

# Patthodanadāyaka

Copyright © 2022 Jonathan S. Walters.

PUBLISHED BY JONATHAN S. WALTERS AND WHITMAN COLLEGE

<http://www.apadanatranslation.com>

Licensed under the Attribution, Non-Commercial, Share Alike (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>).

*Printed August 2022*

**[416. {419.}<sup>1</sup> Patthodanadāyaka<sup>2</sup>]**

Back then I traveled the forest,  
doing regular forest work.<sup>3</sup>  
Taking half a pint of cooked rice,<sup>4</sup>  
I went to work[ in the forest]. (1) [4435]

There I saw [him], the Sambuddha,  
the Self-Become, Unconquered One,  
gone out from the forest for alms.  
Having seen [him, my] heart was pleased. (2) [4436]

“I’m bound to working for others,<sup>5</sup>  
and no merit exists for me.  
I have this half-pint of cooked rice;  
I will feed [it] to the [Great] Sage.” (3) [4437]

Taking that half-pint of rice, I  
gave it to the Self-Become One.  
While I meditated [on him],  
the Sage then consumed [that cooked rice]. (4) [4438]

Due to that karma done very well,  
with intention and [firm] resolve,  
discarding [my] human body,  
I went to Tāvatiṃsa [then]. (5) [4439]

Thirty-six times the lord of gods,  
I exercised divine rule [there].  
Thirty-three times I was a king,  
a king who turns the wheel [of law]. (6) [4440]

There was [also] much local rule,  
innumerable by counting.  
I’m [always] happy and famous:  
the fruit of half a pint of rice. (7) [4441]

Transmigrating from birth to birth,  
I receive wealth without limit.

<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>“Half-Pint of Cooked Rice-er”

<sup>3</sup>*satataṇṇa vanakammiko*, lit., “continually a forest-worker”

<sup>4</sup>*pattha* (a unit for measure, = 1/4 of a quart; 1/2 of a pint) + *odanaṃ*; BJTS Sinh gloss (*sahal pataka batak*, “cooked rice [boiled from] a half pint (of uncooked rice)”)

<sup>5</sup>*parakammāyane yutto*, lit., “yoked to going for the work of others,” i.e., doing coolie labor, being an itinerant worker, being a servant

I have no lack of possessions:  
the fruit of half a pint of rice. (8) [4442]

Possessions come to be for me,  
resembling a river stream;<sup>6</sup>  
I cannot [even] measure them:  
the fruit of half a pint of rice. (9) [4443]

[People say,] “Eat this,” “enjoy this,”  
“lit down [to sleep] in this [good] bed.”  
Due to that I’m [always] happy:  
the fruit of half a pint of rice. (10) [4444]

In the ninety-four aeons since  
I gave [him] that gift at that time,  
I’ve come to know no bad rebirth:  
the fruit of half a pint of rice. (11) [4445]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;  
all [new] existence is destroyed.  
Like elephants with broken chains,  
I am living without constraint. (12) [4446]

Being in Best Buddha’s presence  
was a very good thing for me.  
The three knowledges are attained;  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (13) [4447]

The four analytical modes,  
and these eight deliverances,  
six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (14) [4448]

Thus indeed Venerable Patthodanadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Patthodanadāyaka Thera is finished.

---

<sup>6</sup>we might say, “a flood of possessions”