

his anxiety about the safety of his young ones, Lapitā became jealous and said that Mandapāla was not really anxious for his young sons but for Jaritā, his first love; she knew that his children were powerful, lustrous, and able speakers; they need have no fear from fire; moreover Mandapāla had in her presence secured an assurance from god Agni that he would not harm Mandapāla's children; Lapitā therefore was sure that Mandapāla was really worried about Jaritā, her foe; she charged Mandapāla that he did not love her as he loved Jaritā and asked him to go to Jaritā and leave her alone 1. 224. 2-13.

Lomaśa m. : A cat.

A. Residence : He lived on the branches of a banyan tree in a certain forest 12. 136. 19, 22; also in a hole (*svabūtam*) at the foot of the tree 12. 136. 190. B. Description : Had sharp front teeth and eyes resembling the cat's-eye gem; he was intelligent, eloquent (*vākyasāmpanna*) and knew the import of speech (*vākyatatvajña*) 12. 136. 65, 64, 94. C. Palita-Lomaśa Episode : A mouse, Palita, also lived in a hole at the foot of the banyan tree; Lomaśa, although normally watchful (*apramatta* 12. 136. 25), was once caught in a trap (*unmātha* 12. 136. 23) fixed by a Caṇḍāla; when this happened Palita began to move about freely, got a piece of flesh, and started eating it on the top of the trap while smiling inwardly at the cat caught in the trap below; just then the mouse Palita saw his two other enemies, an ichneumon on the ground and an owl on the tree, wanting to get him; Palita immediately realized that the cat, his third enemy in distress, was his only means of escape; he therefore offered the cat to cut off the* cords

of the net if the cat in return promised not to injure him when he moved near the cat to protect himself from the ichneumon and the owl; Palita wished that Lomaśa remained alive and expected a similar response from Lomaśa (*tava jīvitam icchāmi tvam mamecchasi jīvitam* 12. 136. 59); the cat too knew that he by himself was almost at the end of his life (*tām avasthām avekṣyāntyām* 12. 136. 64) and hence spoke in conciliatory terms to the mouse; Lomaśa told the mouse that he had given up his pride and that he was Palita's devotee and pupil; he was prepared to carry out Palita's order and work in his interest; he requested Palita to do what would serve the purpose of both of them; Palita then suggested the following plan to Lomaśa : the mouse was to go very close to the cat and while he was in that condition the cat was to protect the mouse from the owl and the ichneumon; when the danger to the mouse from the two had passed, the mouse was to cut the cords of the net and free the cat; Lomaśa agreed to this plan and promised not only to be well-disposed towards Palita when he drew near, but also offered later to do, with his friends and relatives, things pleasing to Palita; the mouse then moved very close to the cat and slept on his chest; having seen that the ichneumon and the owl had returned to their respective homes Palita started to cut off the cords of the net slowly; Lomaśa tried to hasten him asking him not to be ungrateful; Lomaśa wanted Palita to finish the work before the Caṇḍāla (*śvapaca*) returned; Palita refused to hasten until he was sure that the Caṇḍāla was close by so that Lomaśa, when freed, would not pounce on the mouse but jump on the tree from the fear of the Caṇḍāla; Lomaśa again pleaded with Palita to be more quick in his