

# Nalīnakesariya

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*Printed August 2022*

### [243. Naḷinakesariya<sup>1</sup>]

I was a water bird<sup>2</sup> who dwelled  
within a natural lake<sup>3</sup> [there].  
Then I saw [him], the God of Gods,  
[when] he was flying<sup>4</sup> through the sky. (1) [2470]

With a mind that was very clear  
I plucked some pollen<sup>5</sup> with my beak  
[and then] offered it to Tissa,  
the Buddha, Kinsman of the World. (2) [2471]

In the ninety-two aeons since  
I did *pūjā* [with] that flower,  
I've come to know no bad rebirth:  
that's the fruit of Buddha-*pūjā*. (3) [2472]

In the seventy-third aeon  
I was [one] named Satapatta,<sup>6</sup>  
a wheel-turning king with great strength,  
possessor of the seven gems. (4) [2473]

The four analytical modes,  
and these eight deliverances,  
six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (5) [2474]

Thus indeed Venerable Naḷinakesariya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Naḷinakesariya Thera is finished.

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<sup>1</sup>“Lotus-Lake-er”

<sup>2</sup>*jalakukkuṭa* = water-fowl, a duck or something similar.

<sup>3</sup>This follows the BJTS gloss, which follows the cty. lit., “living in the center of a self-produced lake”

<sup>4</sup>lit., “going”

<sup>5</sup>*kesarij* = flower pollen (or filaments, “hairs”). BJTS understands this to be the pollen of a lotus blossom growing on the lake.

<sup>6</sup>“Lotus Flower”