Cp 2 — Saṅkha’s Conduct

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
Source: https://suttacentral.net/cp2/en/sujato
Source revision: 3bc8665e0e28e70518eba94304a2fafcab80f933
License: CC0-1.0 — https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/

Text

The Conduct Leading to Buddhahood

The Chapter With Akitti

The Perfection of Giving (2nd)

Saṅkha’s Conduct

“Then again when I was
a brahmin named Saṅkha,
wanting to cross the great ocean,
I was on my way to the port.
There I saw across the way
one self-awakened, undefeated,
walking a desert road
whose ground was hot and rough.
Seeing him across the way,
I thought this:
‘A field has appeared
for a personage desiring merit.
Now suppose a farmer
seeing a fertile field
does not sow seed there,
then they are not in need of grain.
So too, if I, desiring merit,
seeing a supreme excellent field,
do not render service there,

then I am not in need of merit.
Or suppose a minister seeking the royal seal
of authority over the people of the court,
does not give them money and grain,
their authority dwindles.
So too, if I, desiring merit,
seeing an abundantly worthy recipient,
do not give gifts to them,
I will dwindle in merit.’
Reflecting in this way,
I took off my sandals
and bowed to his feet,
giving him an umbrella and sandals.
Though I was a hundred times
more delicate and pampered than him,
fulfilling my giving,
I gave like this to him.”