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## Keeping the Wheel Rolling

Sāriputta Thera

Thag 991	gāme vā yadi vāraññe ninne vā yadi vā thale, yattha arahanto viharanti, taṃ bhūmiṃ rāmaṇeyyakam	In the village or the forest, In the lowlands or the highlands; Wherever the worthy ones dwell —That terrain would be found pleasing.
Thag 992	ramaṇiyā araññāni, yattha na ramatī jano vitarāgā ramissanti, na te kāmagavesino.	So pleasing (they find) the forests, Wherein most people are not pleased. Rid of passion, they will be pleased —They do not pursue mere pleasure!
Thag 998	rukhamūlam va nissāya muṇḍo saṃghōṭipāruto paññāya uttamo thero Upatisso ‘va jhāyati.	Settled at the root of a tree, With shaven head, clad in a robe, The elder foremost in wisdom —Upatisso just meditates.
Thag 1006	upasanto uparato mantabhāṇī anuddhato dunāti pāpake dhamme dumapattam va māluto.	He has become calm and at rest, Wise in speech and not self-centered; He’s shaken off unwholesome states —Like wind would leaves from a tree.
Thag 1007	upasanto uparato mantabhāṇī anuddhato abbahi pāpake dhamme dumapattam va māluto.	He has become calm and at rest, Wise in speech and not self-centered; He has plucked off unwholesome states —Like wind would leaves from a tree.
Thag 1013	mahāsamuddo pathavi pabbato anilo pi ca upamāya na yujjanti satthu varavimuttiyā	The mighty ocean and the earth A mountain, or even the wind Are not adequate similes —For the teacher’s splendid release.
Thag 1014	cakkānuvattako thero mahāñāṇī samāhito pathavāpaggi samāno na rajjati na dussati.	The elder keeps the wheel rolling, Possessing great wisdom, composed; And just like earth, water and fire, —He’s neither attached nor opposed.

Sāriputta (also known by the name Upatisso) was the Buddha’s leading follower, particularly praised for his wisdom. These verses, containing eight syllables per line, have been extracted from a longer poem of thirty seven verses preserved in the *Theragāthā*. They describe man who continues to spend his time in solitary meditation in the forest, even after having attained the full awakening of the *arahant*. The elder keeps the dharma wheel of the Buddha’s teaching rolling by such dedication to meditation practice, and by exemplifying the attitude of non-attachment in all that he does. The phrase may also refer to Sāriputta’s pivotal role in the development of the Abhidhamma tradition.