

Sālapupphadāyaka

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[139. Sālapupphadāyaka¹]

I was the king of beasts back then,
 a [wild] lion who was fearless.
 While hunting² in a mountain crag,³
 I saw the Leader of the World. (1) [1928]

“This one would be the Great Hero;
 he will liberate many folks.⁴
 Well then oughtn’t I approach the
 God of Gods, the Bull among Men?” (2) [1929]

Breaking a branch of a *sal* tree
 I carried [it], flowers [and] buds.⁵
 Having approached the Sambuddha,
 I gave [him] those superb flowers. (3) [1930]

In the ninety-one aeons since
 I offered those flowers [to him],
 I’ve come to know no bad rebirth:
 that’s the fruit of flower-*pūjā*. (4) [1931]

And in the ninth aeon ago
 there were three [different] kings [back then]
 known by the name Virocana,⁶
 wheel-turning monarchs with great strength. (5) [1932]

The four analytical modes,
 and these eight deliverances,
 six special knowledges mastered,
 [I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [1933]

Thus indeed Venerable Sālapupphadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Sālapupphadāyaka Thera is finished.

¹“Sal-Flower-Giver”

²lit., “searching” “foraging”

³lit., “a place on a mountain difficult of access.”

⁴lit., “he will make many people attain nirvana”.

⁵reading *sakosaṃ* (BJTS) for *sakoṭaṇ* (PTS). The cty reads *sakeṭaṃ* and glosses it *sakaṇṇikaṃ* (“with a pinnacle”? “with the ears”?)

⁶“Shiny”