

## THE ORIGINS OF THE KHUDDAKA NIKĀYA AS THE FIFTH COLLECTION OF THE SUTTA PĪṬAKA

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The Theravāda tradition explicitly states that the *Sutta Pīṭaka* which consists of five *Nikāyas* was compiled at the First Council held at Rājagaha immediately after the passing away of the Buddha. Although all the sources of the First Council, not only Pali and Sanskrit but also Chinese and Tibetan, have been rather exhaustively examined by various scholars, the original accounts will be reinvestigated here in relation to the *Khuddaka Nikāya*.

The eleventh chapter of the *Cullavagga*, which is the earliest account of the First Council and from which are derived the traditions preserved in the Commentaries and Sri Lankan Chronicles, says, as to the proceedings of the "recital of the *Dhamma*", thus: "The venerable Mahākassapa questioned the venerable Ānanda on the *Dhamma*, 'Friend Ānanda, where was the *Brahmajāla* preached?' 'Sir, at the King's park at Ambalaṭṭhikā, between Rājagaha and Nālanda'. 'In connection with whom?' "Suppiya the wandering ascetic and the brahmin youth Brahmadaṭṭa". And in such wise did the venerable Mahākassapa question the venerable Ānanda on the occasion and the person of the *Brahmajāla*. Again he asked, "Friend Ānanda, where was the *Sāmaññaphala* preached?" 'Sir, at Jivaka's Mango Grove at Rājagaha'. "With whom?" "With Ajātasattu, son of the Videhan princess". Thereupon the venerable Mahākassapa questioned the venerable Ānanda on the occasion of the *Sāmaññaphala*, and the person. And in the self-same manner he questioned him on all five *Nikāyas* (*eteneva upāyena pañcanikāye pucchi*)".<sup>1</sup>

The account given in the *Samantapāsādikā*, except for slight variations, agrees with that of the *Cullavagga*. Just after the statement that "in the self-same manner the venerable Mahākassapa questioned the venerable Ānanda on all five *Nikāyas*, the *Samantapāsādikā* has the following passage: "The five *Nikāyas* are, *Dīgha Nikāya*, *Majjhima Nikāya*, *Samyutta Nikāya*, *Aṅguttara Nikāya* and *Khuddaka Nikāya*. Here the *Khuddaka Nikāya* means the rest of the sayings of the Buddha excluding the four *Nikāyas*. The venerable Upāli explained the *Vinaya* therein and the venerable Ānanda the remaining

1. *Vinaya Pīṭaka (V)*, Vol. II, edited by H. Oldenberg, P.T.S. London 1879, p. 284.