Thi Ap 15 — 15. Pañcadīpikā

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

Therīpadāna

The Legends of the Therīs

15. Pañcadīpikā

Walt 190 In the city, Haṁsavatī,

I was a wanderer back then.

From ashram to monastery,

I wandered desiring the good. Verse 1

Walt 191 One day when the moon was waning,

I saw the supreme Bodhi Tree.

Bringing pleasure to my heart there,

I sat down at that Bodhi’s roots. Verse 2

Walt 192 Standing, with a heart of reverence,

hands pressed together on my head,

knowing mental happiness there,

I then reflected in this way: Verse 3

Walt 193 “If he has limitless virtue,
is unique, without a rival,
let Buddha show me a marvel;
let him make this Bodhi Tree shine.” Verse 4

Walt 194 When I made that aspiration,
the Bodhi Tree did then blaze up.
It shined forth in all directions,
displaying every good color. Verse 5

Walt 195 Seven nights and days I sat there,
at the roots of that Bodhi Tree,
and when the seventh day arrived,
I made an offering of lamps. Verse 6

Walt 196 Setting them around my seat there,
I proceeded to light five lamps.
And then my lamps all remained lit,
until the sun did rise again. Verse 7

Walt 197 Due to that karma done very well,
with intention and firm resolve,
discarding my human body,
I went to Tāvatiṁsa then. Verse 8

Walt 198 There my well-made divine mansion
was known as “Pañcadīpī” then.
It was full sixty leagues in height,
and thirty leagues in width back then. Verse 9

Walt 199 Uncountable numbers of lamps
are burning in my surroundings.
The divine world is then lit up
with lamp-light, up to its edges. Verse 10

Walt 200 If when standing looking eastward,
I should desire to see something,
above, below, also across,
I see everything with my eyes. Verse 11

Walt 201 As far as I should wish to see,
things well done and things not well done,
there's no obstruction to my sight
in the trees and the mountains there. Verse 12

Walt 202 I was fixed in the chief queen's place
of eighty kings among the gods.
I was fixed in the chief queen's place
of one hundred wheel-turning kings. Verse 13

Walt 203 In whichever womb I'm reborn,
whether it's human or divine,
in my surroundings, a whole lakh
of lamps are burning there for me. Verse 14

Walt 204 Fallen from the world of the gods,
I was born in a mother's womb.
While I was in that mother's womb
my eyes were open all the time. Verse 15

Walt 205 Due to my having good karma,
an entire hundred thousand lamps
are lit in the lying-in room:
that's the fruit of giving five lamps. Verse 16

Walt 206 When my final rebirth occurred,
I turned my mind away from lust.
I attained the unaging and
undying cool state, nirvana. Verse 17

Walt 207 When I was but seven years old,
I attained my arahantship.
The Buddha ordained me right then:
that’s the fruit of giving five lamps. Verse 18

Walt 208 Meditating on a platform,
beneath a tree, empty spots,
a lamp is always burning there:
that’s the fruit of giving five lamps. Verse 19

Walt 209 My “divine eye” is purified;
I am skilled in concentration.
I excel in special knowledges:
that’s the fruit of giving five lamps. Verse 20

Walt 210 Every achievement is achieved;
my duty’s done, I’m undefiled.
Five Lamps is now worshipping your
feet, Great Hero, o Eyeful One. Verse 21

Walt 211 In the hundred thousand aeons
since I gave him those lamps back then,
I’ve come to know no bad rebirth:
that’s the fruit of giving five lamps. Verse 22

Walt 212 My defilements are now burnt up;
all new existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. Verse 23

Walt 213 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 24

Walt 214 The four analytical modes,

and these eight deliverances,

six special knowledges mastered,

I have done what the Buddha taught! Verse 25

Thus indeed Bhikkhunī Pañcadīpikā spoke these verses.

The legend of Pañcadīpikā Therī is finished.

Translated by Jonathan S. Walters.

Whitman College, 2017

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