

# Puṇṇaka

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[399. {402.}]<sup>1</sup> Puṇṇaka<sup>2</sup>]

The Self-Become, Unconquered One,  
the Buddha, who had an illness,  
was living amidst the mountains,  
near the top of a mountain slope. (1) [3919]

All around my hermitage [there,]  
when Buddha was passing away,<sup>3</sup>  
there was shouting out all the time,  
there was [brilliant] light all the time. (2) [3920]

Throughout that forest grove all the  
bears<sup>4</sup> and wolves,<sup>5</sup> *kara bānā* bears,<sup>6</sup>  
the tigers<sup>7</sup> and the lions too,  
are roaring loudly all the time. (3) [3921]

After seeing those strange omens<sup>8</sup>  
I ascended<sup>9</sup> the mountain slope.  
There I saw [him], the Sambuddha,  
passed away,<sup>10</sup> the Unconquered One,  
like a regal *sal* tree in bloom,  
like the risen hundred-rayed [sun],  
aglow like charcoal [that's still hot],  
passed away,<sup>11</sup> the Unconquered One. (4-5) [3922-3923]

Making it full of grass and sticks,  
I [then] made a pyre [for him] there.  
Having made [that] well-fashioned pyre,  
I cremated [the Buddha's] corpse. (6) [3924]

<sup>1</sup>*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.

<sup>2</sup>"Full One," a historical monk, to whom the *Puṇṇovāda Sutta* (M. iii. 267ff.;S. iv. 60 ff) was preached. Cty (p. 484) says he was the leader of an army of *yakkhas*, but I do not see that detail in the extant text.

<sup>3</sup>*buddhe nibbāyamānamhi* (loc. abs. construction)

<sup>4</sup>*accha*°, Sinh. gloss *valassu*

<sup>5</sup>*koka*, etymological cousin of *vāka*, *vṛka*, above, see RD

<sup>6</sup>*taracchā*, Sinh. gloss *kara bānā* ('submissive' "bent over") *valassu*, Note BJTS omits the second mention of "wolves" so may be taking *koka* in compound with *taracchā* (i.e., *kokataracchā*), in specifying this particular type of bear (cf. Sorata, *kara bāna valasā*, s.v.)

<sup>7</sup>reading *vyagghā* with BJTS for PTS *vālā* (= *vāḷā*, snakes?)

<sup>8</sup>*uppādaṅ taṅ...divā*, lit., "after seeing that strange omen," but the plural is obviously implied as three strange omens have been mentioned.

<sup>9</sup>lit., "went"

<sup>10</sup>*nibbutaṅ*

<sup>11</sup>*nibbutaṅ*

After I'd cremated [his] corpse,  
 I sprinkled scented water [there].  
 A spirit<sup>12</sup> standing in the sky  
 fixed a name for me for all time: (7) [3925]

"That<sup>13</sup> duty was fulfilled by you  
 for the Great Sage, the Self-Become.  
 O sage you're always going to be  
 named "the full one"<sup>14</sup> [in each lifetime]." (8) [3926]

After falling from that body,  
 I went to the world of the gods.  
 There a divinely-made perfume<sup>15</sup>  
 is [then] exuded in the sky. (9) [3927]

Even in that [world of gods] the  
 name assigned me was "the full one."<sup>16</sup>  
 [Whether] born human or divine,  
 I fulfill [all] my intentions. (10) [3928]

This is the final time for me;  
 [my] last rebirth is proceeding.<sup>17</sup>  
 And here as well "the full one" is  
 the name assigned me [that's] well known. (11) [3929]

Having regaled the Sambuddha,  
 Gotama, Bull of the Śākya,  
 knowing well all the defilements,  
 I am [now] living, undefiled. (12) [3930]

In the ninety-one aeons since  
 I did that [good] karma back then,  
 I've come to know no bad rebirth:  
 the fruit of duties for the corpse. (13) [3931]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;  
 all [new] existence is destroyed.  
 Knowing well all the defilements,  
 I am [now] living, undefiled. (14) [3932]

Being in Best Buddha's presence  
 was a very good thing for me.

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<sup>12</sup>*yakkho*

<sup>13</sup>BJTS reads *yaṃ* ("which") for PTS (and BJTS alt.) *taṃ*

<sup>14</sup>*puṇṇako*

<sup>15</sup>*divyamayo* (BJTS and PTS alt. read *dibbamayo*) *gandho*

<sup>16</sup>*puṇṇako*

<sup>17</sup>*carimo vattate bhavo*

The three knowledges are attained;  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (15) [3933]

The four analytical modes,  
and these eight deliverances,  
six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (16) [3934]

Thus indeed Venerable Puṇṇaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Puṇṇaka Thera is finished.