SN 2.22 — With Khema

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
Source: https://suttacentral.net/sn2.22/en/sujato
Source revision: 3bc8665e0e28e70518eba94304a2fafcab80f933
License: CC0-1.0 — https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/

Text

Linked Discourses 2.22

3. Various Sectarians

With Khema

Standing to one side, the godling Khema recited these verses in the Buddha’s presence:

“Fools and simpletons behave
like their own worst enemies,
doing wicked deeds
that ripen as bitter fruit.
It’s not good to do a deed
that plagues you later on,
for which you weep and wail,
as its effect stays with you.
It is good to do a deed
that doesn’t plague you later on,
that gladdens and cheers,
as its effect stays with you.”

“As a precaution, you should do
what you know is for your own welfare.
A thinker, an attentive one would not proceed
thinking like the cart driver.
Suppose a cart driver leaves the highway,
so even and well compacted.
They enter upon a rough road,

and fret as soon as their axle is broken.
So too, a dullard leaves the good
to follow what’s against the good.
Fallen in the jaws of death,
they fret like one whose axle is broken.”