

# Bhojanadāyaka

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### [312. Bhojanadāyaka<sup>1</sup>]

Of good birth like a *sal* tree's<sup>2</sup> bough,  
 rising up like a drumstick tree,<sup>3</sup>  
 [streaking] the sky like Indra's bolt,<sup>4</sup>  
 the Victor was always shining. (1) [2771]

With a mind that was very clear,  
 I donated edibles to  
 him, the God Over Other Gods,  
 Vessabhu [Buddha], the Great Sage. (2) [2772]

The Self-Become, Unconquered One,  
 the Buddha, gave me thanks<sup>5</sup> for that:  
 "let it be born as fruit for you,  
 as [you're] reborn in existence."<sup>6</sup> (3) [2773]

In the thirty-one aeons since  
 I gave that gift [to him] back then,  
 I've come to know no bad rebirth:  
 that is the fruit of [giving] food. (4) [2774]

In the twenty-five aeon hence  
 there was one man, Amittabhā,<sup>7</sup>  
 a wheel-turning king with great strength,  
 possessor of the seven gems. (5) [2775]

The four analytical modes,  
 and these eight deliverances,

<sup>1</sup>"Food Donor"

<sup>2</sup>= *sāla*, *shorea robusta*

<sup>3</sup>*sobhañjana*. RD (sole citation J v. 405) says *Hyperanthica moringa*, but that designation seems to be known only here and in citations of this dictionary. The proper designation of the tree (Sinh. *murunga*) is *Moringaceae moringa* (it is the only genus of that larger family, with thirteen species indigenous to Africa and Asia). English "Drumstick Tree" "Horseradish tree" (due to horseradish-like flavor of the roots,) "Benzoil Tree" for an oil extracted from its seeds, produces clusters of fragrant pale yellowish flowers followed by a long seedpod which is eaten as a vegetable across the Indian world (in which it grows easily; broken branches will bear fruit within a year of replanting, and it grows for the light, tall and lanky, such that it's demise is often the result of its size, whether through breaking off or becoming a nuisance)

<sup>4</sup>*indalaṭṭhi*, i.e., lightening (or the rainbow, in which case translating "[painting] the sky like Inda's bow" would preserve the play in the original, which parallels this simile with the comparison to the *sal* branch or sprout [also °*laṭṭhi*] in the first line). Cone has an entry on *indalaṭṭhi*, based on Ap witness alone, which similarly leaves the ambiguity between rainbow and lightening unresolved.

<sup>5</sup>*anumodi*

<sup>6</sup>lit., "in existence," in the cycle of reincarnation, *bhave*

<sup>7</sup>"Light for the Friendless"

six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [2776]

Thus indeed Venerable Bhojanadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Bhojanadāyaka Thera is finished.