Iti 24 — A Heap of Bones

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Text

So It Was Said 24

The Book of the Ones

Chapter Three

A Heap of Bones

This was said by the Buddha, the Perfected One: that is what I heard.

“Mendicants, one individual roaming and transmigrating for an eon would amass a heap of bones the size of this Mount Vepulla, if they were gathered together and not lost.”

The Buddha spoke this matter. On this it is said:

“If the bones of a single individual

for a single eon were gathered up,

they’d make a pile the size of a mountain:

so said the great seer.

And this is declared to be

as big as Mount Vepulla,

higher than the Vulture’s Peak

in the Mountainfold of the Magadhans.

But then, with right understanding,

one sees the noble truths—

suffering, suffering’s origin,

suffering’s transcendence,

and the noble eightfold path

that leads to the stilling of suffering.

After roaming on seven times at most,

that individual

makes an end of suffering,

with the ending of all fetters.”

This too is a matter that was spoken by the Blessed One: that is what I heard.