

Cunda

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## [50. Cunda]

Having had a festoon work<sup>1</sup> made  
for the World's Best, the Neutral One,  
the Blessed One [named] Siddhattha,  
I covered it with jasmine flowers. (1) [1239]

After [I] finished [placing] flowers,  
I [then] gave it to the Buddha.  
Picking up the remaining flowers,  
I offered [them] to the Buddha. (2) [1240]

Happy, with pleasure in [my] heart  
I gave that floral festoon work  
to the Buddha, World's Chief Leader,  
like a festoon work [made] of gold. (3) [1241]

The Sambuddha, With Doubt Dispelled,  
Honored by Those Who've Crossed the Flood,<sup>2</sup>  
seated in the monks' Assembly,  
spoke these verses [about me then]: (4) [1242]

"I'll relate details of him who  
gave me a floral festoon work  
permeated with divine scents;  
[all of] you listen to my words: (5) [1243]

When he's fallen from here, this man  
will go on to the world of gods,  
a god-assembly around [him],  
scattered with jasmine flowers [there]. (6) [1244]

His residence, jutting up tall,  
will be made of gold and gemstones.  
That divine mansion will blaze forth,  
illuminated by [his] good karma.<sup>3</sup> (7) [1245]

He will exercise divine rule  
seventy-four [different] times.  
Waited on by celestial nymphs,  
he will enjoy great happiness. (8) [1246]

<sup>1</sup>*agghiya*, BJTS Sinh. gloss *ägāya* (Sinh-Eng dict *ägāva*: candelabrum, festoon work for lamps, lamp canopy or arch)

<sup>2</sup>those who had crossed the flood [of *samsāra*], i.e., arahants

<sup>3</sup>reading *vyamhaṃ pātubhavissati puññakammaṃ pabhāvitāṃ* (BJTS) for *vyamhā pātubhavissanti puññakammaṃ pabhāvitā* (PTS).

He will reside upon the earth  
[and] have three hundred earthly reigns.  
Five hundred times he's going to be  
a king who turns the wheel [of law]. (9) [1247]

He will be a human monarch  
known by the name of Dujjaya.<sup>4</sup>  
He'll experience that merit  
without knowing his own karma. (10) [1248]

Not going<sup>5</sup> to a place of grief  
he will go to a human state.  
[There will] be heaps of gold [for him],  
very much, [counted in] billions. (11) [1249]

He will be reborn in the world;  
he will [then] be a brahmin man,  
beloved own son of Sārī,  
[and] the wise son of Vaṅgata. (12) [1250]

Then he'll go forth in the Shiny-  
Bodied<sup>6</sup> [Buddha's] dispensation.  
His name will be Cūlacunda,<sup>7</sup>  
a follower of the Teacher. (13) [1251]

[Even] when he is a novice,  
he will become an arahant.<sup>8</sup>  
Knowing well all the defilements  
he'll reach nirvana, undefiled." (14) [1252]

To attain the ultimate goal  
I waited on my [own] brother,<sup>9</sup>  
the Great Hero who'd arisen,  
and many pleasant<sup>10</sup> others, too. (15) [1253]

Serving my brother, when he died,  
I put [his] relics in [his] bowl  
[and] gave [it] to the Sambuddha,  
the World's Best One, the Bull of Men. (16) [1254]

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<sup>4</sup>"Difficult to Conquer".

<sup>5</sup>reading *agantvāna* (BJTS) for *āgantvāna* ("come into," PTS).

<sup>6</sup>i.e., the Buddha's dispensation. See above, n. to [1166]

<sup>7</sup>"Small Cunda"

<sup>8</sup>lit., "one whose defilements are destroyed"

<sup>9</sup>his brother was another of Sārī's sons, i.e., Sāriputta

<sup>10</sup>*pesale* = pleasant, beloved. Cty understands this to mean others among the original arahants in the dispensation of Gotama Buddha

The Buddha in [this] world with gods  
 picked up [that bowl] with both his hands.  
 Paying respect to those relics,  
 he praised the top follower [then].<sup>11</sup> (17) [1255]

My mind is now completely freed  
 and faith is established in me.  
 Knowing well all the defilements,  
 I am [now] living, undefiled. (18) [1256]

The four analytical modes,  
 and these eight deliverances,  
 six special knowledges mastered,  
 [I have] done what the Buddha taught! (19) [1257]

Thus indeed Venerable Cunda Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Cunda Thera is finished.

The Summary:

Upāli, Soṇa, Bhaddiya,  
 Sannidhāpaka, Hatthiya,  
 Chadana, Seyya-Cankamaṃ  
 Subhadda, the one named Cunda:  
 one hundred and forty verses  
 and another four besides [those].

The Upāli Chapter, the Fifth.

<sup>11</sup>Sāriputta, Cunda's brother, was the Buddha's top follower.