

# Ambapindiya

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**[436. {439.}<sup>1</sup> Ambapiṇḍiya<sup>2</sup>]**

I was then an elephant-king,  
with tusks like plough-poles, fully grown.  
Wandering in a large forest,<sup>3</sup>  
I saw the Leader of the World. (1) [4701]

Taking a cluster of mangoes,<sup>4</sup>  
I gave [them] to [him,] the Teacher.  
The Great Hero accepted them,  
Siddhattha, Leader of the World. (2) [4702]

While I<sup>5</sup> meditated [on him],  
the Victor then consumed [that fruit].  
Bringing pleasure to [my] heart there,  
I was reborn in Tusitā.<sup>6</sup> (3) [4703]

After falling down from there, I  
was a monarch who turns the wheel.  
[Then] through that very method, I,  
having enjoyed [great] good fortune,<sup>7</sup>  
being one bent on exertion,  
calmed,<sup>8</sup> devoid of grounds for rebirth,<sup>9</sup>  
knowing well all the defilements,  
am living [here now,] undefiled. (4-5) [4704-4705]

In the ninety-four aeons since  
I gave that fruit [to him] back then,  
I've come to know no bad rebirth:  
that is the fruit of giving fruit. (6) [4706]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;  
all [new] existence is destroyed.

<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>“Mango-Cluster-er”

<sup>3</sup>reading *brahāraññe* with BJTS (and PTS alt.) for PTS *Brahmāraññe* (“Brahmā’s forest”)

<sup>4</sup>*ambapiṇḍi*. The term can mean “lump” or “round mass” too, but it’s not clear how an elephant would get or make a lump or ball of mango to present a Buddha; “mango-cud” seems unlikely. Wild elephants eat by breaking branches, fronds or stems off trees and shrubs with their trunks, and the image here seems to be along those lines: mangoes fruit in clusters along branches, and the protagonist has apparently broken off such a branch, clustered with mangoes, to give the Buddha.

<sup>5</sup>reading *mama* with BJTS (and PTS. alt.; gen. abs. construction) for PTS *mamaṃ* (acc.)

<sup>6</sup>the heaven of happiness

<sup>7</sup>*sampadā*, [good] achievements, etc.

<sup>8</sup>*upasanto*

<sup>9</sup>*nirūpadhi*

Like elephants with broken chains,  
I am living without constraint. (7) [4707]

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) [4708]

The four analytical modes,  
and these eight deliverances,  
six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (9) [4709]

Thus indeed Venerable Ambapiṇḍiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ambapiṇḍiya Thera is finished.