SN 11.19 — Homage of the Teacher

English translation by Bhikkhu Sujato.
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Text

Linked Discourses 11.19

Chapter Two

Homage of the Teacher

Near Sāvatthī in Jeta's Grove.

"Once upon a time, mendicants, Sakka, lord of gods, addressed his chariot handler Mātali, 'My dear Mātali, harness the chariot with its team of a thousand thoroughbreds. We will go to a park and see the scenery.'

'Yes, lord,' replied Mātali. He harnessed the chariot and informed Sakka, 'Good fellow, the chariot with its team of a thousand thoroughbreds has been harnessed. Please go at your convenience.'

Then Sakka descended from the Palace of Victory, raised his cupped palms, and revered the Buddha.

So Mātali the chariot handler addressed Sakka in verse:

'Gods and men

worship you, Vāsava.

So what's the name of the spirit

that you worship, Sakka?'

'It's the fully awakened Buddha,

the Teacher of peerless name

in this world with its gods—

that's who I worship, Mātali.

Those in whom greed, hate, and ignorance

have faded away;

the perfected ones with defilements ended—

they're who I worship, Mātali.

The trainees who enjoy reducing suffering,
diligently pursuing the training
for getting rid of greed and hate,
and going past ignorance—
they're who I worship, Mātali.'
'Those who you worship
seem to be the best in the world, Sakka.
I too will worship
those who you worship, Sakka.'
After saying this, Maghavā the chief,
king of gods, Sujā's husband,
having worshiped the Buddha,
climbed into his chariot."