

# Asokapūjaka

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### [194. Asokapūjaka<sup>1</sup>]

In lovely Tivarā City,  
there was a royal garden then.  
I was a royal attendant,<sup>2</sup>  
the warden of the garden there. (1) [2230]

The Self-Become One, Full of Light,<sup>3</sup>  
named Paduma was [Buddha then].  
Sitting in a lotus' shade  
that Sage had not [yet] left [the world].<sup>4</sup> (2) [2231]

Seeing an ashoka<sup>5</sup> in bloom  
heavy with clusters, beautiful,  
I gave a bloom to the Buddha,  
the excellent-lotus-named Sage. (3) [2232]

In the ninety-four aeons since  
I offered that flower [to him,]  
I've come to know no bad rebirth:  
that's the fruit of Buddha-pūjā. (4) [2233]

In the seventieth aeon  
were sixteen Aruṇañjahas,<sup>6</sup>  
wheel-turning monarchs with great strength,  
possessors of the seven gems. (5) [2234]

The four analytical modes,  
and these eight deliverances,  
six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [2235]

Thus indeed Venerable Asokapūjaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Asokapūjaka Thera is finished.

<sup>1</sup>“Offerer of Ashoka [Blossoms]”

<sup>2</sup>BJTS reads *baddhacaro*. Cty explains the term: “I was the servant, the employee of the king”

<sup>3</sup>*sappabho*

<sup>4</sup>*na jahitaṇṇ muniṇṇ*, taking *jahita* from *jahati* to abandon, leave, relinquish, quit, give up (Sinh. *at harīma*)

<sup>5</sup>Jonesia Asoka, *Saraca asoca*; a large, flowering tree with dense clusters of red flowers

<sup>6</sup>“Abandoning the Sun”