

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)

39. The Chapter on Avaṭaphala (39. Avaṭaphalavaggo)

[Tha Ap 383-392, PTS 1.295-1.301]



PaliVerse

5. The Collection of Minor Texts

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

39. The Chapter on Avaṭaphala

1. The Life History of the Elder Avaṭaphaladāyaka

1. "The Blessed One named Sataraṃsi, self-become, unconquered;
The Perfectly Enlightened One, desiring seclusion, went forth for alms.
2. "With fruit in hand, having seen, I approached the lord of men;
With a confident mind, glad at heart, I gave a mango fruit.
3. "Ninety-four cosmic cycles ago from now, the fruit that I gave;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of giving fruit.
4. "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, all existences have been
uprooted;
Like an elephant having cut the bond, I dwell without mental corruptions.
5. "Indeed welcome it was for me, my coming to the Buddha's presence;
The three true knowledges have been attained, the Buddha's teaching has
been fulfilled.
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 Avaṭaphaladāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Avaṭaphaladāyaka is the first.

2. The Life History of the Elder Labujadāyaka

7. "In the city of Bandhumatī, I was a monastery attendant then;
I saw the stainless Buddha, going through the sky-path.
8. Having taken a breadfruit, I gave it to the foremost Buddha;
Standing in space, being peaceful, the one of great fame received it.
9. "Generating joy for me, bringing happiness in the present life;
Having given fruit to the Buddha, with a clear mind.
10. "I attained joy then, and extensive highest happiness;
A jewel arises indeed, for one reborn here and there.
11. "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, the fruit that I gave then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of giving fruit.

- 12.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental corruptions.
- 13.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 14.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Labujadāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Labujadāyaka is the second.

3. The Life History of the Elder Udumbaraphaladāyaka

- 15.** "On the bank of the Vinatā river, the highest of men dwelt;
I saw the stainless Buddha, fully focused, well concentrated.
- 16.** "In him, with a gladdened mind, the washer of the stain of defilements;
Having taken a fig fruit, I gave it to the foremost Buddha.
- 17.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, the fruit that I gave then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of giving fruit.
- 18.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental corruptions.
- 19.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 20.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Udumbaraphaladāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Udumbaraphaladāyaka is the third.

4. The Life History of the Elder Pilakkhaphaladāyaka

- 21.** "Having seen the Buddha in the midst of the forest, intent upon the good, of great fame;
With a confident mind, glad at heart, I gave a fruit of the wave-leaved fig tree.
- 22.** "In eighteen hundred cosmic cycles, the fruit that I gave then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of giving fruit.
- 23.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental corruptions.
- 24.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 25.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Pilakkhaphaladāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Pilakkhaphaladāyaka is the fourth.

5. The Life History of the Elder Phārusaphaladāyaka

- 26.** "The golden-coloured Enlightened by himself, the receiver of oblations;
Proceeding along the road, I gave him a harsh fruit.
- 27.** "Ninety-one cosmic cycles ago from now, the fruit that I gave;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of giving fruit.
- 28.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental
corruptions.
- 29.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 30.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Phārusaphaladāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Phārusaphaladāyaka is the fifth.

6. The Life History of the Elder Valliphaladāyaka

- 31.** "All people, having assembled together, went to the forest then;
Seeking fruit, they did not obtain fruit then.
- 32.** "There I saw the Enlightened by himself, the Self-Become One, the
unconquered;
With a confident mind, glad at heart, I gave a creeper fruit.
- 33.** "Thirty-one cosmic cycles ago from now, the fruit that I gave then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of giving fruit.
- 34.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental
corruptions.
- 35.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 36.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Valliphaladāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Valliphaladāyaka is the sixth.

7. The Life History of the Elder Kadaliphaladāyaka

- 37.** "Like a blazing kaṇikāra tree, like the full moon;
Like a blazing lamp post, I saw the leader of the world.
- 38.** "Having held up a banana, I gave it to the Teacher;
With a confident mind, glad at heart, having paid homage, I departed.
- 39.** "Thirty-one cosmic cycles ago from now, the fruit that I gave then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of giving fruit.
- 40.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental
corruptions.

- 41.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc.the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 42.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc.the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Kadaliphaladāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Kadaliphaladāyaka is the seventh.

8. The Life History of the Elder Panasaphaladāyaka

- 43.** "The Perfectly Enlightened One named Ajjuna, dwelt in the Himalayas then;
And accomplished in conduct, a sage skilled in concentration.
- 44.** Having taken a pot-sized jackfruit, ripe and ready,
Having placed it on an umbrella-leaf, I gave it to the Teacher.
- 45.** "Thirty-one cosmic cycles ago from now, the fruit that I gave then;
I do not know of an unfortunate realm, this is the fruit of giving fruit.
- 46.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc.I dwell without mental
corruptions.
- 47.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc.the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 48.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc.the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."

Thus the Venerable Elder Panasaphaladāyaka spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Panasaphaladāyaka is the eighth.

9. The Life History of the Elder Soṇakoṭṭivāsa

- 49.** "In the teaching of Vipassī, one rock cell was made by me;
For the Community of the four directions, in the royal city of Bandhumā.
- 50.** "Having spread the ground of the cave with cloths, I gave it up;
Elated in mind, glad at heart, I made an aspiration then.
- 51.** "May I please the Enlightened by himself, and may I obtain the going forth;
And may I experience the unsurpassed Nibbāna, the highest peace.
- 52.** "By that very wholesome root, for ninety cosmic cycles I wandered;
Whether become a god or a human, having done merit, I shone forth.
- 53.** "Then by the remainder of action, here in this last existence;
At Campā, of the chief merchant, I was born as an only son.
- 54.** "Having heard of my just being born, this was my father's desire;
I give to the boy, twenty million, not lacking.
- 55.** "And my body hairs, four inches long, have grown on both soles of my feet;
Subtle, soft to the touch, similar to cotton-wool, beautiful.

- 56.** "Ninety cosmic cycles have passed, and this one further;
I do not know of my feet placed on the ground without a rug.
- 57.** "The Perfectly Enlightened One was pleased by me, I went forth into
homelessness;
And arahantship was attained by me, I am become cool, quenched.
- 58.** "Foremost of those putting forth strenuous energy, declared by the All-Seeing
One;
I am one who eliminated the mental corruptions, a Worthy One, possessor of
the six higher knowledges, of great supernormal power.
- 59.** "Ninety-one 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 a rock cell.
- 60.** "Mental defilements have been burnt by me, etc. I dwell without mental
corruptions.
- 61.** "Indeed welcome it was for me, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled.
- 62.** "The four analytical knowledges, etc. the Buddha's teaching has been fulfilled."
- 63.** "The Elder Soṇa Koṭivāsa, at the head of the Community of monks;
Asked a question, he explained, at the great lake Anotatta."

Thus the Venerable Elder Soṇa Koṭivāsa spoke these verses.

The life history of the Elder Soṇakoṭivāsa is the ninth.

10. The Life History of the Buddha on the Rag-robed One's Former Actions

- 64.** Near Lake Anotatta, on a delightful stone surface;
Illuminated by various jewels, amidst forests of various fragrances.
- 65.** "Surrounded by a great Community of monks, the leader of the world;
Seated there, he declared his own former deeds.
- 66.** "Listen, monks, to me, what action was done by me;
The action concerning the rag, ripens even in Buddhahood.
- [1]
- 67.** "My name was Munāḷi, a cheat, formerly in other births;
I accused an Individually Enlightened One, fragrant, who was blameless.
- 68.** "By the result of that action, I wandered in hell for a long time;
For many thousands of years, I experienced painful feeling.
- 69.** "By the remainder of that action, here in this last existence;
False accusation was received by me, on account of Sundarikā.

[2]

- 70.** "Of the Buddha, the overlord of all, Nanda was a disciple by name;
Having slandered him, I wandered in hell for a long time.
- 71.** "For ten thousand years, I wandered in hell for a long time;
Having obtained human existence, I received much false accusation.
- 72.** "By that remainder of action, Ciñcā the maiden accused me
With what is untrue, in front of the crowd of people.

[3]

- 73.** "I was a learned brahmin, honoured and worshipped;
In the great forest, I teach the sacred texts to five hundred young men.
- 74.** "There came a dreadful sage, possessing the five direct knowledges, of great
supernormal power;
Having seen him who had come, I accused him who was blameless.
- 75.** "Then I said to my pupils, 'This sage is an enjoyer of sensual pleasures';
And when I was speaking, the young men gave thanks.
- 76.** "Then all the young men, as he was begging alms from family to family,
Said to the great multitude, 'This sage is an enjoyer of sensual pleasures.'
- 77.** "By the result of that action, these five hundred monks;
All received false accusation, on account of Sundarikā.

[4]

- 78.** "In the past, I killed my half-brother for the sake of wealth;
I threw him into a mountain fortress, and crushed him with a stone.
- 79.** "By the result of that action, Devadatta threw a stone;
A stone pebble crushed my toe on the foot.

[5]

- 80.** "Formerly, having been a boy, playing on the highway;
Having seen an Individually Enlightened One, I threw a splinter on the path.
- 81.** "By the result of that action, here in this last existence;
Devadatta employed assassins for the purpose of killing me.

[6]

- 82.** "Formerly I was an elephant driver, the highest of solitary sages;
Him wandering for almsfood, I assailed with my elephant.
- 83.** "By the result of that action, venerable sir, the elephant Nālāgirī;
In the excellent city of Giribbaja, cruel, approached.

[7]

84. "I was an earthly king, I killed a man with a spear;
By the result of that action, I was cooked exceedingly in hell.

85. "By the remainder of that action, now my whole
Skin on the feet was arranged, for action does not perish.

[8]

86. "I was in a fisherman's village, I was a fisherman's boy;
Having seen fish being killed, I generated pleasure.

87. "By the result of that action, there was head pain for me;
And all the Sakyans were killed, when Viṭaṭūbha struck.

[9]

88. "In the teaching of Phussa, I abused the disciples;
'Eat and consume barley, but do not consume rice.'

89. "By the result of that action, for three months I ate barley;
Invited by a brahmin, I dwelt at Verañjā then.

[10]

90. "When a wrestling match was taking place, I injured a son of the Mallas;
By the result of that action, there was back pain for me.

[11]

91. "I was a physician, I purged a merchant's son;
By the result of that action, I have dysentery.

[12]

92. "I, Jotipāla, said to the Fortunate One Kassapa then;
'Whence enlightenment for a shaveling? Enlightenment is supremely difficult
to obtain.'

93. "By the result of that action, I practised much that was hard to do;
For six years at Uruvelā, then I attained enlightenment.

94. "Not by this path did I attain the highest enlightenment;
I sought by a wrong path, obstructed by former action.

95. With merit and evil exhausted, freed from all torment;
Sorrowless, without anguish, I shall be quenched, without mental corruptions.

96. "Thus the Conqueror explained, at the head of the Community of monks;
Having attained the power of all direct knowledge, at the great lake Anotatta."

Thus the Blessed One spoke this exposition of the Teaching called 'The Life History of the Buddha', concerning his own former conduct and the rag of past actions.

The biography of the Buddha named "The Rag of Former Deeds" is the tenth.

The Avaṭaphala Chapter is the thirty-ninth.

Its summary:

The mango and the breadfruit, the fig tree and the wave-leafed fig;
The bamboo, the creeper and the plantain, the jackfruit, and Koṭivīsa.

And the rag of past actions, the life history of the great sage;
Ninety-one verses, counted by the wise.

The fourteenth recitation section.



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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