Thag 6.5 — Thag 6:5 Māluṅkyaputta

English translation by Ṭhānissaro 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: ABBREVIATED. Every source-unit character is preserved, including introductions, notes and verse structure. Thanissaro's collection-level note explicitly states that repetitions were cut: https://www.dhammatalks.org/suttas/about.html. This is evidence about the translation method, not an assertion that every individual unit contains an omission; no repetitions reconstructed.

Text

Thag 6:5 Māluṅkyaputta

When a person lives heedlessly,

his craving grows like a creeping vine.

He runs now here

& now there,

as if looking for fruit:

a monkey in the forest.

If this sticky, uncouth craving

overcomes you in the world,
your sorrows grow like wild grass
after rain.

If, in the world, you overcome
this uncouth craving, hard to escape,
sorrows roll off you,
like water beads off
a lotus.

To all of you gathered here
I say:
Good fortune.
Dig up craving
—as when seeking medicinal roots, wild grass—
by the root.
Don’t let Māra cut you down
—as a raging river, a reed—
over & over again.1

Do what the Buddha says.
Don’t let the moment pass by.
Those for whom the moment is past
grieve, consigned to hell.2
Heedlessness is dust.
Dust follows on heedlessness.
Through heedfulness, knowledge,
pull out
your own arrow
on your own.

Notes

1. The verses up to this point = Dhp 334–337.

2. See Dhp 315.

Publisher references (not part of the sutta)

See also: MN 63