

nest situated on the branch of the same tree; apprehending danger from both directions, Palita decided to take help from the cat, his foe in distress, and find escape from all the three 12. 136. 26-42; he therefore addressed himself to the cat pointing out that there was danger to the life of both of them, that both lived on the same tree and therefore deserved to be friends of each other on the basis of common residence (*savāso me 'si paṇḍitaḥ ul. paṇḍita* 12. 136. 54), that he was prepared to cut the cords that bound the cat provided the cat agreed not to kill him when freed; Palita appealed to the cat: "I wish you live, and you should wish that I live" 12. 136. 48-62; the cat agreed to the proposal and asked Palita to do what was suited to the occasion; Palita swore by truth (*satyena te śape* 12. 136. 73) to cut down the net provided the cat agreed not to kill him when he descended and crawled very close to the body of the cat (*ahaṁ tvānupravekṣyāmi* 12. 136. 72); when the cat agreed to this, Palita went near the cat and rested quietly on his chest; seeing him safe, the mongoose and the owl returned to their residence 12. 136. 66-82; Palita then started to cut slowly the cords of the net; when the cat asked Palita to finish the work quickly, Palita advised him to be patient; Palita would complete cutting the net only when he saw the Caṇḍāla, who had spread the net, approach; otherwise the cat might prove dangerous to him; if the cat, when freed, saw the Caṇḍāla drawing near he would immediately mount the tree and not waste his time in jumping on the mouse; Palita then could safely enter his hole 12. 136. 83-93; when the cat persisted in asking Palita to make haste, Palita replied as follows: "I have made treaty with one who is stronger than me, I have therefore to protect

myself; no one has any regard for the doer of a good act, once the act has been fully done; hence all good acts must be done with a part left unfinished (*na hi kaś cit kṛte kārye kartāraṁ samavekṣate / tasmāt sarvāṇi kāryāṇi sāvāśeṣāṇi kārayet* 12. 136. 105); now only one cord remains; I shall cut down that too at proper time" 12. 136. 100-107; at dawn when the Caṇḍāla Parigha appeared, true to his word, Palita cut off the last cord; the freed cat, as expected by Palita, jumped up the tree and Palita entered the hole 12. 136. 109-116; when the Caṇḍāla left the scene, the cat asked Palita to come out of the hole and move freely among the cats without apprehending any danger; he asked Palita to become his minister and even guide him like his father (*amātyo me bhava prājña piteva hi praśādhi māṁ*) 12. 136. 119-126; but Palita refused to oblige; he told the cat that there were no natural friends and no natural foes; hence there were no permanent friendships and no permanent enmities; friendships and enmities arise due to certain common or conflicting interests (*nāsti jātyā ripur nāma mītram nāma na vidyate / sāmarthyayogāḥ jāyante mītrāṇi ripavas tathā // nāsti mātrī sthīrā nāma na ca dhruvam asauhṛdam / arthayuktyā hi jāyante mītrāṇi ripavas tathā //* 12. 136. 132, 134); danger arising out of misplaced trust cuts at the very roots; the affection between them arose for some purpose; once that purpose was served, friendship lost its ground; mouse was food, and cat the eater; mouse was weak, cat strong; there could be no real conciliation (*sandhi*) among parties of uneven strength; Palita said he knew that it was the cat's food time; that was the reason why the cat was asking Palita to stir out; Palita finally told the cat that if he remembered Palita's good act let him wish well of the mouse (*śivam*