

# Ghatamaṇḍadāyaka

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*Printed December 2018*

[423. {426.}<sup>1</sup> Ghatamaṇḍadāyaka<sup>2</sup>]

Seeing the Blessed One, Well-Thought,<sup>3</sup>  
the World's Best One, the Bull of Men,  
entered into the great forest,  
tormented by internal pain,<sup>4</sup>  
bringing pleasure to [my own] heart,  
I presented cream from some ghee.<sup>5</sup> (1) [4539]<sup>6</sup>

From doing and heaping [that] up,<sup>7</sup>  
the river [named] Bhāgīrathī,<sup>8</sup>  
[and] even the four great oceans  
are supplying [ghee-]cream to me. (2) [4540]

And even this [whole] awful earth,  
beyond measure, beyond counting,  
discerning what I am thinking,  
turns into honey and sugar.<sup>9</sup> (3) [4541]

These trees on [all] four continents,  
foot-drinkers growing in the earth,<sup>10</sup>  
discerning what I am thinking,  
turn into<sup>11</sup> wishing-trees [for me]. (4) [4542]

Fifty times the lord of the gods,  
I exercised divine rule [there].  
And fifty-one times I was [then]  
a king who turns the wheel [of law].  
[And I enjoyed] much local rule,  
innumerable by counting. (5) [4543]<sup>12</sup>

<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>"Cream-of-Ghee Donor." This *apadāna* is repeated verbatim below, with the same name, as #493 {496}.

<sup>3</sup>*sucintitaṇ*

<sup>4</sup>*vātābādheṇa*, "a disease of the wind," one of the three humors in classical Indian (including Buddhist) medical traditions.

<sup>5</sup>*ghata* (cream, scum) + *maṇḍa* (clarified butter, ghee), i.e., the best part of the ghee, the purest oil skimmed off the top of a pot of ghee.

<sup>6</sup>PTS and BJTS agree in presenting this as a six-footed verse.

<sup>7</sup>*katattā ācitattā ca*, lit., "because of the doing, and because of the heaping up [of that karma]"

<sup>8</sup>This is the BJTS spelling; PTS gives *Bhāgīrasī*

<sup>9</sup>*bhavate madhusakkarā*

<sup>10</sup>this foot (as elsewhere) 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".

<sup>11</sup>*bhavanti*, become

<sup>12</sup>PTS and BJTS agree in presenting this as a six-footed verse.

In the ninety-four aeons since  
I gave [him] that gift at that time,  
I've come to know no bad rebirth:  
that's the fruit of the cream from ghee. (6) [4544]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;  
all [new] existence is destroyed.  
Like elephants with broken chains,  
I am living without constraint. (7) [4545]

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! (8) [4546]

The four analytical modes,  
and these eight deliverances,  
six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (9) [4547]

Thus indeed Venerable Ghatamaṇḍadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ghatamaṇḍadāyaka Thera is finished.