Tha Ap 341 — 336. {339.} Dhammasavaniya

English translation by Jonathan S. Walters.

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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

336. {339.} Dhammasavaniya

Walt 3042 The Victor, Padumuttara,

was the Master of Everything.

While preaching the Four Noble Truths,

he ferried many folks across. Verse 1

Walt 3043 A matted-haired ascetic then,

I practiced fierce austerities.

Throwing off my clothes made of bark,

I traveled in the sky back then. Verse 2

Walt 3044 Then I was unable to fly

over him, the Best of Buddhas.

Like a bird hitting a mountain,

I did not get to journey on. Verse 3

Walt 3045 My movement had not formerly
been obstructed in such a way;
as though rising up from water,
I easily flew through the sky. Verse 4

Walt 3046 “A lofty human being must
be sitting underneath me now.
It’s good for me to search for him;
I might obtain something worthwhile.” Verse 5

Walt 3047 Then descending from the sky, I
heard the sound of the Teacher,
who was preaching impermanence;
I learned that lesson at that time. Verse 6

Walt 3048 Learning to see impermanence
I went back to my hermitage.
Dwelling there the rest of my life,
I passed away right on the spot. Verse 7

Walt 3049 In my subsequent existence,
I recalled hearing that Teaching.
Due to that karma done very well,
I went to Tāvatiṁsa then. Verse 8

Walt 3050 For thirty thousand aeons I
delighted in the world of gods.
And I exercised divine rule,
one more than fifty different times. Verse 9

Walt 3051 And seventy-one different times
I was a wheel-turning monarch.
There was also much local rule,
innumerable by counting. Verse 10

Walt 3052 Then seated in my father’s house,
a monk with senses well-controlled,
illustrating the truth in verse,
spoke of things as impermanent. Verse 11

Walt 3053 Remembering that perception,
transmigrating from birth to birth,
I still did not perceive the end,
nirvana, everlasting state. Verse 12

Walt 3054 “In flux indeed is all that is;
things come to be and then decay.
They arise and then they dissolve;
their cessation is happiness.” Verse 13

Walt 3055 After hearing him say that verse,
I recalled my past perception.
Seated in a single sitting,
I achieved the arahant-state. Verse 14

Walt 3056 Being only seven years old,
I attained my arahantship.
Recognizing my virtue the
Buddha, Eyeful One ordained me. Verse 15

Walt 3057 Even though I was a mere boy,
I finished what needs to be done.
Today what do I need to do
in the Śākyan’s dispensation? Verse 16

Walt 3058 In the hundred thousand aeons
since I did that good karma then,
I’ve come to know no bad rebirth:
the fruit in hearing the Teaching. Verse 17

Walt 3059 The four analytical modes,

and these eight deliverances,

six special knowledges mastered,

I have done what the Buddha taught! Verse 18

Thus indeed Venerable Dhammasavaniya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Dhammasavaniya Thera is finished.

Translated by Jonathan S. Walters.

Whitman College, 2017

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