0.0.1 Moonlit Night

1. Thus was heard by me. At one time, the Auspicious One was living at Rājagaha at the Bamboo Grove, the Squirrel's Feeding Place. At that time the venerable Sariputta and the venerable Mahamoggallana were dwelling at the Pidgeon's Grotto. At that time the venerable Sariputta was seated in the open air on a moonlit night with a freshly shaven head, having attained to a certain type of samadhi. At that time two yakkhas who were friends were travelling from northern region to the southern region on some business. Those yakkhas saw the venerable Sariputta seated in the open air on a moonlit night with a freshly shaven head. Having seen, one of the yakkhas said this to the second yakkha: "It occurs to me, O friend, to strike a blow on this samana's head." When thus was said, the [second] yakkha said this to that yakkha: "Enough friend. Do not assault this samaṇa. Eminent, O friend, is this samana, of great power, of great majesty." Also for a second time, that yakkha said this to the second yakkha: "It occurs to me, O friend, to strike a blow on this samana's head." Also for a second time, the [second] yakkha said this to that yakkha: "Enough friend. Do not assault this samaṇa. Eminent, O friend, is this samana, of great power, of great majesty." Also for a third time, that yakkha said this to the [second] yakkha: "It occurs to me, O friend, to strike a blow on this samana's head." Also for a third time, the [second] yakkha said this to that yakkha: "Enough friend. Do not assault this samaṇa. Eminent, O friend, is this samana,

of great power, of great majesty."

2. Then that yakkha, having not heeded the [second] yakkha, struck a blow on the venerable Elder Sariputta's head. It was such a great strike that it could have felled a seven or a seven and half cubits elephant, or split apart a great mountain peak. Then that yakkha [crying out], "I am burning, I am burning!" fell into the great hell, just there.

3. The venerable Mahamoggallana saw with his divine eye which is purified and surpasses the human, that yakkha striking a blow on the venerable Sariputta's head. Having seen, he approached the venerable Sariputta. Having approached, he said this to the venerable Sariputta "I hope you are bearing up, O friend. I hope you are keeping on. I hope you do not have much pain." "I am bearing up, O friend Moggallana. I am keeping on, O friend Moggallana. Yet, I do have a small amount of headache."

4. "It is marvellous, O friend Sariputta. It is unprecedented, O friend Sariputta, the extent to which the venerable Sariputta is of great power, of great majesty. Here, O friend Sariputta, a certain yakkha struck such a great blow on your head that it could have felled a seven or a seven and half cubits elephant, or split apart a great mountain peak, yet the venerable Sariputta says thus: "I am bearing up, O friend Moggallana. I am keeping

on, O friend Moggallana. Yet, I do have a small amount of headache." " "It is marvellous, O friend Moggallana. It is unprecedented, O friend Moggallana, the extent to which the venerable Moggallana is of great power, of great majesty, in as much as he can see a yakkha. For now we are not able to see even a mud goblin." the Auspicious One heard with his divine ear element which is purified and surpasses the human, the friendly conversation between this pair of great Nagas.

5. Then the Auspicious One, having understood the significance of this, uttered this inspired utterance:

"He whose mind is like,
the immovable, unshakeable;
dispassioned amidst things that provoke passion,
unangered amidst things that provoke anger;
he whose mind is thus enculturated,
from where will suffering come?"