Ja 218 — The Story about the Cheating Merchant

English translation by Ānandajoti Bhikkhu.

Source: https://ancient-buddhist-texts.net/English-Texts/Jataka-Verses/218.htm

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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. Saṭhassa sāṭheyyam-idaṁ sucintitaṁ,

Paccoḍḍitaṁ paṭikūṭassa kūṭaṁ,

Phālaṁ ce khādeyyuṁ mūsikā,

Kasmā kumāraṁ kulalā no hareyyuṁ?

Source note 1.1 (Pali source)

Text: kumāre; plural form, I suppose we could translate: Why can’t a hawk carry off boys.

Source note 1.2 (Pali source)

Cst reads na, but no is needed m.c.

Verse 1 — English

Treachery to the treacherous is well thought-out, fraud to the fraudulent is planted in return, if the mice can devour a ploughshare, why can a hawk not carry away a boy child?

Verse 2 — Pali source

2. Kūṭassa hi santi kūṭakūṭā,

Bhavati cāpi nikatino nikatyā,

Dehi putta(naṭṭha)phālanaṭṭhassa phālaṁ,

Mā te puttam-ahāsi phālanaṭṭho ti.

Source note 2.1 (Pali source)

Text: putte ahāsi, plural, but in the story only one child had been taken.

Verse 2 — English

There is fraud upon fraud for the fraudulent one, there is cheating in return for the one who cheats, he must give the ploughshare to the one who lost it, the one who lost his ploughshare must not steal his child.