

THE PALIVERSE PROJECT

The Universe of Buddha's Wisdom

The Triple Canon (Tipiṭaka)

The Canon of Discourses (Sutta Piṭaka)

5. The Collection of Minor Texts (5. Khuddaka Nikāya)

10. Past Life Histories-1 - of the Elder Monks (10. Apadānapāḷi-1 -
Therāpadānapāḷi)

14. The Chapter on Sobhita (14. Sobhitavaggo)

[Tha Ap 133-142, PTS 1.164-1.170]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

10. Past Life Histories-1 - of the Elder Monks

14. The Chapter on Sobhita

1. The Life History of the Elder Sobhita

1. "The Conqueror named Padumuttara, the elder of the world, the lord of men;
To a great crowd of people, he teaches the Deathless state.
2. "Having heard his word, uttered with excellent speech;
Having raised my joined palms, I was fully focused then.
3. "Just as the ocean is the path of waters, Neru is the noble rock among
mountains;
So too those who proceed by the power of mind, they do not amount to a
fraction of the Buddha's knowledge.
4. "Having established the method of the Teaching, the Buddha, the
compassionate sage,
Having sat down in the community of monks, he spoke these verses.
5. "'Whoever praised knowledge, in the Buddha, the leader of the world;
For a hundred thousand cosmic cycles, he will not go to an unfortunate realm.
6. "'Having burnt up the defilements, fully focused, well concentrated;
Sobhita by name, will be a disciple of the Teacher.'
7. "In fifty thousand cosmic cycles, seven were of fame, fortunate;
Accomplished with the seven treasures, wheel-turning monarchs of great
power.
8. "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, all existences have been
uprooted;
The three true knowledges have been attained, the Buddha's teaching has
been fulfilled.
9. "The four analytical knowledges, and these eight deliverances;
The six higher knowledges have been realised, the Buddha's teaching has
been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Sobhita spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Sobhita is the first.

2. The Life History of the Elder Sudassana

10. "On the bank of the river Vinatā, a wave-leafed fig tree was in fruit;

Seeking that tree, I saw the leader of the world.

- 11.** "Having seen a ketaka flower in bloom, having cut it at the stalk, I then;
I placed it upon the Buddha, Sikhi, the kinsman of the world.
- 12.** "By which knowledge you attained the imperishable, Deathless state;
That knowledge I venerate, O best of Buddhas, great sage.
- 13.** "Having made an offering to knowledge, I saw the Pilakkhu tree;
I have attained that wisdom, this is the fruit of honouring knowledge.
- 14.** "Thirty-one cosmic cycles ago from now, the flower that I offered;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of honouring knowledge.
- 15.** "Thirteen cosmic cycles from now, there were twelve who attained fruition;
Accomplished with the seven treasures, wheel-turning monarchs of great fruit.
- 16.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Sudassana spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Sudassana is the second.

3. The Life History of the Elder Candanapūjanaka

- 17.** "On the bank of the Candabhāgā river, I was a kinnara then;
And I was one feeding on flowers, likewise clothed in flowers.
- 18.** "The Blessed One Atthadassī, the elder of the world, the lord of men;
Departed through the forest top, like a king of swans in the sky.
- 19.** "Homage to you, thoroughbred among men, your mind is well purified;
Your facial complexion is serene, your faculties are very clear.
- 20.** "Having descended from the sky, the one of extensive wisdom, the wise one;
Having spread out his double robe, he sat down cross-legged.
- 21.** Having taken dissolved sandalwood, I went into the presence of the
Conqueror;
With a confident mind, glad at heart, I placed it upon the Buddha.
- 22.** "Having paid respect to the Enlightened by himself, the elder of the world, the
lord of men;
Having generated gladness, I departed facing north.
- 23.** "In eighteen hundred cosmic cycles, the sandalwood that I venerated;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of honouring the
Buddha.
- 24.** "In fourteen hundred cosmic cycles, from now those three were;
Rohaṇī by name, wheel-turning monarchs of great power.

25. "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Candanapūjanaka spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Sandalwood Worshipper is the third.

The Eighth Recitation Section.

4. The Life History of the Elder Pupphacchadaniya

26. "Sunanda by name, a brahmin gone beyond the sacred texts;
A reciter, accessible to requests, he performed the vājapeyya sacrifice.

27. "Padumuttara, knower of the world, the foremost compassionate sage;
Having compassion for the populace, he walked in the sky then.

28. "Having walked up and down, the Perfectly Enlightened One, the omniscient
leader of the world;
Pervaded beings with friendliness, the immeasurable, without clinging.

29. "Having cut the flowers at the stalks, the brahmin gone beyond the sacred
texts;
Having brought together all the pupils, he caused them to be lifted up into
space.

30. "As far as the city extended, there was a roof of flowers then;
By the Buddha's power, for seven days they did not disappear.

31. "By that very wholesome root, having experienced accomplishment;
Having fully understood all mental corruptions, one who has crossed over
attachment in the world.

32. "In eleven hundred cosmic cycles, thirty-five warriors;
Named Ambaramsa, wheel-turning monarchs of great power.

33. "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Pupphacchadaniya spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Flower Coverer is the fourth.

5. The Life History of the Elder Rahosaññaaka

34. "Not far from the Himalayas, there is a mountain named Vasabha;
At the foot of that mountain, a hermitage was created.

35. "Three thousand pupils I taught as a brahmin then;
Having gathered those pupils, I sat down to one side.

36. "Having sat down to one side, a brahmin gone beyond the sacred texts;
Seeking the Buddha's knowledge, I gladdened my mind in knowledge.

37. "Having gladdened my mind there, I sat down on a mattress of leaves;

Folding my legs crosswise, there I deceased.

- 38.** "Thirty-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I obtained that perception then; I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the perception of knowledge.
- 39.** In the twenty-seventh cosmic cycle, there was a glorious king;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 40.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Rahosañña spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Solitude Perceiver is the fifth.

6. The Life History of the Elder Campakapupphiya

- 41.** "Shining like a kaṇikāra tree, seated in the mountain caves;
Illuminating all directions, like the healing star.
- 42.** "There were three young men, well-trained in their own craft;
Having taken a carrying-pole burden, they follow behind me.
- 43.** "Seven flowers in a basket, placed by the austere ascetic;
Having taken them with knowledge, I planted them for Vessabhū.
- 44.** "Thirty-one cosmic cycles ago from now, the flower that I offered;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of honouring knowledge.
- 45.** "Twenty-nine cosmic cycles from now, one named Vipulābha;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 46.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Campakapupphiya spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Campaka Flower Offerer is the sixth.

7. The Life History of the Elder Atthasandassaka

- 47.** "Seated in a large pavilion, I saw the leader of the world;
One who has eliminated the mental corruptions, who has come into power,
honoured by the community of monks.
- 48.** "A hundred thousand possessing the threefold true knowledge, the six higher knowledges, of great supernormal power;
They surround the Enlightened by himself, who, having seen him, is not pleased?
- 49.** "For whom no comparison in knowledge is found, including the gods;
The Enlightened by himself of infinite knowledge, who, having seen him, is not pleased?

- 50.** "And illuminating the body of the Teaching, the consummate jewel-mine;
They are unable to assign it, who, having seen it, is not pleased?
- 51.** "With these three verses, the affectionate one named Nārada;
Having praised Padumuttara, the Perfectly Enlightened One, the unconquered.
- 52.** "By that confidence of mind, and by intimacy with the Buddha;
For a hundred thousand cosmic cycles, I was not reborn in an unfortunate realm.
- 53.** "Thirty hundred cosmic cycles from now, a warrior named Sumitta;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 54.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Atthasandassaka spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Meaning Shower is the seventh.

8. The Life History of the Elder Ekapasādaniya

- 55.** "Nārada is my name, the wise know me as Kesava;
Seeking the wholesome and unwholesome, I went to the presence of the Buddha.
- 56.** "With a mind of friendliness, compassionate, intent upon the good, the great sage;
Comforting beings, he, the one with vision, expounds the Teaching.
- 57.** "Having gladdened my own mind, having made a salutation with joined palms at my head;
Having paid respect to the Teacher, I departed facing east.
- 58.** "In seventeen hundred cosmic cycles, there was a king, a lord of the earth;
Named Amittatāpana, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 59.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Ekapasādaniya spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder One Confidence Inspirer is the eighth.

9. The Life History of the Elder Sālapupphadāyaka

- 60.** "A king of beasts then I was, well-born, a fine-maned lion;
Seeking a mountain fortress, I saw the leader of the world.
- 61.** "This great hero indeed extinguishes the great multitude;
What if I were to attend upon the god of gods, the lord of men.
- 62.** "Having broken a branch of the sal tree, I brought the flower with its sheath;
Having approached the Perfectly Enlightened One, I gave the highest flower.

- 63.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I offered the flower;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the gift of flowers.
- 64.** "And nine cosmic cycles from now, named Virocana;
Three were kings, wheel-turning monarchs of great power.
- 65.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Sālapupphadāyaka spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Sal Flower Donor is the ninth.

10. The Life History of the Elder Piyālapthaladāyaka

- 66.** "A pigeon then I was, not harming others;
I make my sleeping place on the mountain slope, not far from the Teacher
Sikhī.
- 67.** "In the evening and morning I see the Buddha, the supreme leader of the
world;
But I have no gift to give to the lord of bipeds, such a one.
- 68.** "Having taken piyāla fruit, I went to the presence of the Buddha;
The Blessed One accepted, the elder of the world, the lord of men.
- 69.** "From then on, having attended upon the guide;
By that confidence of mind, there I deceased.
- 70.** "Thirty-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I gave that fruit;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of giving fruit.
- 71.** "Fifteen cosmic cycles from now, there were three Piyāli trees;
Accomplished with the seven treasures, wheel-turning monarchs of great
power.
- 72.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Piyālapthaladāyaka spoke these verses.

The Life History of the Elder Piyāla Fruit Donor is the tenth.

The Sobhita Chapter is the fourteenth.

Its summary:

Sobhita and Sudassana, Candana and Pupphachadana;
Raha and Campakapupphī, and with Atthasandassaka.

Ekapasādī and Sāladada, the tenth is Phaladāyaka;
Seventy-two verses, counted by the wise.



ABOUT THIS TRANSLATION

This translation is part of the PaliVerse Project - the first complete, unified English translation of the Pāli Canon together with its Commentaries (Aṭṭhakathā) and Subcommentaries (Tīkā), accompanied by interactive study tools. PaliVerse is an ongoing project. The AI translations are continuously improved through experts' revisions and feedback. This text is the latest translation as of the date of download.

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