Ja 293 — The Story about Disgust with the Body

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

For me who was touched by a certain illness, oppressed with suffering by a strong disease, this corpse of a body quickly shrivels up, like a flower that’s made to dry in the dust.

Source note 1.1 (English)

Kaḷevara means both a body and a corpse.

Verse 2

The lovely reckoned unlovely, the impure is thought to be pure, not seeing this lovely form is full of many disgusting things.

Source note 2.1 (Pali source)

There is one extra syllable in the opening, with no easy way to correct it.

Verse 3

Cursed be this unhealthy, putrid body, revolting, impure, whose nature is illness, when people are heedless, infatuated, they neglect the path to rebirth in a good state.