Tha Ap 399 — 394. {397.} Girimānanda

English translation by Jonathan S. Walters.

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Text

Therāpadāna

The Legends of the Theras

394. {397.} Girimānanda

Walt 3791 My wife had passed away, my son

had gone to the cemetery;

on a single pyre I had burned

my mother, father, and brothers. Verse 1

Walt 3792 I was consumed due to that grief,

I had become haggard and pale

and I was mentally deranged,

greatly pained because of that grief. Verse 2

Walt 3793 Wounded by the arrow of grief,

I went up to the forest’s edge.

Eating only wild fruits I found,

I dwelt at the foot of a tree. Verse 3

Walt 3794 The Sambuddha named Sumedha,
the Victor, Ender of Dis-ease,
with a desire to lift me up,
did come into my presence then. Verse 4

Walt 3795 Having heard the sound of the feet
of Sumedha, the Sage So Great,
I having lifted up my head
did gaze upon him, the Great Sage. Verse 5

Walt 3796 When he, the Great Hero, approached,
then joy did get produced for me.
Having seen him, the World-Leader,
my mind at last was put at ease. Verse 6

Walt 3797 Having recovered consciousness,
I gave him a handful of leaves.
The Blessed One then sat down there,
out of compassion, Eyeful One. Verse 7

Walt 3798 Sitting down there, the Blessed One,
Sumedha, Leader of the World,
Buddha preached to me the Teaching
that removes the arrows of grief: Verse 8

Walt 3799 “Uninvited they’ve come from there;
not taking leave they’ve gone from here.
As they have come, so they have gone;
what good is wailing about that? Verse 9

Walt 3800 Just as, when rain is raining down,
people traveling on the road,
taking their goods, are going to
a place where the rain’s not falling, Verse 10

Walt 3801 and when the rain has ceased to fall,
they carry on as they had planned;
thus your mother and father too:
what good is wailing about that? Verse 11

Walt 3802 We're all visiting strangers, guests,
wavering, driven on, shaken.
Thus your mother and father too:
what good is wailing about that? Verse 12

Walt 3803 Just as a serpent slithers on,
abandoning its worn-out skin,
thus your mother and father too:
their bodies are abandoned here." Verse 13

Walt 3804 Understanding the Buddha's words,
I removed the arrow of grief.
Generating happiness, I
worshipped the Best of the Buddhas. Verse 14

Walt 3805 Worshipping the Great Elephant,
I offered Sumedha, Leader
of the World, a stalk of flowers
endowed with a heavenly scent. Verse 15

Walt 3806 Having worshipped the Sambuddha,
pressing my hands upon my head,
calling to mind his chief virtues,
I praised the Leader of the World: Verse 16

Walt 3807 "Great Hero, you're the One Who's Crossed,
Omniscient One, the World-Leader.
You are lifting up all creatures
with your knowledge, O Sage So Great. Verse 17

Walt 3808 You cut off all perplexity
and also doubt, O Sage So Great.
You’re imparting the path to me
through your knowledge, O Eyeful One. Verse 18

Walt 3809 Arahants with the goal attained,
six-knowledge-holders, powerful,
wise ones who travel in the sky,
are surrounding you all the time. Verse 19

Walt 3810 Your followers are bearing fruit,
those attained and those being trained;
your followers are blossoming
like lotus flowers at sunrise. Verse 20

Walt 3811 As the ocean is unperturbed,
unequaled, difficult to cross,
thus too are you, O Eyeful One,
Endowed with Knowledge, Infinite.” Verse 21

Walt 3812 Having worshipped the World’s Victor,
the Eyeful One, he of Great Fame,
praising each of the directions,
crouched over I went off from there. Verse 22

Walt 3813 Falling from the world of the gods,
transmigrating from birth to birth,
I came out of my mother’s womb,
attentive and remembering. Verse 23

Walt 3814 Having departed from the house,
I went forth into homelessness.
Zealous, also intelligent,
I pastured in meditation. Verse 24

Walt 3815 Having put forth great exertion,
having gladdened the Sage So Great,
I thereafter am wandering,
like the moon freed from a cloud-bank. Verse 25

Walt 3816 I'm now intent on seclusion,
calmed, devoid of grounds for rebirth;
knowing well all the defilements,
I am now living, undefiled. Verse 26

Walt 3817 In the thirty thousand aeons
since I worshipped the Buddha then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of Buddha-pūjā. Verse 27

Walt 3818 My defilements are now burnt up;
all new existence is destroyed.
All defilements are exhausted;
now there will be no more rebirth. Verse 28

Walt 3819 Being in Best Buddha's presence
was a very good thing for me.
The three knowledges are attained;
I have done what the Buddha taught! Verse 29

Walt 3820 The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
I have done what the Buddha taught! Verse 30

Thus indeed Venerable Girimānanda Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Girimānanda Thera is finished.

Translated by Jonathan S. Walters.

Whitman College, 2017

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