

0.0.1 The Serpent

sappasuttam

1. Thus was heard by me. At one time the Auspicious One was dwelling at Rajagaha in the Bamboo Grove, at the Squirrels' Feeding Place. At that time the Auspicious One was sitting out in the open air in the thick darkness of the night while the rain cloud gently drizzled.

evam me sutam: ekam samayam bhagavā rājagahe viharati veluvane kalandakanivāpe. tena kho pana samayena bhagavā rattandhakāratimisāyam ajjhokāseabbhokāse - machasam nisinno hoti. devo ca ekamekam phusāyati.

2. Then Mara, the Evil One, wishing to arouse fear, dread and terror in the Auspicious One, having created the form of a huge king serpent, approached the Auspicious One. Indeed, its body was just like a huge boat made from a single tree trunk. Indeed, its hood was just like a large brewer's strainer. Indeed, its eyes were just like a large bronze bowl from Kosala. Indeed, its tongue dashed out just like the streaks of lightening emitting from a thundering cloud. Indeed, the sound of its in and out breathing was just like the sound of a blacksmith's bellow pumping air.

atha kho māro pāpimā bhagavato bhayam chamhitattam lomahamsam uppādetukāmo mahantam

sapparājavaṇṇaṃ abhinimminivā yena bhagavā
 tenupasaṅkami. seyyathāpi nāma mahatī ekaruk-
 khikā nāvā, evamassa kāyo hoti. seyyathāpi nāma
 mahantaṃ soṇḍikākilañjaṃ, evamassa phaṇo hoti.
 seyyathāpi nāma mahanī kosalikā kaṃsapātī, eva-
 massa akkhīni bhavanti. seyyathāpi nāma deve
 galagalāyante vijjullatā niccharanti, evamassa mu-
 khato jivhā niccharati. seyyathāpi nāma kammā-
 ragaggariyā dhamamānāya saddo hoti, evamassa
 assāsapassāsānaṃ saddo hoti.

3. So then the Auspicious One having known, this is
 Mara, the evil one, addressed Mara, the evil one, in verses
 thus:

atha kho bhagavā māro ayaṃ pāpimā iti veditvā
 māraṃ pāpimantaṃ gāthāhi ajjhabhāsi:

“He who frequents empty dwellings,
 The abode of the self-controlled sage;
 He should live there, having relinquished [other
 lodgings],
 For that is proper for one like him.

yo suññagehāni sevati,
 seyyā so muni attasaññato;
 vossajja careyya tattha so,
 patirūpaṃ hi tathāvidhassa taṃ.

Many [creatures] roam about, indeed many

terrors,
 many flies and creepy crawlers;
 That great sage having gone to his empty hut,
 does not even raise a hair.

carakā bahū bheravā bahū,
 atho ḍaṃsasiriṃsapāḍaṃsasarisapā - ma-
 chasaṃ bahū;
 lomampi na tatthatattha na - machasaṃ,
 syā iñjaye,
 suññāgāragato mahāmuni.

The sky may split, the earth may quake,
 and all living beings may be fear-struck;
 Even if an arrow were to be aimed at [their]
 breast,
 the awakened ones take no shelter in appro-
 priations.”

nabhaṃ phaleyya paṭhavī caleyya,
 sabbe ca pāṇā uda santaseyyuṃ;
 sallampi ce urasi pakappayeyyumpakam-
 payeyyūṃ - sīmu,
 upadhīsu tāṇaṃ na karonti buddhāti.

4. Then Mara, the Evil One, thinking: “The Auspicious One knows me, the well-farer knows me, sad and dejected, disappeared right at that place.”

atha kho māro pāpimā jānāti maṃ bhagavā, jā-

nāti maṃ sugatoti dukkhī dummano tatthevanta-
radhāyīti.

