Tha Ap 406 — 401. {404.} Dhotaka

English translation by Jonathan S. Walters.

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Text

Therāpadāna

The Legends of the Theras

401. {404.} Dhotaka

Walt 3962 The River named Bhāgīrathī

is fed by the Himalayas.

It is always flowing along,

past the gate of Haṁsavatī. Verse 1

Walt 3963 The hermitage named Sobhita,

well-built, is on the river’s slopes.

The Buddha, Padumuttara,

the World’s Leader, was dwelling there. Verse 2

Walt 3964 He was honored the people,

like Indra by the thirty gods.

The Blessed One was seated there

fearlessly just like a lion. Verse 3

Walt 3965 I was a brahmin living in
the city of Haṁsavatī.
My name back then was Chalaṇga,
named thus because I was a sage. Verse 4

Walt 3966 One thousand eight hundred students
were surrounding me at that time.
Joined together with those students,
I went up to the riverbank. Verse 5

Walt 3967 At that place I saw Buddhist monks,
without deceit, cleansed of evil,
crossing Bhāgīrathī River.
At that time I reflected thus: Verse 6

Walt 3968 “These sons of Buddha, of great fame,
are crossing evening and morning;
they are being troubled themselves,
and their things are getting ruined. Verse 7

Walt 3969 The Buddha’s said to be the Chief
of the world including the gods.
I have not yet made donations
that would cleanse my road to rebirth. Verse 8

Walt 3970 Why then don’t I get a bridge built
on the river for Best Buddha?
Causing that work to be done, I’ll
transmigrate in this existence.” Verse 9

Walt 3971 Donating a hundred thousand
I had a bridge built for him there,
trusting that “doing this deed will
be of great advantage to me.” Verse 10

Walt 3972 Having caused that bridge to be built,
I went up to the World-Leader.
Hands pressed together on my head,
I spoke these words to him back then: Verse 11

Walt 3973 “Donating one hundred thousand,
I’ve caused this magnificent bridge
to be constructed for your sake;
please accept it, O Sage So Great.” Verse 12

Walt 3974 Padumuttara, World-Knower,
Sacrificial Recipient,
seated in the monks’ Assembly,
spoke these verses about me then: Verse 13

Walt 3975 “He who had this bridge built for me,
feeling well-pleased by his own hands,
I shall relate details of him;
all of you listen to my words: Verse 14

Walt 3976 Fallen into a cave or from
the top of a mountain or tree,
even dying he will get caught:
that’s the fruit of giving bridges. Verse 15

Walt 3977 As the wind does not disturb a
banyan spreading its growing roots,
enemies will not defeat him:
that’s the fruit of giving bridges. Verse 16

Walt 3978 No thieves are going to defeat him
and the king will not despise him.
He’ll surpass all his enemies:
that’s the fruit of giving bridges. Verse 17

Walt 3979 Even in an unsheltered space,
being scorched by the sun's harsh heat,
conforming with his good karma,
he won't feel any discomfort. Verse 18

Walt 3980 In the world of gods or of men,
a well-built elephant-carriage
all of the time will come to be,
discerning what he is thinking. Verse 19

Walt 3981 A thousand fast carriages with
Sindh horses as quick as the wind
will come to him evening and morning:
that's the fruit of giving bridges. Verse 20

Walt 3982 Having come to the human state,
this one is going to be happy;
here too for this very man the
elephant-carriage will appear. Verse 21

Walt 3983 In one hundred thousand aeons,
arising in Okkāka's clan,
the one whose name is Gotama
will be the Teacher in the world. Verse 22

Walt 3984 Worthy heir to that one's Dhamma,
Dhamma's legitimate offspring,
knowing well all the defilements
he'll reach nirvana, undefiled." Verse 23

Walt 3985 O! that karma well-done by me
for him whose name is "Best Lotus."
Having done that deed for him there,
I attained my arahantship. Verse 24

Walt 3986 Having put forth exertion, I’m

calmed, devoid of grounds for rebirth;

like elephants with broken chains,

I am living without constraint. Verse 25

Walt 3988 My defilements are now burnt up;

all new existence is destroyed.

All defilements are exhausted;

now there will be no more rebirth. Verse 26

Walt 3987 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 27

Walt 3989 The four analytical modes,

and these eight deliverances,

six special knowledges mastered,

I have done what the Buddha taught! Verse 28

Thus indeed Venerable Dhotaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Dhotaka Thera is finished.

Translated by Jonathan S. Walters.

Whitman College, 2017

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