Ja 178 — The Story about the Tortoise

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 English verse set; 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

The place of my birth, where I developed, I lived thus on this mud, And on this mud I will now die, just like one of those who is weak. This, just this, I say, O Bhaggava, do you listen to my word:

Verse 2

Whether in the village or wilds, wherever he finds happiness, although knowing his place of birth and development, a person should live where’er he can go, not staying when his home is destroyed.