Thag 6.4 — Kulla

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

Verses of the Senior Monks 6.4

The Book of the Sixes

Chapter One

Kulla

I, Kulla, went to a charnel ground

and saw a woman’s body abandoned there,

dumped in a cemetery,

full of worms that devoured.

“See this bag of bones, Kulla—

diseased, filthy, rotten,

oozing and trickling,

a fool’s delight.”

Taking the teaching as a mirror

for realizing knowledge and vision,

I examined this body,

hollow, inside and out.

As this is, so is that;

as that is, so is this.

As below, so above;

as above, so below.

As by day, so by night;

as by night, so by day.

As before, so behind;

as behind, so before.
Even the music of a five-piece band
can never give such pleasure
as when, with unified mind,
you rightly discern the Dhamma.