



Once upon a time  
there was an old man.  
People thought he knew everything.  
So he was called, in Sinhala,  
Maha Daenamutta.  
the Great Wise Man who knew everything

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When people had a problem  
they went to Maha Daenamutta  
who solved it for them  
and they were all happy.



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He had five pupils  
very loyal and faithful.

One of them was called Pol Bae Muna  
because he had a face - muna  
as round as a split-half of a coconut - pol baeya.

One of them was called Kotu Kitayya  
because he had a body  
as thin as a stick - kotu.

One of them was called Idi Katu Paencha  
because he had a body  
as skinny as a sewing-needle - idi katu.

One of them was called Rabbada Ayya  
because he had a belly  
as round and red as a ripe arecanut - rabbada.

One of them was called Puvak Badilla  
because he had a belly - bada  
as long as an arecanut - puvak.

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