Pv 23 — Sutta Sutta: The Thread Offering

English translation by Mahamevnawa Buddhist Monastery (Sutta Friends).

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Text

A ghost, in disguise as a human, causes his former fiancé to give string to a monk. He then takes her from the human world to his peta mansion to live for seven hundred years.

Young Woman:

One day a monk came to me needing some string. As a result of offering string to him, I now have beautiful clothes. There are beautiful flowers around this mansion. There are many devas and deities who watch over me. I wear beautiful and divine clothes. I am very comfortable living here; my comforts do not end.

I have received all these pleasures because of that offering of string. Please, noble man, take me back to the human world so I can collect more merit.

Ghost:

It has been seven hundred years since you left the human world. If you go there now, you will appear in the form of a very old woman. All your relatives will have already passed away. What will you gain by going there?

Young Woman:

I have enjoyed these heavenly pleasures for seven hundred years. Please take me to the human world. I want to collect more merit.

The ghost took her by the arm and led her back to the village where she was living and said to her:

Ghost:

You should tell other people that if they want happiness, they need to do meritorious deeds.

Young Woman:

I have seen with my own eyes what happens to those who do not do meritorious deeds. They are sad when they are in the human world and also when they are in the ghost world. But those who do meritorious deeds are happy when they are in the human world and in the heavenly world as well.