Tha Ap 14 — 12. Ekatthambhika

English translation by Jonathan S. Walters.

Source: https://suttacentral.net/tha-ap14/en/walters

Source revision: 2d9ca8da858f94302ed6783e2717bf73d651881b

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Completeness: COMPLETE. All text of this pinned standalone English article, including header, verse/reference numbering, closing lines and footer, is preserved. Tha Ap 562–563 have no Walters articles in this edition; no whole-canon claim.

Text

Therāpadāna

The Legends of the Theras

12. Ekatthambhika

Walt 686 The Blessed One named Siddhattha

had a large group of followers.

They had taken the lay refuge

with faith in the Thus-Gone Buddha. Verse 1

Walt 687 They all gathered and decided

to build a hut for the Teacher.

Still in need of one more pillar

they were searching the thick forest. Verse 2

Walt 688 Having seen them in the forest

I then went up to that group there.

Pressing both my hands together

I made inquiries of that group. Verse 3

Walt 689 Those morally-restrained layfolk
asked by me then gave their reply,
“we desire to build a māḷa
but we are still one pillar short.” Verse 4

Walt 690 “Give me the one pillar duty;
I will give it to the Teacher.
I will take that pillar to him,
all of you please now be at ease.” Verse 5

Walt 691 Pleased and with minds full of delight
they felled that pillar for me there,
then having turned around to leave
they went back to their own houses. Verse 6

Walt 692 Not long after that big group left
I then did give him that pillar.
I was the first one to raise it,
happy, and with a happy heart. Verse 7

Walt 693 Because of the pleasure in my heart
I was born in a god’s mansion.
That lofty residence of mine
was one hundred stories in height. Verse 8

Walt 694 When the drums are being beaten,
I am then being entertained.
I was the king, Yasodhara,
in the fifty-fifth aeon thence. Verse 9

Walt 695 There too I had a residence
which was seven stories in height.
Appointed with fine gabled cells
there was one pillar, mind’s delight. Verse 10

Walt 696 In the twenty-first aeon thence

I was the king known as Udena.

There too I had a residence

which was a hundred stories tall. Verse 11

Walt 697 In whichever womb I'm reborn,

whether it's human or divine,

I experience all of that;

that is the fruit of one pillar. Verse 12

Walt 698 In the ninety-four aeons since

I gave him that pillar back then,

I've come to know no bad rebirth;

that is the fruit of one pillar. Verse 13

Walt 699 The four analytical modes,

and these eight deliverances,

six special knowledges mastered,

I have done what the Buddha taught! Verse 14

Thus indeed Venerable Ekatthambhika Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ekatthambhika Thera is finished.

Translated by Jonathan S. Walters.

Whitman College, 2017

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