

walls of his own temple. He carried on his propaganda, or rather his reformation, chiefly by sermons as a travelling Buddhist friar, by leaflets and pictures. Of these pictures he gave me one which I have had copied here, and which, even in spite of the Sanskrit verse beneath it, certainly requires interpretation. It says : " The happiness in the enjoyment of sensual pleasures is very small, smaller even than a mustard seed ; but the misery of men is very great, as may be seen from (the picture of) the drops of honey and the man."

My friend was not a little surprised when I, as a mere outsider, recognised at once a well-known Buddhist parable in this picture. We see a tree and an elephant trying to uproot it. One of its branches is bent down and a man clings to it, evidently anxious not to be drowned in a well beneath him. If we could see farther down in the well, we should see at the bottom a dragon, ready to swallow the man. We can see on each side of the well serpents peeping forth ready to bite him and kill him. The branch to which he clings is being gnawed by two mice, black and white (night and day) while the man himself, neglectful of all these surrounding dangers, keeps his mouth open, eager to catch some drops of the honey that fall down from the tree.

A Buddhist preacher stands by the side of the well, and what does he teach ? He says that the tree is the world, the branch the thread of life clasped by a man who does not see the dragon or the serpents or the mice or the elephant, and thus is sure to perish, unless he can be torn away from the drops of honey, and labour for his own salvation like the Buddhist monk that comes to preach to him.

But how did I know this parable ? It does not, as far as I remember, occur in any Sanskrit work, but yet I have little doubt that it had its origin on Indian soil, and was carried to Europe through that well-known channel in which stories current in India from time immemorial had been collected and carried on from stage to stage, from translation to translation, from India to Europe. These stories had been largely used by