Thag 7.3 — Bhadda

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

Verses of the Senior Monks 7.3

The Book of the Sevens

Chapter One

Bhadda

I was an only child,

loved by my mother and father.

They had me by practicing

many supplications and observances.

Out of sympathy for me

wishing me well and wanting the best for me,

my mother and father

took me to see the Buddha.

“We had this son with difficulty;

he is delicate and pampered.

We offer him to you, Lord,

to attend upon the victor.”

The teacher, having accepted me,

declared to Ānanda:

“Quickly give him the going-forth—

this one will be a thoroughbred!”

After he, the Teacher, had sent me forth,

the victor entered his dwelling.

Before the sun set

my mind was freed.

Consequently, the Teacher didn’t neglect me;

when he came out from seclusion,

he said: “Come Bhadda!”

That was my ordination.

At seven years old

I received ordination.

I’ve attained the three knowledges;

oh, the clear rightness of the teaching!