Thag 2.2 — Bhāradvāja the Alms-Gatherer

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Source: https://suttacentral.net/thag2.2/en/sujato
Source revision: 3bc8665e0e28e70518eba94304a2fafcab80f933
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Text

Verses of the Senior Monks 2.2

The Book of the Twos

Chapter One

Bhāradvāja the Alms-Gatherer

You can’t live by fasting,

but food doesn’t lead to peace of heart.

Seeing how this bag of bones is sustained by food,

I wander, seeking.

They know it’s just a swamp,

this homage and veneration in respectable families.

Honor is a subtle dart, hard to extract,

and hard for a reprobate to give up.

That is how these verses were recited by the senior venerable Bhāradvāja the Alms-Gatherer.