

AN 4.45
Paṭhama Rohitassa Sutta
“To Rohitassa: Son of the Gods – Part 1”
Translated by Bhikkhu Candana

Copyright © Bhikkhu Candana 2022

At one time, the Blessed One was living in the monastery offered by Anāthapindika in Jeta's grove, at Sāvatti. When the night was far spent, Rohitassa the son of the gods, while illuminated the entire Jeta's grove with a dazzling light, approached the Blessed One, and after paying obeisance to him, stood to one side and said:

“Bhante, is it possible to reach the end of the world by traveling, and to come to see or achieve that state whereby one can no longer be born, grow old and decay, no longer be subject to death; a place where there is no more dying and no more rebirth?”

“Friend, I declare that it is impossible to reach the end of the world by traveling, and to come to see or achieve that state whereby one can no longer be born, grow old and decay, and no longer be subject to death; a place where there is no more dying and no more rebirth.”

“Bhante, it is both wonderful and amazing, how these true words of the Blessed One are stated!”

‘Friend, I declare that one cannot reach the end of the world by traveling, and to come to see or achieve that state whereby one can no longer be born, grow old and decay, and no longer be subject to death; a place where there is no more dying and no more rebirth.’

“Bhante, in the past I was born as the son of Bhoja, and my name was Rohitassa. In possessing psychic powers, I would travel through the skies.

“Bhante, I was faster in speed than the flight of a straight arrow, shot from a powerful bow in the hands of a strong and dexterous archer, as it traveled the distance of a palm tree’s shadow, end to end, as I reached the target before *it* did. Such was my speed.

“Bhante, my leaping stride was such, that I could put one foot on the eastern ocean and land the other on the western ocean. In possessing such speed and that stride, the desire arose to me, ‘I want to reach the end of the world.’ So, I travelled for a hundred years, the entire duration of my life span, I stopped *only* to eat, drink, taste, and enjoy. I would rest, urinate, and defecate, as I also rested to overcome my sleepiness and exhaustion, but even

though my lifespan expired, I still did not reach the end of the world. So, I died on the way.

“Bhante, it is wonderful and amazing to hear the true words of the Blessed One:

“Friend, I declare that one cannot reach the end of the world by traveling, and to come to see or achieve that state whereby one can no longer be born, grow old and decay, and no longer be subject to death; a place where there is no more dying and no more rebirth.”

And the Blessed One added,

“Indeed friend, I declare that one cannot reach the end of the world by traveling, and to come to see or achieve that state whereby one can no longer be born, grow old and decay, and no longer be subject to death; a place where there is no more dying and no more rebirth.”

“Yet friend, I say that *without* having reached the end of the world, one cannot put an end to suffering. For it is in this perceptive and conscious fathom-long body that is found the world, the origin and cause of the world, the ending of the world, and the Path leading to the ending of the world.”

*“By traveling across the world,
The end of the world can never be reached.
Neither can there be release from suffering,
Without first coming to the end...of the world.*

*“By living the Holy Life,
The Wise Knower of the worlds,
Reached the end of the world.
And having gone to the world’s end, is now at peace.
No longer desiring for this or any other world.”*

Sadhu Sadhu Sadhu