

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)

33. The Chapter on Umāpupphiya (33. Umāpupphiyavaggo)

[Tha Ap 323-332, PTS 1.259-1.267]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

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

33. The Chapter on Umāpupphiya

1. The Life History of the Elder Umāpupphiya

1. "Concentrated, attained, one who has accomplished his task, unconquered;
Seated in concentration, I saw the highest among men.
2. "Having taken a flax flower, I placed it upon the Buddha;
All the flowers with one head, stalks upward, faces downward.
3. "Like beautifully decorated ones standing, flower coverings in space;
By that confidence of mind, I was reborn in Tusita.
4. "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, the flower that I honoured;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of honouring the
Buddha.
5. "Fifty-five cosmic cycles ago, I was the sole lord of the earth;
Named Samantachadana, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
6. "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 Umāpupphiya spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Flax Flower is the first.

2. The Life History of the Elder Pulinapūjaka

7. Like a shining hump, as a leading bull of good breed;
Shining like the healing star, the lord of men radiating light.
8. "Having raised my joined palms, I venerated the Teacher;
I praised the Teacher, I pleased him by my own action.
9. "Having taken very clean sand, I sprinkled it on the path he had gone;
Having taken it in my lap, for Vipassī, the great sage.
10. "Then with half a sandbank, with a clear mind;
In the day residence I sprinkled, for the lord of bipeds, such a one.
11. "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, when I sprinkled sand;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the sand.
12. "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Pulinapūjaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Sand-Worshipper is the second.

3. The Life History of the Elder Hāsajanaka

- 13.** "Having seen on a tree-top a rag-robe of the Teacher, stuck there;
Having raised my joined palms, it was uttered by me repeatedly.
- 14.** "But having seen him from afar, joy arose in me;
Having raised my joined palms, I gladdened my mind even more.
- 15.** "Ninety-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 perception of the Buddha.

16.

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

Thus the Venerable Elder Hāsajanaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Joy-Producer is the third.

4. The Life History of the Elder Yaññasāmika

- 17.** "Seven years old by birth, I was one gone beyond the sacred texts;
I upheld the family duty, the sacrifice was encouraged by me.
- 18.** "Eighty-four thousand cattle were killed for me then;
Brought to the post and pillar, prepared for the sacrifice.
- 19.** Like one delighted at the mouth of a forge, resembling acacia charcoal embers;
Like the rising sun, like the full moon.
- 20.** "Siddhattha, accomplisher of all goals, honoured by the three worlds, beneficial;
The Perfectly Enlightened One, having approached, spoke these words.
- 21.** "Non-violence towards all living beings, young man, is pleasing to me;
And abstinence from theft and from sexual misconduct, and from drinking intoxicants.
- 22.** "Delight in living in spiritual calm, great learning and gratitude;
In the present life and in the hereafter, these qualities are praiseworthy.
- 23.** "'Having developed these qualities, delighted in the welfare of all beings;
Having gladdened the mind in the Buddha, develop the highest path.'
- 24.** "Having said this, the Omniscient One, the elder of the world, the lord of men;
Having thus instructed me, rose up and went into the sky.

- 25.** "Having purified my mind before, afterwards I gladdened my mind;
By that confidence of mind, I was reborn in Tusita.
- 26.** "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, when I gladdened my mind;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of perception of the
Buddha.
- 27.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Yaññasāmika spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Sacrifice-Master is the fourth.

5. The Life History of the Elder Nimittasañña

- 28.** "On the bank of the Candabhāgā river, I dwell in a hermitage;
I saw a golden deer, roaming in the forest.
- 29.** "Having gladdened my mind towards the deer, I recollected the elder of the
world;
By that confidence of mind, I recollected other Buddhas.
- 30.** "And those Buddhas who have passed away, those existing now and those yet
to come;
Just so they shine, those three, like the king of beasts.
- 31.** "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, when I obtained that perception
then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of perception of the
Buddha.
- 32.** "Twenty-seven cosmic cycles ago from now, I was the sole lord of the earth;
Araññasattha by name, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 33.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Nimittasañña spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Sign-Perceiver is the fifth.

6. The Life History of the Elder Annasāmsāvaka

- 34.** "The golden-coloured Enlightened by himself, going through the market place;
Resembling a golden flame, with the thirty-two excellent characteristics.
- 35.** "Siddhattha, the one who has accomplished all purposes, without longing,
unconquered;
Having led past the Enlightened by himself, I fed that great sage.
- 36.** "The compassionate sage in the world, he illuminated me then;
Having gladdened my mind in the Buddha, I rejoiced in heaven for a cosmic
cycle.

- 37.** "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, the gift that I gave then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of giving almsfood.
- 38.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Annasaṃsāvaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Food-Proclaimer is the sixth.

7. The Life History of the Elder Nigguṇḍipupphiya

- 39.** "When a god from the host of gods passes away through the exhaustion of life span;
Three sounds emanate, of the gods giving thanks.
- 40.** "'From here, friend, go to a good destination, to the company of human beings;
Having become a human being, in the Good Teaching, obtain unsurpassed faith.
- 41.** "'May that faith of yours, when settled, be rooted, established;
Unshakeable for as long as life lasts, in the Good Teaching well proclaimed.
- 42.** "'Having done wholesome by body, much wholesome by speech;
Having done wholesome by mind, non-affliction, without clinging.
- 43.** "'Then having made much merit leading to acquisition, through giving;
Establish other mortals too in the Good Teaching, in the holy life.'
- 44.** "With this compassion, when the gods knew the god;
They give thanks to the one passing away: 'Come, god, again and again.'
- 45.** "There was spiritual urgency in me then, when the assembly of gods had gathered;
To what realm of rebirth indeed shall I go, passed away from here?"
- 46.** "Having understood my anxiety, the ascetic with developed faculties;
Wishing to uplift me, he came to my presence.
- 47.** "Sumana by name, a disciple of Padumuttara;
Having instructed in the meaning and the teaching, he stirred me then.

The twelfth recitation section.

- 48.** "Having heard his word, I placed confidence in the Buddha;
Having paid respect to that wise one, there I deceased.
- 49.** "I was reborn right there, urged on by wholesome root;
Dwelling in my mother's womb, my mother bears me again.
- 50.** "Having fallen away from that class of beings, I was reborn among the deities;
In between here I do not see displeasure in me then.

- 51.** "Having fallen away from the Thirty-three, I descended into my mother's womb;
Having come out from the womb, I did not know dark and bright.
- 52.** "Seven years old by birth, I entered the monastery;
Of the Blessed One Gotama, the Sakyan son, such a one.
- 53.** "When the Scriptures were widespread, when the Dispensation belonged to the public;
I saw there monks complying with the Teacher's teaching.
- 54.** "There was a city named Sāvattthī, the king there was of Kosala;
By a chariot yoked with elephants, he approached the highest enlightenment.
- 55.** "Having seen that elephant, I recollected my former action;
Having raised my joined palms, I went to the assembly.
- 56.** "Seven years old by birth, I went forth into homelessness;
He who attended upon the Buddha, the disciple named Ānanda.
- 57.** "Of perfect behaviour and resolute, mindful and very learned;
Gladdening the king's mind, the one of great radiance handed over.
- 58.** "Having heard his Teaching, I recollected my former action;
Standing right there, being peaceful, I attained arahantship.
- 59.** "Having arranged my robe on one shoulder, having made a salutation with joined palms at my head;
Having paid respect to the Perfectly Enlightened One, I uttered these words.
- 60.** "Of the Buddha Padumuttara, the Teacher, lord of bipeds;
Having held up a nigguṇḍī flower, I placed it on the lion's seat.
- 61.** "By that action, lord of bipeds, eldest of the world, bull among men;
I have attained the unshakeable state, having abandoned victory and defeat."
- 62.** "In twenty-five thousand cosmic cycles, lords of men;
Abbudas and nirabbudas, eight by eight warriors stood.
- 63.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Nigguṇḍipupphiya spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Vitex Flower is the seventh.

8. The Life History of the Elder Sumanāveḷiya

- 64.** "When the Blessed One Vessabhū, the foremost of the world, such a one;
All people, having assembled together, made a great offering to him.
- 65.** "Having made a lump of lime, I with jasmine garlands;
In front of the lion's seat, I placed them then.

- 66.** "All people, having assembled together, look at the highest flower;
By whom was this flower venerated, for the Buddha, the foremost, such a one.
- 67.** "By that confidence of mind, I was reborn in the Nimmāna realm;
I experience my own action, well done by myself in the past.
- 68.** "Whatever realm of rebirth I am reborn in, whether divinity or human;
I am dear to all of them, this is the fruit of flower-offering.
- 69.** "I do not know of any done by body, by speech, or by mind;
Reviling of the restrained austere ascetics, done by me.
- 70.** "By that good conduct, and by the aspirations of the mind;
I am venerated by all, this is the fruit of not reviling.
- 71.** "Eleven cosmic cycles from now, a warrior with a thousand spokes;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 72.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Sumanāveḷiya spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Jasmine Garland is the eighth.

9. The Life History of the Elder Pupphacchattiya

- 73.** "To the Blessed One Siddhattha, the foremost of the world, such a one;
Who was proclaiming the truth, who was extinguishing living beings.
- 74.** "Having brought a lotus, a hundred-petalled, delightful;
Having made an umbrella of the flower, I placed it upon the Buddha.
- 75.** "Siddhattha, knower of the world, the receiver of oblations;
The Teacher, standing in the community of monks, spoke this verse.
- 76.** "'Whoever, having gladdened my mind, I held up a flower umbrella;
By that confidence of mind, he does not go to an unfortunate realm.'
- 77.** "Having said this, the Perfectly Enlightened One, Siddhattha, the leader of the
world;
Having dismissed the assembly, rose up into the sky.
- 78.** "When the king arose, the white umbrella also arose;
In front of the Buddha, the foremost, goes the excellent umbrella.
- 79.** "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, the umbrella which I placed upon it;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the flower umbrella.
- 80.** "In the seventy-fourth cosmic cycle, there were eight flame-crested ones;
Accomplished with the seven treasures, wheel-turning monarchs of great
power.

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

Thus the Venerable Elder Pupphacchatiya spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Flower Umbrella is the ninth.

10. The Life History of the Elder Sapparivārachattadāyaka

82. "Padumuttara, knower of the world, the receiver of oblations;
He rains down the rain of the Teaching, like a rain of water in space.

83. "I saw that Enlightened by himself, teaching the Deathless state;
Having gladdened my own mind, I went to my own house.

84. "Having taken a decorated umbrella, I approached the highest among men;
Joyful, with a joyful mind, into space I raised it.

85. Like one with a well-controlled vehicle, tamed, the best of disciples;
Having approached the Perfectly Enlightened One, he stood firmly on the top
of his head.

86. "Compassionate and merciful, the Buddha, the chief leader of the world;
Having sat down in the community of monks, he spoke these verses.

87. "By which this umbrella was given, decorated and delightful;
By that confidence of mind, he does not go to an unfortunate realm.

88. "'And seven times among the gods, he will exercise divine kingship;
And thirty-two times as a king, he will be a universal monarch.

89. "In a hundred thousand cosmic cycles, of the Okkāka clan origin;
Gotama by name, by clan, the Teacher in the world will be.

90. "'His heir in the teachings, legitimate, created by the Teaching;
Having fully understood all mental corruptions, he will attain nibbāna, without
mental corruptions.'

91. "Having understood the Buddha's word, uttered with excellent speech;
With a confident mind, glad at heart, I generate even more joy.

92. "Having abandoned the human realm, I went to the divine realm;
My excellent mansion, risen up and delightful.

93. "As I was leaving the mansion, a white parasol was held over me;
Then I gained perception, this is the fruit of past action.

94. "Having fallen away from the world of the gods, I came to human existence;
Thirty-six times a wheel-turning monarch, from seven hundred cosmic cycles
ago.

95. "Having fallen away from that class of beings, I came to the city of the deities;
Having transmigrated gradually, I came again to the human realm.

- 96.** "When I descended into my mother's womb, they held a white parasol over me;
Seven years old by birth, I went forth into homelessness.
- 97.** "Sunanda by name, a brahmin gone beyond the sacred texts;
Having taken a crystal umbrella, he then for the foremost disciple.
- 98.** "The great hero gave thanks, Sāriputta the great speaker;
Having heard his thanksgiving, I remembered my former deed.
- 99.** "Having raised my joined palms, I gladdened my own mind;
Having remembered my former action, I attained arahantship.
- 100.** "Having risen from that seat, having made a salutation with joined palms at my head;
Having paid respect to the Perfectly Enlightened One, I uttered these words.
- 101.** "A hundred thousand cosmic cycles ago, the Buddha, unsurpassed in the world;
Padumuttara, knower of the world, the receiver of oblations.
- 102.** "An umbrella was given by me to him, variegated and adorned;
With both hands he held it up, the self-become one, the foremost person.
- 103.** "Oh, the Buddha! Oh, the Teaching! Oh, the accomplishment of our Teacher!
Through the gift of a single umbrella, I was not reborn in an unfortunate realm.
- 104.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, all existences have been uprooted;
Having fully understood all mental corruptions, I dwell without mental corruptions.
- 105.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Sāparivārachattadāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Umbrella-with-Retinue-Giver is the tenth.

The Flax Flower Chapter, the thirty-third.

Its summary:

Umāpuppha and Pulina, Hāsa, Yañña, Nimittaka;
Saṃsāvaka and Niggaṇḍī, Sumana, Pupphachattaka;
And Sāparivārachatta, seven hundred verses in addition.



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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