Ja 265 — The Story about the Arrow

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. “Disvā khurappe dhanuveganunne,

Khagge gahīte tikhiṇe teladhote,

Tasmiṁ bhayasmiṁ maraṇe viyūḷhe,

Kasmā nu te nāhu chambhitattan-ti.”

Verse 1 — English

“Seeing arrows impelled with speed from bow, the sharp, tempered swords that were held aloft, when there was an imminent fear of death, why did you not speak about your terror?”

Source note 1.1 (English)

Lit: cleaned with oil, but it seems to mean they had been tempered.

Verse 2 — Pali source

2. “Disvā khurappe dhanuveganunne,

Khagge gahīte tikhiṇe teladhote,

Tasmiṁ bhayasmiṁ maraṇe viyūḷhe,

Vedaṁ alatthaṁ vipulaṁ uḷāraṁ.

Verse 2 — English

“Seeing arrows impelled with speed from bow, the sharp, tempered swords that were held aloft, when there was an imminent fear of death, I received broad, noble inspiration.

Verse 3 — Pali source

3. So vedajāto ajjhabhaviṁ amitte,

Pubbeva me jīvitam-āsi cattaṁ,

Na hi jīvite ālayaṁ kubbamāno

Sūro kayirā sūrakiccaṁ kadācī ti.”

Verse 3 — English

Being inspired I conquered all my foes, formerly I abandoned this my life, being attached to his life, the hero sometimes does not do a hero’s duty.”