinking, “I enjoy the bliss of renunciation, which is not experienced by the worldling,” should you rest content, O monks, so long as the utter destruction of cankers has not been reached. 16–17

20

Maggavagga

The Path

273. *Maggān'aṭṭhaṅgiko seṭṭho, saccānaṅi caturo padā,
virāgo seṭṭho dhammānaṅi, dipadānaṅi ca cakkhumā.*

273. Of all paths the Eightfold Path is the best; of all truths the Four Noble Truths are the best; of all things passionlessness is the best; of humans, the Seeing One (the Buddha) is the best. 1

274. *Eso va maggo natth'añño, dassanassa visuddhiyā,
etaṃhi tumhe paṭipajjatha: māraṣṣ'etaṅi pamohanaṅi.*

274. This is the only way: there is none other for the purification of insight. Tread this path, and you will bewilder Māra. 2

275. *Etaṃhi tumhe paṭipannā dukkhass'antaṅi karissatha,
akkhāto ve mayā maggo aññāya sallasanthanaṅi.*

275. Walking upon this path you will make an end of suffering. Having discovered how to pull out the thorn of lust, I expound the path. 3

276. *Tumhehi kiccaṅi ātappaṅi akkhātāro Tathāgatā;
paṭipannā pamokkhanti jhāyino Mārabandhanā.*

276. You yourselves must strive; the Tathāgatas only point the way. Those meditative ones who tread the path are released from the bonds of Māra.²³ 4

277. *Sabbe saṅkhārā aniccā ti yadā paññāya passati,
atha nibbindati dukkhe; esa maggo visuddhiyā.*

277. “All conditioned things are impermanent”—when one sees this with wisdom one turns away from suffering. This is the path to purification. 5

278. *Sabbe saṅkhārā dukkhā ti yadā paññāya passati,
atha nibbindati dukkhe; esa maggo visuddhiyā.*

278. “All conditioned things are unsatisfactory”—when one sees this with wisdom one turns away from suffering. This is the path to purification. 6

279. *Sabbe dhammā anattā ti yadā paññāya passati,
atha nibbindati dukkhe; esa maggo visuddhiyā.*

279. “All things are not self”—when one sees this with wisdom one turns away from suffering. This is the path to purification. 7

280. *Uṭṭhānakālamhi anuṭṭhahāno yuvā balī ālasiyaṃ upeto,
saṅsannasāṅkappamaṇo kusīto paññāya maggaṃ alaso na
vindati.*

280. The idler who does not exert himself when he should, who though young and strong is full of sloth, with a mind full of vain thoughts—such an indolent man does not find the path to wisdom. 8

23. Tathāgata: an epithet of the Buddha meaning “the Thus Come One” or “the Thus Gone One.” The commentaries give elaborate explanations of the word.

281. *Vācānurakkhī manasā susaṇṇvuto, kāyena ca akusalaṇi na
kayirā;
ete tayo kammaṇapatho visodhaye ārādhaye maggaṇi
isippaveditaṇi.*

281. Watchful of speech, well controlled in mind, one should not commit evil with the body. Let one purify these three courses of action, and win the path made known by the Great Sage. 9

282. *Yogā ve jāyatī bhūri ayogā bhūrisaṅkhayo;
etaṇi dvedhāpathaṇi űatvā bhavāya vibhavāya ca,
tath'attānaṇi niveseyya yathā bhūri pavaddhāti.*

282. Wisdom springs from meditation, without meditation wisdom wanes. Having known these two paths of progress and decline, one should so conduct oneself that wisdom increases. 10

283. *Vanaṇi chīndatha nā rukkhaṇi, vanato jāyate bhayaṇi;
chetvā vanaṇi ca vanathaṇi ca nibbanaṇi hottha bhikkhavo.*

283. Cut down the forest (of lust), but not the tree. From the forest (of lust) springs fear. Having cut down the forest and the underbrush (of desire), be passionless, O monks!²⁴ 11

284. *Yāva hi vanatho na chijjati aṇumatto pi narassa nārisu
paṭibaddhamano va tāva so vaccho khūrapako va mātari.*

284. For so long as the underbrush of desire, even the most subtle, of a man towards a woman is not cut down, his mind is in bondage, like the sucking calf to its mother. 12

²⁴ The meaning of this injunction is: "Cut down the forest of lust, but do not mortify the body."

285. *Ucchinda sineham attano kumudaṇi sārādikaṇi va pāṇinā
santimaggam eva brūhaya nibbānaṇi sugatena desitaṇi.*

285. Cut off your affection as one plucks with the hand an autumn lotus. Cultivate only the path to peace, to Nibbāna, as made known by the Exalted One. 13

286. *Idha vassaṇi vasissāmi idha hemantaḡimhīsu
iti bālo vicinteti antarāyaṇi na bujjhati.*

286. “Here shall I live during the rains, here in winter and summer”—thus thinks the fool. He does not realize the danger (that death might intervene). 14

287. *Taṇi puttapasusanmattaṇi byāsattamaṇasaṇi naraṇi
suttaṇi gāmaṇi mahogho va maccu ādāya gacchati.*

287. As a great flood carries away a sleeping village, just so Death seizes and carries away a man with a grasping mind, doting on his children and cattle. 15

288. *Na santi puttā tāṇāya na pitā n’āpi bandhavā,
antakenādhīpannaṇa natthi ñātīsu tāṇatā.*

288. For one who is assailed by the Destroyer there is no protection by kinsmen. None there are to save him—no sons, nor father, nor relatives. 16

289. *Etam atthavaṇaṇi ñatvā paṇḍito sīlaṇiṇvuto
nibbānagamaṇaṇi maggaṇi khīppam eva visodhaye.*

289. Realizing this fact, let the wise man, restrained by morality, hasten to clear the path leading to Nibbāna. 17

21

Pakiṇṇakavagga

Miscellaneous

290. *Mattāsukhapariccāgā passe ce vipulaṇi sukhaṇi,
caje mattāsukhaṇi dhīro sampassaṇi vipulaṇi sukhaṇi.*

290. If by renouncing a lesser happiness one may realize a greater happiness, let the wise man renounce the lesser, having regard for the greater happiness. 1

291. *Paradukkhūpadānena attano sukham icchati,
verasaṇisaggasaṇisaṭṭho verā so na parinnuccati.*

291. One who seeks his own happiness by inflicting pain on others, entangled by the bonds of hate, will never be delivered from hate. 2

292. *Yaṇi hi kiccaṇi tadapaviddhaṇi, akiccaṇi pana kayirati;
unnalānaṇi pamattānaṇi tesañi vadḍhanti āsavā.*

292. For those who are arrogant and heedless, who leave undone what should be done and do what should not be done—for them the cankers only increase. 3

293. *Yesaṇi ca susamāraddhā niccaṇi kāyagatā sati,
akiccaṇi te na sevanti kicce sātaccakārino,
satānaṇi sampajānānaṇi atthaṇi gacchanti āsavā.*

293. Those who always earnestly practise mindfulness of the body, who do not resort to what should not be done, and steadfastly pursue what should be done, mindful and clearly comprehending—their cankers come to an end. 4

294. *Mātaraṇi pitaraṇi hantvā rājāno dve ca khattiye
raṭṭhaṇi sānucaraṇi hantvā anīgho yāti brāhmaṇo.*

294. Having slain mother (craving), father (ego-conceit), two warrior kings (eternalism and nihilism), and destroyed a country (sense organs and sense objects) together with its treasurer (attachment and lust), ungrieving goes the holy man. 5

295. *Mātaraṇi pitaraṇi hantvā rājāno dve ca sotthiye
veyyagghapañcamaṇi hantvā anīgho yāti brāhmaṇo.*

295. Having slain mother, father, two brahmin kings (two extreme views), and a tiger as the fifth (the five mental hindrances), ungrieving goes the holy man. 6

296. *Suppabuddhaṇi pabujjhanti sadā Gotamasāvakaṃ,
yesaṇi divā ca ratto ca niccaṇi Buddhagatā sati.*

296. Those disciples of Gotama ever awaken happily who day and night constantly practise the recollection of the Buddha. 7

297. *Suppabuddhaṇi pabujjhanti sadā Gotamasāvakaṃ,
yesaṇi divā ca ratto ca niccaṇi dhammagatā sati.*

297. Those disciples of Gotama ever awaken happily who day and night constantly practise the recollection of the Dhamma. 8

298. *Suppabuddhaṇi pabujjhanti sadā Gotamasāvakaṃ,
yesaṇi divā ca ratto ca niccaṇi saṅghagatā sati.*

298. Those disciples of Gotama ever awaken happily who day and night constantly practise the recollection of the Sangha. 9

299. *Suppabuddhaṃ pabujjhanti sadā Gotamasāvakaṃ,
yesaṃ divā ca ratto ca niccaṃ kāyagatā sati.*

299. Those disciples of Gotama ever awaken happily who day and night constantly practise mindfulness of the body. 10

300. *Suppabuddhaṃ pabujjhanti sadā Gotamasāvakaṃ,
yesaṃ divā ca ratto ca ahimsāya rato mano.*

300. Those disciples of Gotama ever awaken happily whose minds by day and night delight in the practice of non-harming. 11

301. *Suppabuddhaṃ pabujjhanti sadā Gotamasāvakaṃ,
yesaṃ divā ca ratto ca bhāvanāya rato mano.*

301. Those disciples of Gotama ever awaken happily whose minds by day and night delight in the practice of meditation. 12

302. *Duppabbajjaṃ durabhiramaṇi, durāvāsā gharā dukhā,
dukkho'samānasaṇṇvāso, dukkhānupatit'addhagū;
tasmā na c'addhagū siyā, dukkhānupatito siyā.*

302. Difficult is life as a monk; difficult is it to delight therein. Also difficult and sorrowful is household life. Suffering comes from association with unequals, suffering comes from aimless wandering (in saṃsāra). Therefore, do not be an aimless wanderer, a pursuer of suffering. 13

303. *Saddho sīlena sampanno yasobhogasamappito
yaṇi yaṇi padesaṇi bhajati tattha tath'eva pūjito.*

303. He who is full of faith and virtue, and who possesses good repute and wealth—he is respected everywhere, in whatever land he travels. 14

304. *Dūre santo pakāśenti Himavanto va pabbato,
asant'ettha na dissanti rattikhittā yathā sarā.*

304. The good shine even from afar, like the Himalaya mountains. But the wicked are unseen, like arrows shot in the night. 15

305. *Ekāsanaṇi ekaseyyaṇi eko caram atandito
eko damayaṇi attānaṇi vanante ramito siyā.*

305. He who sits alone, sleeps alone, and walks alone, who is strenuous and subdues himself alone, will find delight in the solitude of the forest. 16

22

Nirayavagga

Hell

306. *Abhūtaṅgāḍī nirayaṇi upeti yo vā pi katvā na karomī ti c'āha;*
ubho pi te pecca samā bhavanti nihīnakammā manujā
parattha.

306. The false accuser goes to hell; also one who, having done (wrong), says "I did not do it." Men of base actions both, on departing they share the same destiny in the other world.²⁵ 1

307. *Kāsāvakaṅṭhā bahavo pāpadhammā asaṅṅatā*
pāpā pāpeli kammehi nirayaṇi te upapajjare.

307. There are many uncontrolled men of evil character wearing the yellow robe. These wicked men will be reborn in hell because of their evil deeds. 2

308. *Seyyo ayogulo bhutto tatto aggisikhūpamo,*
yaṅ ce bhuiṅjeyya dussīlo ratṭhapiṅḍaṇi asaṅṅato.

308. It would be better to swallow a red-hot iron ball, blazing like fire, than as an immoral and uncontrolled monk to eat the almsfood of the people. 3

²⁵. The false accuser (*abhūtaṅgāḍī*): the commentary explains as "one who, without having seen the fault of another, by speaking falsehood groundlessly maligns him."

309. *Cattāri ṭhānāni naro pamatto āpajjati paradārūpasevō:
apuññalābhaṇi, na nikāma-seyyaṇi, nindaṇi tatṭiyaṇi, nīrayaṇi
catutthaṇi.*

309. Four misfortunes befall the reckless man who consorts with another's wife: acquisition of demerit, disturbed sleep, ill-repute, and (rebirth in) hell. 4

310. *Apuññalābho ca gatī ca pāpikā, bhītassa bhītāya ratī ca
thokikā,
rājā ca daṇḍaṇi garukaṇi paṇeti, tasmā naro paradāraṇi na
seve.*

310. Such a man acquires demerit and an unhappy birth in the future. Brief is the pleasure of the frightened man and woman, and the king imposes heavy punishment. Hence let no man consort with another's wife. 5

311. *Kuso yathā duggahīto hattham ev'ānukantati,
sāmaññaṇi dupparāmaṭṭhaṇi nīrayāy'ūpakaḍḍhati.*

311. Just as *kusa* grass wrongly handled cuts the hand, even so a recluse's life wrongly lived drags one to hell. 6

312. *Yaṇi kiñci sithilaṇi kanmaṇi saṅkiliṭṭhaṇi ca yaṇi vataṇi
saṅkassaraṇi brahmacariyaṇi na taṇi hoti mahapphalaṇi.*

312. Any loose act, any corrupt observance, any life of questionable celibacy—none of these bear much fruit. 7

313. *Kayirā ce kayirāth'enaṇi daḷham enaṇi parakkame;
sithilo hi paribbājo bhīyyo ākirate rajaṇi.*

313. If anything is to be done, let one do it with sustained vigor. A lax monastic life stirs up the dust of passions all the more. 8

314. *Akataṇi dukkaṭaṇi seyyo, pacchā tappati dukkaṭaṇi,
katañ ca sukataṇi seyyo yaṇi katvā nānutappati.*

314. An evil deed is better left undone, for such a deed torments one afterwards. But a good deed is better done, doing which one does not repent. 9

315. *Nagaraṇi yathā paccantaṇi guttaṇi santarabāhiraṇi,
evaṇi gopetha attānaṇi khaṇo ve mā upaccagā;
khaṇātītā hi socanti nirayaṇhi samappitā.*

315. Guard yourself closely like a border city, both within and without. Do not let slip this opportunity (for spiritual growth). For those who let slip this opportunity grieve when consigned to hell. 10

316. *Alajjitāye lajjanti, lajjitāye na lajjare,
micchādiṭṭhisamādānā sattā gacchanti duggatiṇi.*

316. Those who are ashamed of what they should not be ashamed of, and who are not ashamed of what they should be ashamed of—upholding false views, these people go to a state of woe. 11

317. *Abhaye bhayadassino, bhaye c'ābhayadassino,
micchādiṭṭhisamādānā sattā gacchanti duggatiṇi.*

317. Those who see something to fear where there is nothing to fear, and who see nothing to fear where there is something to fear—upholding false views, these people go to a state of woe. 12

318. *Avajje vajjamatino, vajje c'āvajjadassino,
micchādiṭṭhisamādānā sattā gacchanti duggatiṇi.*

318. Those who find fault in the faultless, and who find no fault in a fault—upholding wrong views, these people go to a state of woe. 13

319. *Vajjañ ca vājato ñatoā, avajjañ ca avājato,
sammādiṭṭhisamādānā sattā gacchanti suggaṭiṇi.*

319. Having known a fault to be a fault and the faultless to be faultless—upholding right views, these people go to a happy realm. 14

23

Nāgavagga

The Elephant

320. *Ahaṇi nāgo va saṅgāme cāpāto patitaṇi saraṇi
atīvākyañi titikkhissaṇi; dussilo hi baluujjano.*

320. As an elephant in battle withstands arrows shot from bows all around, even so will I endure abuse. There are many, indeed, who lack morality. 1

321. *Dantaṇi nayanti samitiṇi, dantaṇi rājā'bhūṛūhati,
danto seṭṭho manussesu yo'tivākyañi titikkhati.*

321. A tamed elephant can be led into a crowd, and the king mounts a tamed elephant. So too, best among humans is the subdued one who endures abuse. 2

322. *Varam assatarā dantā, ājānīyā ca sindhavā,
kuñjarā ca mahānāgā, attadanto tato varaṇi.*

322. Excellent are well-trained mules, thoroughbred Sindhu horses, and noble tusker elephants. But better still is one who has subdued himself. 3

323. *Na hi etehi yānehi gaccheyya agataṇi disaṇi,
yathā'ttanā sudantena danto dantena gacchati.*

323. Not by these mounts, however, can one go to the untrodden land (Nibbāna), as one who is self-tamed goes by his own tamed and well-controlled mind. 4

324. *Dhanapālako nāma kuñjaro kaṭṭukappabhedano dunnivārayo;
baddho kabalaṇi na bluñjati, sumarati nāgavanassa kuñjaro.*

324. Musty during rut, the tusker named Dhanapālaka is uncontrollable. Held in captivity, the tusker does not touch a morsel, but only longingly calls to mind the elephant forest. 5

325. *Middhī yadā hoti mahagghaso ca niddāyitā sanparivattasāyī
mahāvārāho va nivāpapaṭṭho punappunaṇi gabbhaṃ upeti
mando.*

325. When one is sluggish and gluttonous, lazy, rolling around in bed like a fat pig—that sluggard undergoes rebirth again and again. 6

326. *Idaṇi pure cittam acāri cārikaṇi yen'icchakaṇi yatthakāmaṇi
yathāsukhaṇi,
Tad ajj'ahaṇi niggahessāmi yoniso hatthippabhinnaṇi viya
aṅkusaggaḥo.*

326. Formerly this mind wandered about as it liked, where it wished, according to its pleasure, but now I will thoroughly master it with wisdom, as a mahout controls an elephant in rut. 7

327. *Appanādaratā hotha, sacittam anurakkhatha,
duggā uddharath'attānaṇi paṅke sanno va kuñjaro.*

327. Delight in heedfulness! Guard well your own mind! Draw yourself out of this bog of evil, even as an elephant draws himself out of the mud. 8

328. *Sace labhetha nipakaṇi sahāyaṇi saddhiñcaraṇi
sādhuvihāridhīraṇi,
abhibhuyya sabbāni parissayāni careyya ten'attamano
satīmā.*

328. If for company you find a wise and prudent friend, one who leads a good life, you should overcome all impediments and keep his company, joyously and mindfully. 9

329. *No ce labhettha nipakaṇi sahāyaṇi saddhiñcaraṇi
sādhuvihāridhīraṇi,
rājā va raṭṭhaṇi vijitaṇi pahāya eko care mātaṅgaraññe
va nāgo.*

329. But if for company you cannot find a wise and prudent friend, one who leads a good life, then, like a king who leaves behind a conquered kingdom or a lone elephant in the elephant forest, you should go your own way alone. 10

330. *Ekassa caritaṇi seyyo natthi bāle sahāyatā,
eko care na ca pāpāni kayirā appossukko mātaṅgaraññe
va nāgo.*

330. Better it is to live alone, there is no fellowship with a fool. Live alone and do no evil; be carefree like an elephant in the elephant forest. 11

331. *Atthamhi jātamhi sukhā sahāyā, tuṭṭhī sukhā yā itarītarena,
puññaṇi sukhaṇi jīvitasaṅkhayamhi, sabbassa dukkhaṇa
sukhaṇi pahānaṇi.*

331. Blessed are friends when need arises; blessed is contentment with just what one has; blessed is merit when life is at an end; and blessed is the abandoning of all suffering. 12

332. *Sukhā mattheyyatā loke atho petteyyatā sukhā
sukhā sāmaññatā loke atho brahmaññatā sukhā.*

332. Blessed it is to serve one's mother; blessed it is to serve one's father; blessed it is to serve the monks; and blessed it is to serve the holy men. 13

333. *Sukhaṇi yāva jarā sīlaṇi sukhā saddhā patitṭhitā
sukho paññāya paṭilābho pāpānaṇi akaraṇaṇi sukhaṇi.*

333. Blessed is virtue until life's end; blessed is faith that is steadfast; blessed is the acquisition of wisdom; and blessed is the avoidance of evil. 14

24

Taṇhāvagga

Craving

334. *Manujassa pamattacārino taṇhā vadḍhanti māluvā viya,
so plavati hurāhuraṇi phalaṃ icchaṇi va vanasmiṇi vānaro.*

334. The craving of a person given to heedless living grows like a creeper. Like the monkey seeking fruits in the forest, he leaps from life to life (tasting the fruit of his kamma). 1

335. *Yaṇi esā sahate jammī taṇhā loke visattikā
sokā tassa pavaddhanti abhivaṭṭhaṇi va bīraṇaṇi.*

335. Whoever is overcome by this wretched and sticky craving, his sorrows grow like *bīraṇa* grass after the rains. 2

336. *Yo c'etaṇi sahate jammaṇi taṇhaṇi loke duraccayaṇi
sokā taṇhā papatanti udabindū va pokkharā.*

336. But whoever overcomes this wretched craving, so difficult to overcome, from him sorrows fall away like water from a lotus leaf. 3

337. *Taṇ vo vadāmi bhaddaṇi vo, yāvanta'ettha samāgatā,
taṇhāya mūlaṇi khaṇatha usīrattho va bīraṇaṇi;
mā vo naḷaṇi va soto va Māro bhañji punappunaṇi.*

337. This I say to you: Good luck to you all assembled here! Dig up the root of craving, like one in search of the fragrant roots of *bīraṇa* grass. Do not let Māra crush you again and again, as a flood crushes a reed. 4

338. *Yathāpi mūle anupaddave daḷhe chinno pi rukkho punar eva
rūhati,
evam pi taṅhānusaye anūhate nibbattatī dukkham idaṇi
punappunaṇi.*

338. Just as a tree, though cut down, sprouts up again if its roots remain uncut and firm, even so, until the craving that lies dormant is rooted out, this suffering springs up again and again. 5

339. *Yassa chattiṅsatī sotā manāpasavanā bhūsā
vāhā vahanti duddiṭṭhiṇi saṅkappā rāganissitā.*

339. The misguided person, in whom the thirty-six currents of craving rush strongly toward pleasurable objects, is swept away by the flood of passionate thoughts.²⁶ 6

340. *Savanti sabbadhī sotā, latā ubbhijja tiṭṭhati,
tañ ca disvā lataṇi jātaṇi mūlaṇi paññāya chindatha.*

340. Everywhere these currents flow, and the creeper (of craving) sprouts and grows. Seeing that the creeper has sprung up, cut off its root with wisdom. 7

341. *Sarītāni sinehitāni ca somanassāni bhavanti jantuno,
te sātasiṭā sukhesino te ve jātijarūpagā narā.*

341. Flowing in (from all objects) and watered by craving, feelings of pleasure arise in beings. Bent on pleasure and seeking enjoyment, these people fall prey to birth and decay. 8

²⁶ The thirty-six currents of craving: the three cravings—for sensual pleasure, for continued existence, and for annihilation—in relation to each of the twelve sense bases: the six sense organs, including mind, and their corresponding objects.

342. *Tasiṇāya purakkhatā pajā parisappanti saso va bandhito,
saññojanasañgasattakā dukkham upenti punappunaniṃ cirāya.*

342. Beset by craving, people run about like an entrapped hare. Held fast by mental fetters, they come to suffering again and again for a long time. 9

343. *Tasiṇāya purakkhatā pajā parisappanti saso va bandhito,
tasmā tasiṇaṃ vinodaye ākaṅkhanta virāgam attano.*

343. Beset by craving, people run about like an entrapped hare. Therefore one who yearns to be passion-free should destroy his own craving. 10

344. *Yo nibbanatho vanādhimutto vanamutto vanam eva dhāvati,
taṇi puggalam etha passatha, mutto bandhanam eva dhāvati.*

344. There is one who had turned away from the forest (of desire), intent on the life of the forest (as a monk). But after being freed from the forest (of desire), he runs back to that same forest. Come, behold that man! Though freed, he runs back to that very bondage.²⁷ 11

²⁷. This verse, in the original, puns with the Pali word *vana*, meaning both "desire" and "forest." According to the commentary, this verse was spoken with reference to a renegade monk.

345. *Na taṃ daḷhaṇi bandhanam āhu dhīrā yad āyasaṇi dārujaṇi
babbajaṇi ca;
sāratattā maṇikuṇḍalesu, puttesu dāresu ca yā apekkhā—*
346. *Etaṇi daḷhaṇi bandhanam āhu dhīrā ohārinaṇi sithilaṇi
duppanuṇcaṇi;
etaṃ pi chetvāna paribbajanti anapekkhino kāmasukhaṇi
pahāya.*

345–346. That is not a strong fetter, the wise say, which is made of iron, wood, or hemp. But the infatuation and longing for jewels and ornaments, for children and wives—that, the wise say, is a far stronger fetter, which pulls one downward and, though seemingly loose, is hard to remove. This too the wise cut off. Giving up sensual pleasure, and without any longing, they renounce the world. 12–13

347. *Ye rāgarattānupatanti sotaṇi sayañjikataṇi makkaṭako va
jālaṇi,
etaṃpi chetvāna vajanti dhīrā anapekkhino sabbadukkhaṇi
pahāya.*

347. Those who are lust-infatuated fall back to the swirling current (of saṃsāra) like a spider on its self-spun web. This too the wise cut off. Without any longing, they abandon all suffering and renounce the world. 14

348. *Muṇca pure muṇca pacchato majjhe muṇca bhavassa pāragū,
sabbattha vinuttamānaso na puna jātijaraṇi upehisi.*

348. Let go of the past, let go of the future, let go of the present, and cross over to the farther shore of existence. With mind wholly liberated, you shall come no more to birth and decay. 15

349. *Vitakkapanathitassa jantuno tibbarāgassa subhānupassino
bhiiyyo tañhā pavaḍḍhati, esa kho dalhaṇṇi karoti bandhanaṇṇi.*

349. For a person tormented by evil thoughts, who is passion-dominated and given to the pursuit of pleasure, his craving steadily grows. He makes the fetter strong indeed. 16

350. *Vitakkūpasame ca yo rato asubhaṇṇi bhāvayati sadā sato,
esa kho vyantikāhiti, esa checchati Mārabandhanaṇṇi.*

350. He who delights in subduing evil thoughts, who meditates on the impurities and is ever mindful—it is he who will make an end of craving and rend asunder Māra's fetter. 17

351. *Niṭṭhānigato asantāsī vītataṇṇho ananigaṇṇo
acchindi bhavasallāni antimo'yaṇṇi samussayo.*

351. He who has reached the goal, fearless, free from craving, stainless, having plucked out the thorns of existence—for him this is the last body. 18

352. *Vītataṇṇho anādāno niruttipadakovido
akkharānaṇṇi sannipātaṇṇi jaññīṇā pubbāparāni ca,
sa ve antimasārīro mahāpañño mahāpuriso ti vuccati.*

352. He who is free from craving and attachment, perfect in uncovering the true meaning of the Teaching, and who knows the arrangement of the sacred texts in correct sequence—he, indeed, is the bearer of his final body. He is truly called a profoundly wise one, a great man. 19

353. *Sabbābhibhū sabbavidū'ham asmi sabbesu dhammesu
anūpalitto
sabbaññaho taṇhakkhaye vimutto, sayaññi abhiññāya kam
uddiseyyaññi?*

353. A victor am I over all, all have I known, yet unattached am I to all that is conquered and known. Abandoning all, I am freed through the destruction of craving. Having thus directly comprehended all by myself, whom shall I call my teacher?²⁸ 20

354. *Sabbadānaññi dhammadānaññi jināti, sabbaññi rasaññi
dhammaraso jināti,
sabbaññi ratinñi dhammaratī jināti, taṇhakkhayo sabbadukkhaññi
jināti.*

354. The gift of the Dhamma excels all gifts; the taste of the Dhamma excels all tastes; the delight in the Dhamma excels all delights; the craving-freed vanquishes all suffering. 21

355. *Hananti bhogā dummedhaññi no ca pāragavesino
bhogataṇhāya dummedho hanti aññe va attanaññi.*

355. Riches ruin the foolish, but not those in quest of the Beyond. By craving for riches the witless man ruins himself as well as others. 22

356. *Tiṇadosāni khettāni, rāgadosā ayaññi pajā,
tasmā hi vitarāgesu dinnaññi hoti mahapphalaññi.*

356. Weeds are the bane of fields, lust the bane of human-kind. Therefore what is offered to those free of lust yields abundant fruit. 23

²⁸. This was the Buddha's reply to a wandering ascetic who asked him about his teacher. The Buddha's answer shows that his Enlightenment was his own unique discovery, which he had not learned from anyone else.

357. *Tiṇadosāni khettāni, dosadosā ayaṇi pajā,
tasmā hi vītadosesu dinnanī hoti mahapphalanī.*

357. Weeds are the bane of fields, hatred the bane of human-kind. Therefore what is offered to those free of hatred yields abundant fruit. 24

358. *Tiṇadosāni khettāni, mohadosā ayaṇi pajā,
tasmā hi vītamohesu dinnanī hoti mahapphalanī.*

358. Weeds are the bane of fields, delusion the bane of humankind. Therefore what is offered to those free of delusion yields abundant fruit. 25

359. *Tiṇadosāni khettāni, icchādosā ayaṇi pajā,
tasmā hi vigaticchesu dinnanī hoti mahapphalanī.*

359. Weeds are the bane of fields, desire the bane of human-kind. Therefore what is offered to those free of desire yields abundant fruit. 26

25

Bhikkhuvagga

The Monk

360. *Cakkhunā saṇivaro sādhu, sādhu sotena saṇivaro,
ghānena saṇivaro sādhu, sādhu jivhāya saṇivaro.*

360. Good is restraint over the eye; good is restraint over the ear; good is restraint over the nose; good is restraint over the tongue. 1

361. *Kāyena saṇivaro sādhu, sādhu vācāya saṇivaro,
manasā saṇivaro sādhu, sādhu sabbattha saṇivaro;
sabbattha saṇivuto bhikkhu sabbadukkhā pamuccati.*

361. Good is restraint in the body; good is restraint in speech; good is restraint in thought. Restraint everywhere is good. The monk restrained in every way is freed from all suffering. 2

362. *Hatthasaññato pādasaññato vācāya saññato saññatuttamo
ajjhatarato samāhito eko santusito taṃ āhu bhikkhuṃ.*

362. He who has control over his hands, feet, and tongue, who is fully controlled, delights in meditation, is inwardly absorbed, keeps to himself and is contented—him do people call a monk. 3

363. *Yo mukhasaññato bhikkhu mantabhāṇī anuddhato
atthaṇi dhanuṇaṇi ca dīpeti, madhuraṇi tassa bhāsitaṇi.*

363. That monk who has control over his tongue, is moderate in speech, unassuming and who explains the Teaching in both letter and spirit—whatever he says is pleasing. 4

364. *Dhanuṇārāmo dhanuṇarato dhanuṇaṇi anuṇvicintayaṇi
dhanuṇaṇi anussaraṇi bhikkhu saddhammā na parihāyati.*

364. The monk who abides in the Dhamma, delights in the Dhamma, meditates on the Dhamma, and bears the Dhamma well in mind—he does not fall away from the sublime Dhamma. 5

365. *Salābhaṇi nātimaññeyya, nāññesaṇi pihayaṇi care;
aññesaṇi pihayaṇi bhikkhu samādhinī nādhigacchati.*

365. One should not despise what one has received, nor envy the gains of others. The monk who envies the gains of others does not attain to meditative absorption. 6

366. *Appalābho pi ce bhikkhu salābhaṇi nātimaññati,
taṇi ve devā paṇisaṇti suddhājīvaṇi atanditaṇi.*

366. If a monk does not despise what he has received, even though it be little, if he is pure in livelihood and unremitting in effort, even the gods praise him. 7

367. *Sabbaso nāmarūpasmiṇi yassa natthi mamāyitaṇi,
asatā ca na socati, sa ve bhikkhū ti vuccati.*

367. He who has no attachment whatsoever for the mind and body, who does not grieve for what he has not—he is truly called a monk. 8

368. *Mettāvīhārī yo bhikkhu pasanno Buddhasāsane
adhigacche padaṇi santaṇi saikhārūpasamaṇi sukhaṇi.*

368. The monk who abides in universal love and is deeply devoted to the Teaching of the Buddhas attains the peace of Nibbāna, the bliss of the cessation of conditioned things. 9

369. *Siñca bhikkhu imaṇi nāvāṇi, sittā te lahum essati,
chetvā rāgaṇi ca dosaṇi ca tato nibbānam ehiṇi.*

369. Empty this boat, O monk! Emptied, it will sail lightly. Having cut off lust and hatred, you shall reach Nibbāna. 10

370. *Pañca chinde pañca jaṇe, pañca c'uttari bhāvaye;
pañcasaṅgātigo bhikkhu oghatiṇṇo ti vuccati.*

370. Cut off the five, abandon the five, and cultivate the five. The monk who has overcome the five bonds is called one who has crossed the flood.²⁹ 11

371. *Jhāya bhikkhu mā ca pamādo, mā te kāmaguṇe bhamassu
cittaṇi,
mā lohaguḷaṇi gilī pamatto, mā kandi 'dukkham idan' ti
ḍayhamāno.*

371. Meditate, O monk! Do not be heedless. Do not let your mind whirl on sensual pleasures. Heedless, do not swallow a red hot iron ball, lest you cry when burning, "Oh, this is painful!" 12

²⁹. The five to be cut off are the five "lower fetters": self-illusion, doubt, belief in rites and rituals, lust, and ill-will. The five to be abandoned are the five "higher fetters": craving for the divine realms with form, craving for the formless realms, conceit, restlessness, and ignorance. Stream-enterers and once-returners cut off the first three fetters, non-returners the first five, and arahats all ten. The five to be cultivated are the five spiritual faculties: faith, energy, mindfulness, concentration, and wisdom. The five bonds are greed, hatred, delusion, false views, and conceit.

372. *Natthi jhānaṃ apaññassa, paññā natthi ajjhāyato,
yaṃhi jhānaṃ ca paññā ca sa ve nibbānasantike.*

372. There is no meditative concentration for one who lacks wisdom, and no wisdom for one who lacks meditative concentration. One in whom are found both meditative concentration and wisdom is indeed close to Nibbāna. 13

373. *Suññāgāraṃ pavitṭhassa santacittassa bhikkhuno,
anānusi ratī hoti sanṃā dhammaṃ vipassato.*

373. When a monk who has retired to a solitary abode and calmed his mind comprehends the Dhamma with insight, there arises in him a delight that transcends all human delights. 14

374. *Yato yato sanmasati khandhānaṃ udayabbayaṃ,
labhati pītipāmojjaṃ, amataṃ taṃ vijānataṃ.*

374. Whenever he sees with insight the rise and fall of the aggregates, he is full of joy and happiness. To the discerning, this reflects the Deathless.³⁰ 15

375. *Tatrāyaṃ ādi bhavati idha paññassa bhikkhuno,
indriyagutti santuṭṭhi, pātimokkhe ca saṃvaro.*

375. Control of the senses, contentment, restraint according to the code of monastic discipline—these form the basis of the holy life for the wise monk here. 16

³⁰. See note 19.

376. *Mitte bhajassu kalyāṇe, suddhājīve atandite,
paṭisanthāravutyassa, ācārakusalo siyā,
tato pāmojjabahuulo dukkhass'antaṇi karissati.*

376. Let him associate with friends who are noble, energetic, and pure in life; let him be cordial and refined in conduct. Thus, full of joy, he will make an end of suffering. 17

377. *Vassikā viya pupphāni maddavāni panuuṅcati,
evaṇi rāgaṇi ca dosaṇi ca vippanuuṅcetha bhikkhavo.*

377. Just as the jasmine creeper sheds its withered flowers, even so, O monks, should you totally shed lust and hatred! 18

378. *Santakāyo santavāco santavā susamāhito
vantalokāniso bhikkhu upasanto ti vuccati.*

378. The monk who is calm in body, calm in speech, calm in thought, well composed and who has spewn out worldliness—he, truly, is called serene. 19

379. *Attanā coday'attānaṇi, paṭimaṇṇsetha attanā,
so attagutto satimā sukhaṇi bhikkhu vihāhisi.*

379. By oneself one must censure oneself and scrutinize oneself. The self-guarded and mindful monk will always live in happiness. 20

380. *Attā hi attano nātho, attā hi attano gati,
tasmā saññāmay'attānaṇi assaṇi bhadrāṇi va vāṇiyo.*

380. One is truly one's own protector; one is truly one's own refuge. Therefore one should control oneself even as the trader controls a noble steed. 21

381. *Pāmojjabahuḷo bhikkhu pasanno Buddhasāsane
adhigacche paṇaṃ santaṃ saikhārūpasamaṃ sukhaṃ.*

381. Full of joy, full of faith in the Teaching of the Buddha, the monk attains the peaceful state, the bliss of cessation of conditioned things. 22

382. *Yo haṃe dāhara bhikkhu yuñjati Buddhasāsane
so imaṃ lokaṃ pabhāseti abbhā mutto va candimā.*

382. That monk who while young devotes himself to the Teaching of the Buddha illuminates this world like the moon freed from a cloud. 23

26

Brāhmaṇavagga

The Holy Man

383. *Chinda sotaṇi parakkamma, kāme panuda brāhmaṇa,
saṅkhārānaṇi khayāṇi ñatvā akataññū'si brāhmaṇa.*

383. Exert yourself and cut off the stream (of craving)! Discard sense desires, O holy man! Having known the destruction of conditioned things, become a knower of the Uncreate (Nibbāna), O holy man.³¹ 1

384. *Yadā dvayesu dhammesu pāragū hoti brāhmaṇo,
ath'assa sabbe saṇiyogā atthaṇi gacchanti jānato.*

384. When a holy man has reached the summit of the two paths (meditative concentration and insight), he knows the truth and all his fetters fall away. 2

³¹. "Holy man" is used as a makeshift rendering for brāhmaṇa, intended to reproduce the ambiguity of the Indian word. Originally men of spiritual stature, by the time of the Buddha the brahmins had turned into a privileged priesthood which defined itself by means of birth and lineage rather than by genuine inner sanctity. The Buddha attempted to restore to the word brāhmaṇa its original connotation by identifying the true "holy man" as the arahat, who merits the title through his inward purity and holiness regardless of family lineage. The contrast between the two meanings is highlighted in vv.393 and 396. Those who led a contemplative life dedicated to gaining arahatship could also be called brahmins, as in vv.383, 389, and 390.

385. *Yassa pāraṃ apāraṃ vā pārāpāraṃ na vijjati,
vītaddaraṃ visaṇṇiyuttaṃ, tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

385. He for whom there is neither this shore nor the other shore, nor yet both, he who is free of cares and is unfettered—him do I call a holy man.³² 3

386. *Jhāyiṇi virajam āsīnaṃ katakiccaṃ anāsavaṇi
uttamatthaṃ anuppattaṃ tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

386. He who is meditative and stainless, settled and whose work is done, free from cankers, having reached the highest goal—him do I call a holy man. 4

387. *Divā tapati ādicco, rattiṃ ābhāti candimā;
sannaddho khattiyo tapati, jhāyi tapati brāhmaṇo,
atha sabbam ahorattiṃ Buddho tapati tejasā.*

387. The sun shines by day, the moon shines by night. The warrior shines in armour, the holy man shines in meditation. But the Buddha shines resplendent all day and all night. 5

388. *Bāhitapāpo ti brāhmaṇo, samacariyā samaṇo ti vuccati;
pabbājay'attano malaṇi, tasmā pabbajito ti vuccati.*

388. Because he has discarded evil, he is called a holy man. Because he is serene in conduct, he is called a recluse. And because he has renounced his own impurities, he is called a renunciate.³³ 6

³². This shore: the six sense organs; the other shore: their corresponding objects; both: I-ness and my-ness.

³³. These are “edifying etymologies” based on puns in the Pali.

389. *Na brāhmaṇassa pahareyya, nāssa muñcetha brāhmaṇo,
dhī brāhmaṇassa hantāraṇi tato dhī yassa muñcati.*

389. One should not strike a holy man, nor should a holy man, when struck, give way to anger. Shame on him who strikes a holy man, and more shame on him who gives way to anger. 7

390. *Na brāhmaṇass'etad akiñci seyyo yadā nisedho manaso
piyehi
yato yato hiṇṇisamano nivattati tato tato sanṇati-m-eva
dukkhaṇi.*

390. Nothing is better for a holy man than when he holds his mind back from what is endearing. To the extent that thoughts of harming wear away, to that extent does suffering subside. 8

391. *Yassa kāyena vācāya manasā natthi dukkaṭaṇi
saṇṇvutaṇi tīhi ṭhānehi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

391. He who does no evil in deed, word, and thought, who is restrained in these three ways—him do I call a holy man. 9

392. *Yanīhā dhammaṇi vijāneyya sanṇāsambuddhadesitaṇi
sakkaccaṇi taṇi namasseyya aggihuttāṇi va brāhmaṇo.*

392. Just as a brahmin priest reveres his sacrificial fire, even so should one devoutly revere the person from whom one has learned the Dhamma taught by the Supreme Buddha. 10

393. *Na jaṭāhi na gottena na jaccā hoti brāhmaṇo,
yaṇhi saccaṇi ca dhammo ca so sucī so ca brāhmaṇo.*

393. Not by matted hair, nor by lineage, nor by birth does one become a holy man. But he in whom truth and righteousness exist—he is pure, he is a holy man. 11

394. *Kiṇi te jaṭāhi dummedha? kiṇi te ajinasāṭiyā?
Abbhantaraṇi te gahaṇaṇi bāhiraṇi parimajjasi.*

394. What is the use of your matted hair, O witless man? What of your garment of antelope's hide? Within you is the tangle (of passion), only outwardly do you cleanse yourself.³⁴ 12

395. *Paṇisukūladharaṇi jantuṇi kisaṇi dhamanisanthataṇi,
ekaṇi vanasmiṇi jhāyantaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

395. The person who wears a robe made from rags, who is lean, with veins showing all over the body, and who meditates alone in the forest—him do I call a holy man. 13

396. *Na c'āhaṇi brāhmaṇaṇi brūmi yonijaṇi mattisambhavaṇi,
bhovādī nāma so hoti sa ce hoti sakiñcano;
akiñcanaṇi anādānaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

396. I do not call him a holy man because of his lineage or his high-born mother. If he has impeding attachments, he is just a supercilious man. But he who is free from impediments and clinging—him do I call a holy man. 14

397. *Sabbasaññojanaṇi chetvā yo ve na paritassati,
saṅgātigaṇi visaṇṇiyuttaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

397. He who, having cut off all fetters, trembles no more, who has overcome all attachments and is emancipated—him do I call a holy man. 15

³⁴. In the time of the Buddha, as also still today in India, such ascetic practices as wearing matted hair and garments of hides were considered marks of holiness.

398. *Chetvā naddhiṇi varattañ ca sandāmaṇi sahanukkamaṇi,
ukkhittapaḷiḅhaṇi buddhaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

398. He who has cut off the thong (of hatred), the band (of craving), and the rope (of false views), together with the appurtenances (latent evil tendencies), he who has removed the crossbar (ignorance) and is enlightened—him do I call a holy man. 16

399. *Akkosaṇi vadhabandhañ ca aduṭṭho yo titikkhati,
khantībalaṇi balānīkaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

399. He who without resentment endures abuse, beating, and punishment, whose power, real might, is patience—him do I call a holy man. 17

400. *Akkodhanaṇi vatavantanaṇi sīlavantaṇi anussutaṇi
dantaṇi antimasārīraṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

400. He who is free from anger, devout, virtuous, without craving, self-subdued, bearing his final body—him do I call a holy man. 18

401. *Vāri pokkharapatte va āragge-r-iva sāsapo,
yo na limpāti kāmesu tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

401. Like water on a lotus leaf or a mustard seed on the point of a needle, he who does not cling to sensual pleasures—him do I call a holy man. 19

402. *Yo dukkhassa pajānāti idh'eva khayam attano,
pannabhāraṇi visaṇiyuttaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

402. He who in this very life realizes for himself the end of suffering, who has laid aside the burden and become emancipated—him do I call a holy man. 20

403. *Gambhīrapaññaṇi medhāvīṇi maggāmaggassa kovidaṇi,
uttamatthaṇi anuppattaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

403. He of profound knowledge, wise, skilled in discerning the right path and the wrong path, who has reached the highest goal—him do I call a holy man. 21

404. *Asaṇṣatṭhaṇi gahaṭṭheli anāgārehi c'ūbhayaṇi
anokasāriṇi appicchaṇi taṇi ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

404. He who holds aloof from householders and ascetics alike, and wanders about with no fixed abode and but few wants—him do I call a holy man. 22

405. *Nidhāya daṇḍaṇi bhūtesu tasesu thāvaresu ca
yo na hanti na ghātetī, taṇi ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

405. He who has renounced violence towards all living beings, weak or strong, who neither kills nor causes others to kill—him do I call a holy man. 23

406. *Aviruddhaṇi viruddhesu attadaṇḍesu nibbutaṇi
sādānesu anādānaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

406. He who is friendly amidst the hostile, peaceful amidst the violent, and unattached amidst the attached—him do I call a holy man. 24

407. *Yassa rāgo ca doso ca māno makkho ca pātito
sāsapo-r-iva āraggā tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

407. He from whom lust and hatred, pride and contempt have fallen off like a mustard seed from the point of a needle—him do I call a holy man. 25

408. *Akakkasaṇi viññāpaṇiṇi giraṇi saccaṇi udīraye
yāya nābhisaṇe kañci tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

408. He who utters gentle, instructive, and truthful words,
who imprecates none—him do I call a holy man. 26

409. *Yo'dha dīghaṇi va rassaṇi vā aṇuṇi thūlaṇi subhāsūbhaṇi
loke adinnaṇi nādiyati tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

409. He who in this world takes nothing that is not given to
him, be it long or short, small or big, good or bad—him do I
call a holy man. 27

410. *Āsā yassa na vijjanti asmiṇi loke paraṇhi ca
nirāsayaṇi visaṇiyuttaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

410. He who wants nothing of either this world or the next,
who is desire-free and emancipated—him do I call a holy
man. 28

411. *Yass'ālayā na vijjanti aññāya akathaṅkathī,
amatogadhaṇi anuppattaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

411. He who has no attachments, who through perfect
knowledge is free from doubts and has plunged into the
Deathless—him do I call a holy man. 29

412. *Yo'dha puññaṇi ca pāpaṇi ca ubho saṅgaṇi upaccagā
asokaṇi virajaṇi suddhaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

412. He who in this world has transcended the ties of both
merit and demerit, who is sorrowless, stainless, and pure—
him do I call a holy man. 30

413. *Candaṇi va vimalaṇi suddhaṇi vip̄pasannaṇi anāṅvilaṇi
nandībhavaṇiparikkhīṇaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

413. He who, like the moon, is spotless and pure, serene and clear, who has destroyed the delight in existence—him do I call a holy man. 31

414. *Yo imaṇi palipathaṇi duggaṇi saṇṣāraṇi moham accagā,
tiṇṇo pāragato jhāyī anejo akathaṇikathī,
anupādāya nibbuto tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

414. He who, having gone beyond this miry, perilous, and delusive round of existence, has crossed over and reached the other shore, meditative, calm, and free from doubt, who by clinging to nothing has attained to Nibbāna—him do I call a holy man. 32

415. *Yo'dha kāme pahatvāna anāgāro paribbaje
kāmaḥbhavaṇiparikkhīṇaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

415. He who, having abandoned sense pleasures, wanders about as a homeless one, who has destroyed both sensual desire and continued existence—him do I call a holy man. 33

416. *Yo'dha taṇhaṇi pahatvāna anāgāro paribbaje,
taṇhābhavaṇiparikkhīṇaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

416. He who, having abandoned craving, wanders about as a homeless one, who has destroyed both craving and continued existence—him do I call a holy man. 34

417. *Hitoā mānusaṇi yogaṇi dibbaṇi yogaṇi upaccagā,
sabbayogavisaṇiyuttaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

417. He who, having cast off the human bond and transcended the celestial bond, is delivered from all bondage—him do I call a holy man. 35

418. *Hitoā ratiñ ca aratiñ ca sītibhūtaṇi nirūpadhiṇi,
sabbalokābhūbhūṇi vīraṇi, tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

418. He who, having cast off like and dislike, has become tranquil, rid of the substrata of existence, a hero who has conquered all the worlds—him do I call a holy man. 36

419. *Cutiṇi yo vedi sattānaṇi upapattiñ ca sabbaso,
asattaṇi sugataṇi buddhaṇi, tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

419. He who, in every way, knows the death and rebirth of beings, and is totally detached, blessed, and enlightened—him do I call a holy man. 37

420. *Yassa gatiṇi na jānanti devā gandhabbamānusā,
khiṇṇāsavaṇi arahantaṇi, tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

420. He whose track no gods, no angels, no humans trace, the arahat who has destroyed the cankers—him do I call a holy man. 38

421. *Yassa pure ca pacchā ca majjhe ca natthi kiñcanaṇi,
akiñcanaṇi anādānaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

421. He who clings to nothing of the past, present, and future, who has no attachment and holds on to nothing—him do I call a holy man. 39

422. *Usabhaṇi pavaraṇi vīraṇi mahesiṇi vijitāvinaṇi
anejaṇi nahātakaṇi buddhaṇi tam ahaṇi brūmi brāhmaṇaṇi.*

422. He, the noble, the excellent, the hero, the great sage, the conqueror, the passionless, the pure, the enlightened—him do I call a holy man. 40

423. *Pubbenivāsaṃ yo vedī saggāpāyaṃ ca passati,
 atho jātikkhayaṃ patto, abhiññā vossito muni,
 sabbavositavosānaṃ, taṃ ahaṃ brūmi brāhmaṇaṃ.*

423. He who knows his former births, who sees heaven and hell, who has reached the end of births and has attained to the perfection of supernormal insight, the sage who has reached the summit of spiritual excellence—him do I call a holy man. 41