Ja 256 — The Story about the Old Well

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. Jarūdapānaṁ khaṇamānā, vāṇijā udakatthikā,

Ajjhagamuṁ ayasaṁ lohaṁ tipusīsañ-ca vāṇijā,

Rajataṁ jātarūpañ-ca muttā veḷuriyā bahū.

Verse 1 — English

Merchants, while digging an old well, desiring water, the merchants came across iron, copper, and lead, silver and gold, pearls, and beryl in abundance.

Verse 2 — Pali source

2. Te ca tena asantuṭṭhā bhiyyo bhiyyo akhāṇisuṁ,

Te tatthāsīviso ghoro tejassī tejasā hani.

Verse 2 — English

Not being content with that they dug down deeper more and yet more, there a poisonous snake, dreadful, fiery, destroyed them with fire.

Verse 3 — Pali source

3. Tasmā khaṇe nātikhaṇe, atikhātañ-hi pāpakaṁ,

Khātena ca dhanaṁ laddhaṁ, atikhātena nāsitan-ti.

Verse 3 — English

Therefore you should dig down, but not too much, digging too deep is bad, by digging down they gained wealth, but by digging too much it was lost.