Thag 5.7 — Gayākassapa

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

Verses of the Senior Monks 5.7

The Book of the Fives

Chapter One

Gayākassapa

Three times a day—

morning, midday, and evening—

I plunged into the water at Gayā

for the Gayā spring festival.

“Any bad things I’ve done

in previous lives,

I’ll now rinse away right here”—

such was the view I used to hold.

Having heard the fine words,

a passage meaningful and principled,

I rationally reflected

on the true, essential goal.

I’ve washed away all bad things;

I’m stainless, clean, pristine;

the pure heir of the pure one,

a bosom son of the Buddha.

When I plunged into the eightfold stream,

all bad things were rinsed away.

I’ve attained the three knowledges

and fulfilled the Buddha’s instructions.