Tha Ap 1 — Buddha Chapter, the First

English translation by Jonathan S. Walters.

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Text

Therāpadāna

The Legend of the Buddhas

Buddha Chapter, the First

Praise Him, the Blessed One, the Worthy One, the Fully Complete Buddha!

Walt 1 The Sage of Vedeha, his body bent, asked
the Thus-Gone-One dwelling in Jetavana,
“Indeed there are those called Omniscient Buddhas;
through what causes do they become so, Hero?”

Walt 2 Then spoke the Omniscient, Outstanding, Great Sage,
to lucky Ānanda with his honeyed voice,
“Who performed service among former Buddhas,
but didn’t get freed in their dispensations,

Walt 3 because that is the means to awaken, wise,
they with sharp knowing, through knowledge and power,
because of their wishes and also great strength,

do come to attain that state of omniscience.

Walt 4 I too among former Buddhas
did wish to become a Buddha.
Through my mind alone there were
innumerable Dhamma-kings."

Walt 5 Now listen, with purified minds,
to the legends of the Buddhas,
innumerable Dhamma-kings
who fulfilled thirty perfections. Verse 1

Walt 6 I worshipped them bowing my head,
having praised with ten fingers pressed,
those World-Chiefs with followers and
the Best Buddhas' Awakening. Verse 2

Walt 7 I brought it all forth with my mind:
things on the ground and in the sky,
uncountable as are the gems
found in the fields of the Buddhas. Verse 3

Walt 8 I created a palace there,
with a floor made out of silver.
Various floors made out of gems
arose and stretched up toward the sky. Verse 4

Walt 9 There were varied well-made pillars,
well-proportioned, very costly.
The central beam was made of gold,
the gate was canopy-adorned. Verse 5

Walt 10 The first floor, lapis lazuli,
was lovely as a stainless cloud.
Lotus ponds were scattered about

on a floor made of superb gold. Verse 6

Walt 11 A coral floor, coral-colored,
was red and very beautiful;
that floor lit up the directions
with light the hue of red beetles. Verse 7

Walt 12 Doors and windows and turrets too,
and four railings were well-laid-out.
It had a scented bamboo net
which was delightful to the mind. Verse 8

Walt 13 There were excellent gabled roofs
colored blue and yellow and red,
white and also mixed black-and-white,
adorned with the seven gemstones. Verse 9

Walt 14 Lovely pictures of birds and beasts
and lotuses fashioned for looks;
it was adorned with moon and sun,
dotted with star-constellations. Verse 10

Walt 15 It was covered with a gold net
furnished with little golden bells.
Those gold garlands sang in the force
of the wind, delighting the mind. Verse 11

Walt 16 A garland of flags was hoisted,
dyed in a spectrum of colors:
some light crimson, others deep red,
tawny, yellow and yellowish. Verse 12

Walt 17 Numerous various hundreds
of slabs were made out of silver,
made of crystal, made of ruby,

and likewise made out of cat’s eye. Verse 13

Walt 17e-f Walt 18 Various diverse couches were
spread with soft Benares muslin,
rugs, fine silk, and cloth from China,
fibrous cloth and yellow garments.
All of these various carpets
I laid out on them with my mind. Verse 14

Walt 19 On this floor and that floor too,
ornamented with huts of gems,
effulgent torches made of gems
are being carried and fixed well. Verse 15

Walt 20 Columns and pillars are splendid,
and beautiful golden gateways
made of special gold and hard woods,
and also made out of silver. Verse 16

Walt 21 Varied windows, well-proportioned;
painted cross-bars adorned the doors,
with “pots of plenty” on both sides,
filled with lotuses and lilies. Verse 17

Walt 22 I conjured up all past Buddhas,
World-Leaders, their Assemblies too,
with their natural complexions
and forms, and all their followers. Verse 18

Walt 23 Having entered through the doorway
all the Buddhas and followers
sat down on chairs all made of gold
and formed an exalted circle. Verse 19

Walt 24 Those Buddhas who live here-and-now,

who have no rivals in the world,
and those who lived in former times:
I brought them all into the world. Verse 20

Walt 25 Lonely Buddhas, many hundreds,
Self-dependent, Unconquered Ones,
and those who lived in former times:
I brought them all into the world. Verse 21

Walt 26 There are many wishing-trees there
who are both human and divine.
Having arranged all of the cloth
I give them each the triple robe. Verse 22

Walt 27 Filling lovely bowls made of gems
I then provided alms to them:
foods that were soft, and hard foods too,
well-prepared food and drink to taste. Verse 23

Walt 28 Walt 29a-b Being given burnished-cloth robes
which were just like divine garments,
honey and crystallized sugar,
sesame oil and sugar-cane juice,
with milk-rice, each one satisfied,
they formed an exalted circle. Verse 24

Walt 29c-d Walt 30a-b Having entered a jeweled room
like a lion its secret cave,
they got onto priceless couches
in the sleeping-lion posture. Verse 25

Walt 30c-f Mindfully rising up they then
sat cross-legged on those couches,
filled with delight in altered states,

the pasturage of all Buddhas. Verse 26

Walt 31 Some are preaching their doctrines then,
while others sport in miracles.
Others apply special knowledges,
masters of special knowledges.
Various lakhs of others still
transform into various shapes. Verse 27

Walt 32 Buddhas are questioning Buddhas
about the range of omniscience.
Understanding deep, abstruse points,
they achieve their Awakenings. Verse 28

Walt 33 Followers questioning Buddhas;
Buddhas questioning followers.
Questioning one another they
then provide each other answers. Verse 29

Walt 34 Buddhas and Lonely Buddhas too,
followers and the attendants,
thus delighting in devotions,
are really enjoying the palace. Verse 30

Walt 35 Let there be carried over head
a pearl-net-draped umbrella,
combined with more nets made of gold
and also of silver and gems. Verse 31

Walt 36 Let there be awnings made of cloth,
decorated with golden stars
and with diverse garlands spread out;
let all be carried over head. Verse 32

Walt 37 They are spread out with floral wreaths,

and beautified with scented wreaths;
studded with wreaths made out of cloth
decorated with wreaths of gems. Verse 33

Walt 38 They are strewn with varied flowers,
and scented with fragrant perfumes,
marked with special scented palm-prints,
and covered with golden covers. Verse 34

Walt 39 Let lotus-ponds in four directions,
full of lotuses and lilies,
appear like they were formed of gold,
exuding dusty lotus-pollen. Verse 35

Walt 40 Let all the trees that are around
the palace burst forth into bloom.
And in the evening let those flowers
release sweet scents, sprinkling the realm. Verse 36

Walt 41 Let peacocks there begin to dance
to the songs of heavenly swans,
and let cuckoos make melodies:
on all sides there's a choir of birds. Verse 37

Walt 42 Let all the drums now be sounded;
let all the stringed instruments wail.
Let all the choruses commence
on every side of the palace. Verse 38

Walt 43-44 Let there be couches made of gold —
very large, endowed with brightness,
without blemish, fashioned with gems —
throughout the field of the Buddhas,
and in the universe beyond.

Let the stands of lamps be lighted;
let a series of ten thousand
all burn as though one single flame. Verse 39-40

Walt 45 Let courtesans and dancers dance,
and troupes of celestial nymphs.
Let them put on various shows
on all the sides of the palace. Verse 41

Walt 46 On tree top or mountain top
or the crest of Mount Sineru,
I am raising up all the flags,
decorated and five-colored. Verse 42

Walt 47 Let people, snake-gods, music-nymphs
and all the gods come forth as well;
in homage, hands pressed together,
they attended on the palace. Verse 43

Walt 48 Whatever is wholesome karma,
which deeds were to be done by me,
with body, speech and with my mind,
I did them well to reach heaven. Verse 44

Walt 49 Whichever beings have consciousness
and also those who aren't conscious,
let every one of them receive
the fruit of merit done by me. Verse 45

Walt 50 That which I did was widely known;
I gave away that good deed's fruit
and gods went off to make it known
to all those who were unaware. Verse 46

Walt 51 Let all the beings in all worlds

whose lives depend on eating food
receive by means of my own mind
all appetizing things to eat! Verse 47

Walt 52 With my mind these alms were given,
with my mind the palace was built,
and likewise so were worshipped all
the Buddhas, Lonelies and followers. Verse 48

Walt 53 Due to that karma done very well,
with intention and firm resolve,
discarding my human body
I went to Tāvatiṁsa then. Verse 49

Walt 54 I witness two kinds of rebirth,
as a human and as a god.
I do not witness other states:
that's the fruit of mental wishes. Verse 50

Walt 55 Among the gods I am the chief;
I am the ruler among men.
Endowed with beauty and good marks,
in knowledge unrivaled each birth. Verse 51

Walt 56 Savory foods of different types
and fabulous precious gemstones,
likewise clothes of various sorts
quickly come to me from the sky. Verse 52

Walt 57 On flat earth, so on a mountain,
in the air, in water or woods,
whenever I stretch out my hand,
divine foods are coming to me. Verse 53

Walt 58 On flat earth, so on a mountain,

in the air, in water or woods,
whenever I stretch out my hand,
all gemstones are coming to me. Verse 54

Walt 59 On flat earth, so on a mountain,
in the air, in water or woods,
whenever I stretch out my hand,
all perfumes are coming to me. Verse 55

Walt 60 On flat earth, so on a mountain,
in the air, in water or woods,
whenever I stretch out my hand,
all vehicles then come to me. Verse 56

Walt 61 On flat earth, so on a mountain,
in the air, in water or woods,
whenever I stretch out my hand,
all garlands are coming to me. Verse 57

Walt 62 On flat earth, so on a mountain,
in the air, in water or woods,
whenever I stretch out my hand,
all ornaments then come to me. Verse 58

Walt 63 On flat earth, so on a mountain,
in the air, in water or woods,
whenever I stretch out my hand,
all maidens are coming to me. Verse 59

Walt 64 On flat earth, so on a mountain,
in the air, in water or woods,
whenever I stretch out my hand,
granulated sugar comes to me. Verse 60

Walt 65 On flat earth, so on a mountain,

in the air, in water or woods,
whenever I stretch out my hand,
all solid foodstuffs come to me. Verse 61

Walt 66 To attain supreme Awakening
I gave many excellent gifts
to the poor and to the gypsies,
to beggars and to travelers. Verse 62

Walt 67 Making the rocky mountains shout
and likewise making dense hills roar,
making the world with its gods smile,
I become Buddha in the world. Verse 63

Walt 68 There’s no end to going about
in the world in ten directions.
And in this quarter of the world
the Buddha-fields can’t be counted. Verse 64

Walt 69 My two-fold raying miracle
is splendid and very well-known.
Therein a net of flames appears
and vast effulgence is produced. Verse 65

Walt 70 In so many universes
let all the people see me there.
Let them all be made most happy
and follow me as their model. Verse 66

Walt 71 Beat the drum of deathlessness
with its sweet and distinguished sound.
Let all the people in that space
listen well to the honeyed song. Verse 67

Walt 72 May all of them be undefiled

on whom the cloud of Dhamma rains;
let even lowly beings there
become those who enter the stream. Verse 68

Walt 73 I gave the gifts that should be given,
fully fulfilling the precepts.
Going into perfect disgust,
supreme Awakening's attained. Verse 69

Walt 74 Having inquired of the learned,
having made extreme exertion,
going into perfect patience,
supreme Awakening's attained. Verse 70

Walt 75 Strengthening my resolution,
I fulfilled the truth-perfection.
Going into perfect loving,
supreme Awakening's attained. Verse 71

Walt 76 In getting and in not getting
in pain or pleasure, scorn or fame,
remaining everywhere the same
supreme Awakening's attained. Verse 72

Walt 77 Looking at laziness with fear,
and with love upon exertion,
be those exerting selves with faith;
that's the advice of the Buddhas. Verse 73

Walt 78 Looking at quarrels full of fear
and with love upon agreement,
join together in harmony;
that's the advice of the Buddhas. Verse 74

Walt 79 Looking at carelessness with fear

and with love upon attention,

now cultivate the Eight-fold Path;

that's the advice of the Buddhas. Verse 75

Walt 80 Many Buddhas come together

and also all the arahants.

Pay homage while you're worshipping

the Buddhas and the arahants. Verse 76

Walt 81 Thus the Buddhas can't be fathomed;

unfathomable their Teaching.

Unfathomable's the result

of pleasure in what can't be fathomed. Verse 77

Thus the Blessed One spoke the short discourse on Dhamma called "The Legend of the Buddhas" which was productive of his own Buddha-conduct.

The Legend of the Buddhas is completed.

Translated by Jonathan S. Walters.

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