### 0.0.1 The Serpent

sappasuttaṃ

**1.** Thus was heard by me. At one time the Auspicious One was dwelling at Rajagaha in the Bamboo Grove, at the Squirrels' Feeding Place. At that time the Auspicious One was sitting out in the open air in the thick darkness of the night while the rain cloud gently drizzled.

evaṃ me sutaṃ: ekaṃ samayaṃ bhagavā rājagahe viharati veḷuvane kalandakanivāpe. tena kho pana samayena bhagavā rattandhakāratimisāyaṃ ajjhokāseabbhokāse - machasaṃ nisinno hoti. devo ca ekamekaṃ phusāyati.

**2.** Then Mara, the Evil One, wishing to arouse fear, dread and terror in the Auspicious One, having created the form of a huge king serpent, approached the Auspicious One. Indeed, its body was just like a huge boat made from a single tree trunk. Indeed, its hood was just like a large brewer's strainer. Indeed, its eyes were just like a large bronze bowl from Kosala. Indeed, its tongue dashed out

atha kho māro pāpimā bhagavato bhayaṃ chamhitattaṃ lomahaṃsaṃ uppādetukāmo mahantaṃ sapparājavaṇṇaṃ abhinimminitvā yena bhagavā tenupasaṅkami. seyyathāpi nāma mahatī ekarukkhikā nāvā, evamassa kāyo hoti. seyyathāpi nāma mahantaṃ soṇḍikākilañjaṃ, evamassa

just like the streaks of lightening emitting from a thundering cloud. Indeed, the sound of its in and out breathing was just like the sound of a blacksmith's bellow pumping air.

phaṇo hoti. seyyathāpi nāma mahanī kosalikā kaṃsapātī, evamassa akkhīni bhavanti. seyyathāpi nāma deve galagalāyante vijjullatā niccharanti, evamassa mukhato jivhā niccharati. seyyathāpi nāma kammāragaggariyā dhamamānāya saddo hoti, evamassa assāsapassāsānaṃ saddo hoti.

**3.** So then the Auspicious One having known, this is Mara, the evil one, addressed Mara, the evil one, in verses thus:

atha kho bhagavā māro ayaṃ pāpimā iti viditvā māraṃ pāpimantaṃ gāthāhi ajjhabhāsi:

"He who frequents empty dwellings,
The abode of the self-controlled sage;
He should live there, having relinguished [other lodgings],

yo suññagehāni sevati,
seyyā so muni attasaññato;
vossajja careyya tattha so,
patirūpaṃ hi tathāvidhassa taṃ.

For that is proper for one
like him.

Many [creatures] roam
about, indeed many
terrors,
many flies and creepy
crawlers;
That great sage having
gone to his empty hut,
does not even raise a
hair.

carakā bahū bheravā
bahū,
atho ḍaṃsasiriṃsa-
pāḍaṃsasarisapā -
machasaṃ bahū;
lomampi na tatthatat-
tha na - machasaṃ,
syā iñjaye,
suññāgāragato mahā-
muni.

The sky may split, the
earth may quake,
and all living beings may
be fear-struck;
Even if an arrow were
to be aimed at [their]
breast,
the awakened ones take
no shelter in owner-
ship."

nabhaṃ phaleyya pa-
ṭhavī caleyya,
sabbe ca pāṇā uda
santaseyyuṃ;
sallampi ce urasi pa-
kappayeyyuṃpa-
kampayeyyuṃ - sīmu,

upadhīsu tāṇaṃ na
karonti buddhāti.

**4.** Then Mara, the Evil One, thinking: "The Auspicious One knows me, the well-farer knows me, sad and dejected, disappeared right at that

atha kho māro pā-
pimā jānāti maṃ
bhagavā, jānāti maṃ
sugatoti dukkhī dum-
mano tatthevantara-

place.”

dhāyīti.