

# Campakapupphiya

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*Printed August 2022*

### [136. Campakapupphiya<sup>1</sup>]

[I saw Buddha], the Morning Star,<sup>2</sup>  
shining like a dinner-plate tree,<sup>3</sup>  
sitting down within a mountain,  
surveying all the directions. (1) [1909]

There were three young brahmin men then,  
well-trained in their own [brahmin] arts.<sup>4</sup>  
Taking ascetics' provisions,  
they were coming up behind me. (2) [1910]

In a bag were seven flowers  
those ascetics had laid down [there].  
Having picked them up I gave them  
for the knowledge of Vessabhu. (3) [1911]

In the thirty-one aeons since  
I offered those flowers [to it],  
I've come to know no bad rebirth:  
that's the fruit of knowledge-*pūjā*. (4) [1912]

In the twenty-ninth aeon [hence,]  
[a king] known as Vihatābha,<sup>5</sup>  
was a wheel-turner with great strength,  
possessor of the seven gems. (5) [1913]

The four analytical modes,  
and these eight deliverances,  
six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [1914]

Thus indeed Venerable Campakapupphiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Campakapupphiya Thera is finished.

<sup>1</sup>"Campaka-Flower-er". The *campaka* (Sinh. *sapu*) tree is *Magnolia champaca*, formerly classified as *michelia champaca*. English names for the tree include Champak, Joy Perfume Tree, Yellow Jade Orchid Tree and Fragrant Himalayan Champaca. It was the Bodhi tree of the seventeenth Buddha of the *Buddhavaṃsa*, Atthadassi. It has highly fragrant cream to yellowish-colored blossoms.

<sup>2</sup>*osadhī*. RD (s.v.) points out that all we really know about this star is that it was particularly bright, leading Childers to translate it as "Venus" and others as the morning star.

<sup>3</sup>*kaṇṇikāra*, *kaṇikāra* = Sinhala *kinihiriya*, *Pterospermum acerifolium*, produces a brilliant mass of yellow flowers; Engl. a.k.a. karnikar, bayur tree, maple-leaf bayur, caniyar (now archaic?), dinner-plate tree; Bodhi tree of Siddhattha Buddha.

<sup>4</sup>presumably sacrificing, chanting mantras, and forth.

<sup>5</sup>"Bright Light"