

# Vaṅṅakāra

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**[236. Vaṇṇakāraka<sup>1</sup>]**

In Aruṇavatī city  
I was a dyer at that time.  
With various colors I dyed  
the cloth items on the stupa.<sup>2</sup> (1) [2446]

In the thirty-one aeons since  
I dyed with colors at that time,  
I've come to know no bad rebirth;  
that's the fruit of giving colors. (2) [2447]

In the twenty-third aeon hence  
[I was one] named Candupama,<sup>3</sup>  
a wheel-turning king with great strength,  
possessor of the seven gems. (3) [2448]

The four analytical modes,  
and these eight deliverances,  
six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (4) [2449]

Thus indeed Venerable Vaṇṇakāraka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Vaṇṇakāraka Thera is finished.

<sup>1</sup>“Dyer” (*vaṇṇa* = color, hence lit., “color-er;” cf. *vaṇṇaka*, dye, perfume)

<sup>2</sup>*cetiya*. These would presumably consist of banners, flags, and/or girdles attached to the stupa. *Cetiya* can also mean any shrine, so it is also possible that we should think of the cloths as curtains, robes on statues, and/or table cloths in an image house, or flags and so forth attached to a Bodhi tree.

<sup>3</sup>“Moon-like” or “Similar to the Moon”