

Queen Mallika

She-goat incident (Dhp 151)

Queen Mallika was washing her face, hands and feet one day when her pet dog came in and tried to have sex with her, much to the amusement and somewhat pleased Mallika. King Pasendi of Kosala saw this incident and was angry. He confronted Queen Mallika and questioned her possibly evil actions. Queen Mallika denied that what King Pasendi saw was true. She insisted that she was only washing her face, hands and feet and blamed the room for having the strange effect of hallucination on anyone who looked from the outside the window into the bathroom. The queen invited King Pasendi to go into the bathroom whilst she looked from the outside of the window. She then questioned the King for his misbehaviour with the she-goat. This time, the king denied and the queen insisted on what she saw as true. The king was puzzled but being dim-witted, he accepted the queen's explanation about the strange bathroom.

Her death

When Queen Mallika was at her death bed, she was full of remorse for having lied to the king and for accusing him of misbehaving with the she-goat. She forgot to think about her great, unrivalled charities she had shared with her husband. She only remembered that she had been unfair to him. Hence, when she passed away, for 7 days she was reborn in Niraya (hell).

After her burial, the king went to the Buddha to ask about her destination of rebirth. The Buddha wished to spare His feelings and also did not want him to lose faith in the Dhamma. He willed that King Pasenadi would not put forth this question to Him and the king forgot to ask the Buddha for 7 days.

After 7 days, former Queen Mallika was reborn in the Tusita realm. On that day, the Buddha went to the king's palace for alms-food so the king took the chance to ask the Buddha about Queen Mallika's destination of rebirth. Hence, the Buddha told him about her birth in Tusita heaven. Upon hearing this, the king was very pleased and replied that where else would she have been born as she was always thinking of doing good deeds and what to offer to the Buddha the next day.