

Bodhivandaka

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Bodhivandaka Chapter, the Thirty-Eighth

[368. {371.}¹ Bodhivandaka²]

I saw a green *pāṭali*³ tree,
 foot-drinker growing in the earth.⁴
 Resolutely⁵ pressing my hands,
 I worshipped [that] *pāṭali* [tree]. (1) [3220]

Having pressed hands together,
 filling⁶ [my] mind [with] reverence,
 purified [both] inside [and] out,⁷
 I worshipped [that] *pāṭali* [tree]
 as though before⁸ the Sambuddha,
 Well-Liberated, Undefined,⁹
 Vipassi, Honored by the World,
 Sea of Compassion and Knowledge. (2-3) [3221-3222]

In the ninety-one aeons since
 I worshipped that Bodhi [tree then],
 I've come to know no bad rebirth:
 that is the fruit of worshipping. (4) [3223]

The four analytical modes,
 and these eight deliverances,
 six special knowledges mastered,
 [I have] done what the Buddha taught! (5) [3224]

Thus indeed Venerable Bodhivandaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Bodhivandaka Thera is finished.

¹*Apadāna* numbers provided in {fancy brackets} correspond to the BJTS edition, which contains more individual poems than does the PTS edition dictating the main numbering of this translation.

²“Bodhi [Tree] Worshipper.”

³Sinh. *paḷol*, *Bignonia suaveolens*, *sterospermum suaveolens* (*Bignon.*), trumpet-flower tree, the Bodhi Tree of Vipassi Buddha. Cf. #71, #78, #96, #248, #255, #369{372}.

⁴The foot consists of two different words for “tree”: *dharaṇī-rūha* (“growing in the earth”) and *pādapa* (“drinking from the feet [or roots]”). Though awkward in English, I translate literally here rather than give the non-descriptive “tree, which was a tree”.

⁵*ekaṅsam*, with certainty, definitively, absolutely.

⁶lit., “making”

⁷*antosuddhaṅ bahiṅ suddhaṅ* (reading *bahisuddhaṅ* with BJTS and PTS alt.), lit., “purified inside, purified outside.” I follow BJTS Sinhala gloss in taking this as referring to the donor (or perhaps, in an adverbial sense, to his worship) rather than — as is also grammatically possible — as a Buddha-epithet, i.e., He Who is Purified [Both] Inside [and] Out”

⁸*sammukhā viya*, lit., “as though face to face with”

⁹*anāsava*