

Patachara, from the Therigatha

Trans. Charles Hallisey

Furrowing fields with plows, sowing seeds in the ground, 112
taking care of wives and children, young men find wealth.

So why have I not experienced freedom 113
when I am virtuous and I do what the Teacher taught,
When I am not lazy and I am calm?

While washing my feet I made the water useful in another 114
way,
by concentrating on it move from the higher ground down.

Then I held back my mind, 115
as one would do with a thoroughbred horse,
and I took a lamp and went into the hut.

First I looked at the bed, then I sat on the couch, 116
I used a needle to pull out the lamp's wick.
Just as the lamp went out, my mind was free.