Vv 77 — Maṇithūna Sutta: Mansion with Pillars of Gems

English translation by Mahamevnawa Buddhist Monastery (Sutta Friends).

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Text

Moggallana Bhante:

Dear Deva, your mansion is very high in the sky and spreads over a hundred and twenty kilometers. There are pillars of beryl and other gemstones, and seven hundred pinnacled buildings in your estate. It is extremely beautiful. Inside the mansion, you drink and eat and enjoy the sweetness of heavenly food. The sweet music of guitars plays. You have many sensual pleasures. Goddesses are dancing and they are wearing golden jewelry.

What are the meritorious deeds that led to this happiness?

Tell me Deva, what kind of meritorious action did you do when you were in the human world to have gained this beauty that shines in all directions, and to have earned all these wonderful things?

That deva, delighted at being questioned by Arahant Moggallana, gladly explained what he had done that resulted in such great happiness.

Deva:

I was in the human world in my previous life. I made a walking path beside a road in a forest. I also planted trees and built a monastery for monks. Virtuous monks were very dear to me and I had confidence in them. I respectfully offered them much almsfood. That is why the pure radiance of my body and limbs is stainless and shines in all directions.

Great Bhante, those were the meritorious actions I did to have such a beautiful body.