Tha Ap 429 — 424. {427.} Ekadhammasavanīya

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

424. {427.} Ekadhammasavanīya

Walt 4548 The Victor, Padumuttara,

was the Master of Everything.

While preaching the Four Noble Truths,

he ferried many folks across. Verse 1

Walt 4549 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 4550 I am not then able to go

over him, the Best of Buddhas.

Like a bird that has struck a rock,

I am unable to proceed. Verse 3

Walt 4551 Having walked upon the water,
so I am flying through the sky.
Previously my behavior
never had been interrupted. Verse 4

Walt 4552-4553 “Well now I’ll investigate that.
I might get some small benefit.”
Descending from the sky I then
heard the sweet sound of the Teacher,
who was preaching impermanence
with a voice that was enticing,
good to listen to, beautiful.
I took up that Teaching back then. Verse 5-6

Walt 4554 Having perceived impermanence,
I went back to my hermitage.
Remaining as long as I lived,
I later passed away right there. Verse 7

Walt 4555 In subsequent existences,
I recalled hearing the Teaching.
Due to that karma done very well,
with intention and firm resolve,
discarding my human body,
I went to Tāvatiṁsa then. Verse 8

Walt 4556 For thirty thousand aeons I
delighted in the world of gods,
and fifty-one times while there, I
exercised rule over the gods. Verse 9

Walt 4557 And twenty-one times I was then
a king who turns the wheel of law.

And I enjoyed much local rule,
innumerable by counting. Verse 10

Walt 4558 I enjoyed my own good karma,
being happy from birth to birth.
Recalling that perception, I
transmigrated from birth to birth.
I do not comprehend the end,
nirvana, the eternal state. Verse 11

Walt 4559 Sitting down in my father's house,
a monk with senses well-controlled
was then explaining this sermon,
spoken about impermanence: Verse 12

Walt 4560 "In flux indeed is all that is;
things that arise and then decline
are being born and then dying;
happy is the relief from them." Verse 13

Walt 4561 Right after having heard that verse,
I recalled my past perception.
Sitting down on a single seat,
I attained my arahantship. Verse 14

Walt 4562 When only seven years of age,
I attained my arahantship.
The Buddha himself ordained me:
the fruit of hearing the Teaching. Verse 15

Walt 4563 In the hundred thousand aeons
since I heard the Teaching back then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
the fruit of hearing the Teaching. Verse 16

Walt 4564 My defilements are now burnt up;

all new existence is destroyed.

Like elephants with broken chains,

I am living without constraint. Verse 17

Walt 4565 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 18

Walt 4566 The four analytical modes,

and these eight deliverances,

six special knowledges mastered,

I have done what the Buddha taught! Verse 19

Thus indeed Venerable Ekadhammasavanīya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ekadhammasavanīya Thera is finished.

Translated by Jonathan S. Walters.

Whitman College, 2017

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