Ja 176 — The Story about the Fistful of Peas

English translation by Ānandajoti Bhikkhu.

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Changes: Presentation only: original HTML markup reflowed into plain text; wording, numbering and source repetitions retained. No repetitions expanded.

Completeness: COMPLETE. Complete canonical Jataka verse set in the ABT Cst4-based edition, with paired source Pali and English; source verse notes retained; narrative story, synopsis, word commentary and trailing collection index excluded. COMPLETE is for this verse set, not the complete source page or all 547 Jatakas.

Text

Verse 1 — Pali source

1. Bālo vatāyaṁ dumasākhagocaro –

Paññā janinda na-y-imassa vijjati –

Kaḷāyamuṭṭhiṁ avakiriya kevalaṁ,

Ekaṁ kaḷāyaṁ patitaṁ gavesatī ti.

Verse 1 — English

The fool, who resorts to the tree branches – leader of men, wisdom's not found in him – threw away a whole fistful of cow peas, seeking out one cow pea that had fallen.

Verse 2 — Pali source

2. Evam-eva mayaṁ, rāja, ye cañña atilobhino,

Appena bahuṁ jiyyāma, kaḷāyeneva vānaro ti.

Verse 2 — English

Such are we, O king, those who live amongst others, having great greed, we lose a lot through a little, like the monkey with the cow pea.