

# Aḍḍhakāsikā

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### [37. Adḍhakāsikā<sup>1</sup>]

In this [present] lucky aeon,  
Brahma's Kinsman, Greatly Famed One,  
[the Buddha] known as Kassapa<sup>2</sup>  
was born, the Best of Debaters. (1) [1271]

At that time, having been ordained  
in that Buddha's dispensation,  
I'm restrained in the five senses,  
and in monastic discipline.<sup>3</sup> (2) [1272]

Moderate<sup>4</sup> in eating, I was  
committed to being watchful,<sup>5</sup>  
dwelling fixed on practice. One time  
[however,] with a filthy mind,  
I slandered an undefiled<sup>6</sup> nun  
[by saying,] "[She's] a prostitute."  
Because of that evil karma,  
I roasted in a [fearful] hell. (3-4) [1273-1274]

Due to the rest of that karma,  
I was born in a clan of whores,  
repeatedly committing sins;  
and [then] in [my] final rebirth, (5) [1275]

I'm born among the Kāsians,<sup>7</sup>  
in a millionaire's clan. Due to<sup>8</sup>  
[former] celibacy I was  
gorgeous,<sup>9</sup> like a nymph among gods. (6) [1276]

Seeing my extreme beauty, in  
Rajgir, best city, they made [me]  
enter prostitution due to<sup>10</sup>  
[my] formerly having slandered. (7) [1277]

<sup>1</sup>"Half a Benares Thousand [Whore]," "She [Whose Daytime Price] is Half a Benares Thousand," as historical nun, remembered as the precedent for the giving of ordination by messenger. See DPPN I:50. Here the ordination is specifically called *upasampadā*, "higher ordination"

<sup>2</sup>BJTS reads "Named Kassapa according to his Lineage (*gottena*)"

<sup>3</sup>*patimokkhamhi*, lit "in [read "through?"] the fortnightly recitation/227 rules"

<sup>4</sup>reading *mataññutnī* (lit., "one who knows the limit") *ca asane* ("in eating"), with BJTS for PTS *mataññū nīca-āsane* ("moderate on a high seat"?)

<sup>5</sup>reading *jāgariye pi* with BJTS for PTS *jāgariyesu*

<sup>6</sup>*vigatāsavaṇ*

<sup>7</sup>i.e., the people of Benares and the countryside surrounding it

<sup>8</sup>lit., "as the fruit of" "as the result of"

<sup>9</sup>*rūpasampadā* (lit., "endowed with beauty")

<sup>10</sup>lit., "as the fruit of" "as the result of"

After hearing the good Teaching  
which was preached by the Best Buddha,  
endowed with former impressions,  
I went forth into homelessness. (8) [1278]

Seeking<sup>11</sup> ordination<sup>12</sup> having  
gone into the Victor's presence,  
hearing<sup>13</sup> that rogues were on<sup>14</sup> the road,  
I got ordained by messenger.<sup>15</sup> (9) [1279]

All [my] karma has been burnt up,  
merit and likewise evil too;  
birth and rebirth<sup>16</sup> crossed beyond,  
and prostitution's thrown away. (10) [1280]

I've mastered the superpowers  
[like] the "divine ear" element.  
I'm also a master, Great Sage,  
of the knowledge in others' hearts. (11) [1281]

I remember [my] former lives;  
[my] "divine eye" is purified.  
All the defilements are destroyed;  
[I] will not be reborn again. (12) [1282]

In meaning and in the Teaching,  
etymology and preaching,  
[this] knowledge of mine was produced  
in your presence, O Great Hero. (13) [1283]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;  
all [new] existence is destroyed.  
Like elephants with broken chains,  
I am living without constraint. (14) [1284]

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! (15) [1285]

<sup>11</sup>*tadā...* °*atthāya*, lit., "then...for the sake of"

<sup>12</sup>PTS reads *tadā 'pasampadatthāya*, with incorrect *sandhi*; BJTS reads, correctly, *tatopasampadatthāya*, cf. PTS alt. (also correct) *tad' upa*°

<sup>13</sup>reading *sutvā* with BJTS for PTS *disvā* ("seeing"). Neither edition indicates variance in its reading of the verb.

<sup>14</sup>*ṭhite*, lit., "were standing on" "remained on"

<sup>15</sup>lit., "a messenger [gave me] ordination"

<sup>16</sup>or "transmigration," °*saṅsārā*

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The four analytical modes,  
and these eight deliverances,  
six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (16) [1286]

Thus indeed the bhikkhunī Aḍḍhakāsikā spoke these verses.

The legend of Aḍḍhakāsikā Therī<sup>17</sup> is finished

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<sup>17</sup>the BJTS reading for PTS *bhikkhunī Aḍḍhakāsikā*