Ja 288 — The Story about a String of Fish

English translation by Ānandajoti Bhikkhu.

Source: https://ancient-buddhist-texts.net/English-Texts/Jataka-Verses/288.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. Agghanti macchā adhikaṁ sahassaṁ,

Na atthi so yo imaṁ saddaheyya!

Mayhañ-ca assu idha satta māsā,

Aham-pi taṁ macchuddānaṁ kiṇeyyan-ti.

Source note 1.1 (Pali source)

Cst reads: Na so atthi, spoiling the metre.

Verse 1 — English

Fish valued in excess of a thousand, there is no person who would believe it! To me they were just seven farthings here, I could even buy a whole string of fish.

Source note 1.1 (English)

Māsā here is m.c. for māsakā, a bean, or very small amount of money. Compare the English hill of beans, having roughly the same meaning.

Verse 2 — Pali source

2. Macchānaṁ bhojanaṁ datvā, mama dakkhiṇam-ādisi,

Taṁ dakkhiṇaṁ sarantiyā, kataṁ apacitiṁ tayā ti.

Verse 2 — English

Having given food to the fish, to me you gave an offering, through remembering this offering, that respect was paid by you.

Verse 3 — Pali source

3. Paduṭṭhacittassa na phāti hoti,

Na cāpi taṁ Devatā pūjayanti,

Yo bhātaraṁ pettikaṁ sāpateyyaṁ

Avañcayī dukkaṭakammakārī ti.

Verse 3 — English

There is no growth for one corrupt at heart, also Devatās do not respect him, he who cheats his brother of paternal property is one who performs wrong deeds.