Ja 216 — The Story about the (Lamenting) Fish

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

It is not this fire that burns me, nor the spit that is well fashioned, but my lady thinking of me: ‘He went for joy to another.’

Source note 1.1 (English)

The word really means a female fish, but this is hard to get across fluently in the verse.

Source note 1.2 (English)

This line also occurs at Ja 34.

Verse 2

The fire of lust it is that burns me, and my heart it does torment. Fisherman, master, free me, there is no pleasure in being killed.