

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)

34. The Chapter on Gandhodaka (34. Gandhodakavaggo)

[Tha Ap 333-342, PTS 1.268-1.276]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

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

34. The Chapter on Gandhodaka

1. The Life History of the Elder Gandhadhūpiya

1. "To the Blessed One Siddhattha, I gave fragrant incense;
Covered with jasmine flowers, and that befitting a Buddha.
2. "Resembling a golden flame, the Buddha, the supreme leader of the world;
Like a blazing blue water-lily, like a burning fire.
3. Like an excellent bull-tiger, like a well-born maned lion;
Seated, the foremost of ascetics, honoured by the community of monks.
4. "Having seen, having gladdened my mind, having raised my joined palms;
Having paid homage at the Teacher's feet, I departed facing north.
5. "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, when I gave that fragrant intoxicant
then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the offering of
fragrance.
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 Gandhadhūpiya spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Incense-Burner is the first.

2. The Life History of the Elder Udaikapūjaka

7. "The golden-coloured Enlightened by himself, going through the sky-path;
Like a blazing ghee-fed fire, like a burning sacrificial fire.
8. "Having taken water with my hand, I threw it up into space;
The great hero received it, the Buddha, the compassionate sage.
9. "The Teacher, standing in the sky, the one named Padumuttara;
Having understood my thought, spoke this verse.
10. 'By this gift of water, and by the production of joy;
Even for a hundred thousand cosmic cycles, you will not be reborn in an
unfortunate realm.'
11. "By that action, lord of bipeds, eldest of the world, bull among men;
I have attained the unshakeable state, having abandoned victory and defeat.

- 12.** "Named Thousand Kings, and three universal monarchs;
In sixty-five hundred cosmic cycles, lords of men with four quarters.
- 13.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Udakapūjaka spoke these verses.

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

3. The Life History of the Elder Punnāgapupphiya

- 14.** "Having entered the forest grove, I dwell as a hunter;
Having seen the flowering Punnāga tree, I recollected the foremost Buddha.
- 15.** "Having plucked that flower, fragrant, scented, beautiful;
Having made a monument on the sandbank, I placed it upon the Buddha.
- 16.** "Ninety-two 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.
- 17.** "In the ninety-first cosmic cycle, I was the sole dispeller of darkness;
Endowed with the seven treasures, a wheel-turning monarch of great power.
- 18.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Punnāgapupphiya spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Alexandrian Laurel Flower is the third.

4. The Life History of the Elder Ekadussadāyaka

- 19.** "In the city of Hamsavatī, I was a grass-carrier;
I live by carrying grass, by that I support my children.
- 20.** "The Conqueror named Padumuttara, who has gone beyond all phenomena;
Having removed the darkness of ignorance, the leader of the world arose.
- 21.** "Having sat down in my own house, thus I thought then;
'A Buddha has arisen in the world, and I have no gift to give.
- 22.** "'This one cloth is mine, I have no donor;
Painful is the contact with hell, I shall plant an offering.'
- 23.** "Having thus reflected, I gladdened my own mind;
Having taken one cloth, I gave it to the foremost Buddha.
- 24.** "Having given one cloth, I set going acclamation;
If you are a Buddha, O hero, help me cross, O great sage.
- 25.** "Padumuttara, knower of the world, the receiver of oblations;
Praising my gift, he gave me thanksgiving.

- 26.** "By this single cloth, and by volition and aspirations;
For a hundred thousand cosmic cycles, he does not go to the nether world.
- 27.** "Thirty-six times as lord of the gods, he will exercise divine kingship;
Thirty-three times he will be a king, a universal monarch;
Principality over a district, extensive, incalculable by counting.
- 28.** "In the heavenly world or among human beings, you wandering in the round
of rebirths;
Beautiful, accomplished in virtues, with a body not overcome;
Imperturbable, boundless cloth, you will obtain at will.'
- 29.** Having said this, the Perfectly Enlightened One, named after the best of
lotuses,
The wise one rose up into the sky, like a king of swans in the firmament.
- 30.** "Whatever realm of rebirth I am reborn in, whether divinity or human;
There is no deficiency in my wealth, this is the fruit of one cloth.
- 31.** "At each step, at each step, cloth arises for me;
Below I stand on cloth, above is my roof.
- 32.** "Taking the world-circle, with its forests, with its mountains;
If I wished, today I could cover it with cloths.
- 33.** "With that very single cloth, wandering in the round of rebirths from existence
to existence;
Having become golden-coloured, I wander in the round of rebirths from
existence to existence.
- 34.** "The result of one offence, I did not find its elimination anywhere;
This is my last birth, it ripens for me even here.
- 35.** "A hundred thousand cosmic cycles ago from now, when I gave cloth then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of one cloth.
- 36.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, all existences have been
uprooted;
Like an elephant having cut the bond, I dwell without mental corruptions.
- 37.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Ekadussadāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder One-Cloth-Giver is the fourth.

5. The Life History of the Elder Phusitakampiya

- 38.** "Vipassī by name,
The Perfectly Enlightened One, the elder of the world, the lord of men.

Together with those who have eliminated the mental corruptions, he dwelt then in a monastery for the Community.

- 39.** "Having gone out from the monastery door, Vipassī, the leader of the world;
Together with eight hundred thousand who had eliminated the mental corruptions.
- 40.** "Clothed in a cheetah hide, and also wearing a bark garment;
Having taken flower-water, I approached the Perfectly Enlightened One.
- 41.** "Having gladdened my own mind, filled with joy, with joined palms;
Having taken flower-water, I sprinkled it over the Buddha.
- 42.** "By that action, the Perfectly Enlightened One, named after the best of lotuses;
Having praised my action, went where he wished.
- 43.** "Five thousand were touched, with which I venerated the Victor;
With two and a half thousand, I exercised divine kingship.
- 44.** "With two and a half thousand, I was a universal monarch;
By the remaining action, I attained arahantship.
- 45.** "When I was a king of gods, when I was lord of men;
That very same was my appellation, Phusita by name was I.
- 46.** "For one who has become a god, being peaceful, or even for a human;
All around from a fathom of me, it rains down like drops.
- 47.** "Existences have been abolished by me, mental defilements have been burnt by me;
With all mental corruptions eliminated, this is the fruit of one who has attained."
- 48.** "From my body, just as from sandalwood, so the odour blows forth;
From my body, the odour blows forth for half a kosa.
- 49.** Wafting divine fragrance, endowed with meritorious deeds;
Having smelled the odour they know, "One who has attained has come here."
- 50.** "Branches and leaves and wood, and grasses too altogether;
Having understood my thought, the odour arises in a moment.
- 51.** "A hundred thousand cosmic cycles ago, I venerated with sandalwood;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of one who has attained.
- 52.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Phusitakampiya spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Trembling at Touch is the fifth.

6. The Life History of the Elder Pabhaṅkara

- 53.** "When the Blessed One Padumuttara, the foremost of the world, such a one,
There was a shrine in the forest, crowded with beasts of prey.
- 54.** "No one dared to go, to pay homage to the shrine;
Overgrown with grass, wood and creepers, the shrine was crumbling.
- 55.** "A forest worker then I was, by my parents' counsel;
I saw in the forest a monument, broken down, entangled with grass and
creepers.
- 56.** "Having seen the Buddha's stupa, I attended with a respectful mind;
This stupa of the foremost Buddha, crumbled, remains in the forest.
- 57.** "It is not proper, it is not fitting, for one who knows virtue and fault;
Without having cleaned the Buddha's stupa, he should engage in other work.
- 58.** "Having cleared away grass and sticks and creepers at the shrine;
Having paid homage eight times, bowing down, I went.
- 59.** "By that well-done action, and by volition and aspirations;
Having abandoned the human body, I went to Tāvatiṃsa.
- 60.** "There my divine mansion was well made, golden, with radiance;
Sixty yojanas in height, thirty yojanas in width.
- 61.** "Three hundred times I exercised divine kingship;
And twenty-five times I was a wheel-turning monarch.
- 62.** "Wandering in the round of rebirths from existence to existence, I obtain great
wealth;
There is no deficiency in my wealth, this is the fruit of cleansing.
- 63.** "A palanquin on an elephant's back, as I go through the forest;
Whatever direction I go, the forest falls down as a refuge.
- 64.** "A stump or even a thorn, I do not see with my eye;
Connected with meritorious action, they are removed by themselves."
- 65.** "Leprosy and boils and eczema, epilepsy and scabies;
Ringworm and scab I have not, this is the fruit of cleansing.
- 66.** "Another marvel for me, in the cleansing of the Buddha's stupa;
I do not know of a boil or blister arisen on my body.
- 67.** "Another marvel for me, when the Buddha's stupa was cleansed;
I wander in two existences, in divinity and also in humanity.
- 68.** "Another marvel for me, when the Buddha's stupa was cleansed;
Golden-coloured everywhere, radiant I become.

- 69.** "Another marvel for me, when the Buddha's stupa was cleansed;
The disagreeable departs, the agreeable stands close.
- 70.** "Another marvel for me, when the Buddha's stupa was cleansed;
My mind becomes pure, fully focused, well concentrated.
- 71.** "Another marvel for me, when the Buddha's stupa was cleansed;
Having sat down on one seat, I attained arahantship.
- 72.** "A hundred thousand cosmic cycles ago from now, the action which I did then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of cleansing.
- 73.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Pabhaṅkara spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Light-Maker is the sixth.

7. The Life History of the Elder Tīṇakuṭīdāyaka

- 74.** "In the city of Bandhumatī, I was a worker for others;
Engaged in working for others, dependent on others' food.
- 75.** "Having gone to a private place and sat down, thus I thought then;
A Buddha has arisen in the world, and I have no aspiration.
- 76.** "It is time for me to cleanse my destination, the moment has been provided to me;
Painful is the contact with hell, for living beings of demerit.
- 77.** "Having thus reflected, I approached the master of work;
Having asked for one day's work, I entered the forest.
- 78.** "Having brought grass and sticks and creepers, I then;
Having set up a tripod, I made a grass hut.
- 79.** "Having dedicated that hut for the benefit of the Community, I;
Having come on that very same day, I approached the master of work.
- 80.** "By that well-done action, I went to Tāvatiṃsa;
There my divine mansion was well made, well-fashioned like a hut.
- 81.** "With a thousand storeys, a hundred pinnacles, adorned with flags, made of green gold;
With a hundred thousand turrets, divine mansions appeared to me.
- 82.** "Whatever realm of rebirth I am reborn in, whether divinity or human;
Having understood my thought, a mansion stands close.
- 83.** "There is no fear or trepidation, no terror is found;
I know no fright in myself, this is the fruit of the grass hut.

- 84.** "Lions, tigers and panthers, bears, wolves and hyenas;
All avoid me, this is the fruit of the grass hut.
- 85.** "Reptiles and spirits, snakes and goblin-demons;
They too avoid me, this is the fruit of the grass hut.
- 86.** "I do not remember even seeing a bad dream;
Mindfulness is established in me, this is the fruit of the grass hut.
- 87.** "In that very grass hut, having experienced accomplishment;
I realised the Teaching of the Blessed One Gotama.
- 88.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, the action which I did then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of the grass hut.
- 89.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Tiṇakuṭṭidāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the elder Tiṇakuṭṭidāyaka is the seventh.

8. The Life History of the Elder Uttareyyadāyaka

- 90.** "In the city of Hamsavatī, I was a brahmin then;
A reciter, a bearer of sacred texts, one who has gone beyond the three Vedas.
- 91.** "Honoured by my pupils, of pure birth and well-trained;
For the purpose of water ablution, I departed from the city then.
- 92.** "The Conqueror named Padumuttara, who has gone beyond all phenomena;
Surrounded by a thousand who eliminated the mental corruptions, the
Conqueror entered the city.
- 93.** "Having seen one of very beautiful form, like one trained to imperturbability;
Surrounded by Worthy Ones, having seen, I gladdened my mind.
- 94.** "Having made salutation with joined palms on the head, having venerated the
one of good conduct;
With a confident mind, glad at heart, I gave a cloak.
- 95.** "Having held up with both hands, I raised the cloth;
As far as the Buddha's assembly extended, so far the cloth covered.
- 96.** "As he was walking for almsfood, the leader of a great group of monks;
Making a covering, he stood, gladdening me then.
- 97.** "As I was leaving the house, the self-become one, the foremost person;
The Teacher, standing right in the street, gave me thanksgiving.
- 98.** "With a confident mind, glad at heart, he who gave me a cloth;
Him I will explain, listen to me as I speak.

- 99.** "For thirty thousand cosmic cycles, he will delight in the heavenly world;
Fifty times as lord of the gods, he will exercise divine kingship.
- 100.** "For one dwelling in the heavenly world, endowed with meritorious deeds;
All around for a hundred yojanas, there will be a canopy of cloth.
- 101.** "Thirty-six times he will be a king, a universal monarch;
Principality over a district, extensive, incalculable by counting.
- 102.** "For one wandering in existence, endowed with meritorious deeds;
All that is wished for by mind, will arise at that very moment.
- 103.** "Silks and woollen blankets, linens and cottons too;
And costly cloths, a man obtains.
- 104.** "All that is wished for by mind, a man obtains;
The result of one cloth, he will experience always.
- 105.** "He, having gone forth afterwards, urged on by wholesome root;
Will realise the Teaching of the Blessed One Gotama.'
- 106.** "Oh, well done is my action, for the omniscient great sage;
Having given a cloth for one day, I have attained the Deathless state.
- 107.** "In a pavilion or at the root of a tree, for one dwelling in an empty house;
He holds a cloth canopy, all around from a fathom of me.
- 108.** "I wear uninstructed, a robe as requisite;
An obtainer of food and drink, this is the fruit of the upper robe.
- 109.** "A hundred thousand cosmic cycles ago from now, the action which I did then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of giving cloth.
- 110.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Uttareyyadāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the elder Uttareyyadāyaka is the eighth.

9. The Life History of the Elder Dhammasavaniya

- 111.** "The Conqueror named Padumuttara, who has gone beyond all phenomena;
Making known the four truths, he helped many people cross over.
- 112.** "I at that time, a matted-hair ascetic of fierce austerity;
Shaking off my bark garments, I then go into the sky.
- 113.** "Above the Buddha, the foremost, I do not dare to go;
Like a bird having struck against a rock, I do not obtain passage.
- 114.** "This has never happened to me before, this upsetting of my posture;
As if having emerged from water, thus I go into the sky.

- 115.** "The noble human being will be seated below;
Well then, I shall seek him, perhaps I might obtain benefit."
- 116.** Descending from the sky, I heard the sound of the Teacher;
While he was speaking of impermanence, that I learned then.
- 117.** "Having taken up the perception of impermanence, I went to my hermitage;
Having lived there for my whole life span, there I deceased.
- 118.** "When I was in my last existence, I remembered that hearing of the Teaching;
By that well-done action, I went to Tāvātimsa.
- 119.** "For thirty thousand cosmic cycles, I delighted in the heavenly world;
And fifty-one times, I exercised divine kingship.
- 120.** "Seventy-one times I was a universal monarch;
Principality over a district, extensive, incalculable by counting.
- 121.** "Having sat down in the father's house, the ascetic with developed faculties;
Explaining in verse, spoke of impermanence.
- 122.** "I recollect that perception, wandering in the round of rebirths from existence
to existence;
I do not penetrate the end, Nibbāna, the imperishable state.
- 123.** "Impermanent indeed are activities, having the nature of arising and falling;
Having arisen, they cease; their appeasement is happiness.
- 124.** "As soon as I heard the verse, I recollected my former action;
Having sat down on one seat, I attained arahantship.
- 125.** "Seven years old by birth, I attained arahantship;
The Buddha, the one with vision, gave me full ordination, having understood
my virtues.
- 126.** "While still a boy, I completed what was to be done;
What is to be done by me today, in the Sakyan son's Dispensation?
- 127.** "A hundred thousand cosmic cycles ago from now, the action which I did then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of hearing the Good
Teaching.
- 128.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."
Thus the Venerable Elder Dhammasavaniya spoke these verses.

The life history of the elder Dhammasavaniya is the ninth.

10. The Life History of the Elder Ukkhittapadumiya

- 129.** "In the city of Hamsavatī, I was a garland-maker then;
Having plunged into the lotus pond, I gathered a hundred-petalled lotus.

- 130.** "The Conqueror named Padumuttara, who has gone beyond all phenomena;
Together with a hundred thousand, with peaceful minds, such ones.
- 131.** "With those who have eliminated the mental corruptions, with the pure, with
those possessing the six higher knowledges, with the meditators;
Investigating my growth, he came to my presence.
- 132.** "Having seen the god of gods, the Self-Become One, the leader of the world;
Having cut a lotus at the stalk, I raised it in the sky then.
- 133.** "If you are a Buddha, O hero, the elder of the world, the lord of men;
Having gone by themselves, let the lotuses rest upon your head."
- 134.** "The great hero determined, the elder of the world, the lord of men;
By the Buddha's power, they bore them on their heads.
- 135.** "By that well-done action, and by volition and aspirations;
Having abandoned the human body, I went to Tāvatiṃsa.
- 136.** "There my divine mansion was well made, it is called 'hundred-petalled';
Sixty yojanas in height, thirty yojanas in width.
- 137.** "A thousand times as lord of the gods, I exercised divine kingship;
And seventy-five times I was a universal monarch.
- 138.** "Principality over a district, extensive, incalculable by counting;
I experience my own action, well done by myself in the past.
- 139.** "By that very single lotus, having experienced accomplishment;
I realised the Teaching of the Blessed One Gotama.
- 140.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, all existences have been
uprooted;
Like an elephant having cut the bond, I dwell without mental corruptions.
- 141.** "A hundred thousand cosmic cycles ago from now, the flower that I honoured;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of a single lotus.
- 142.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."
Thus the Venerable Elder Ukkhittapadumiya spoke these verses.

The life history of the elder Ukkhittapadumiya is the tenth.

The Gandhodaka chapter is the thirty-fourth.

Its summary:

Gandhadhūpa and Udaka, Punnāga, Ekadussaka;
Phusita and Pabhaṅkara, Kuṭṭidāyaka, Uttariyaka.

Savaniya, Ekapadumiya, verses all combined together;

One hundred and forty-four.



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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