

NARASĪHAGĀTHĀ – VERSES ABOUT A LION OF A MAN

EDITED & TRANSLATED BY ANANDAJOTI BHIKKHU



Narasīhagāthā

Verses about a Lion of a Man

*(Verses traditionally attributed to Princess Yasodharā speaking to
Prince Rāhula when the Buddha returned to his home town
Kapilavatthu after his Awakening)*

Edited & Translated by Ānandajoti Bhikkhu

1. Cakkavaraṅkītarattasupādo,

Having beautiful feet marked with a fine wheel,

lakḥḥaṇamaṇḍita-āyatapaṇhī,

his long heels are a characteristic mark,

cāmarachattavibhūsitapādo,

his feet decorated with chowrie and sunshade,

esa hi tuyha pitā narasīho.

that indeed is your father, a lion of a man.

2. Sakyakumāravarō sukhumālo,

An excellent and graceful Sakyan prince,

lakḥḥaṇacittikapuṇṇasarīro,

with a body full of characteristic marks,

lokaḥitāya gato naravīro,

a hero who has come for the world's benefit,

esa hi tuyha pitā narasīho.

that indeed is your father, a lion of a man.

3. Puṇṇasasaṅkanibho mukhavaṇṇo,

Just like the full moon is his beautiful face,

Devanarāna' piyo naranāgo,

dear to gods and men, a Nāga amongst men,

mattagajindavilāsitaḡāmī,

walking like a charming lord of elephants,

esa hi tuyha pitā narasīho.

that indeed is your father, a lion of a man.

4. Khattiyasambhava-aggakulīno,

Born into a leading noble family,

devamanussanamassitapādo,

gods and men revere his feet,

sīlasamādhīpatiṭṭhitacitto,

having virtue and concentration established in his mind,

esa hi tuyha pitā narasīho.

that indeed is your father, a lion of a man.

5. Āyatatuṅgasusaṅṭhitanāso,

Having a long, prominent and wellformed nose,

gopakhumo abhinīlasunetto,

cowlike eyelashes, beautiful deep black eyes,

indadhanūabhinīlabhamūko,

his deep black eyebrows (are just like) Indra's bow,

esa hi tuyha pitā narasīho.

that indeed is your father, a lion of a man.

6. Vaṭṭasumaṭṭasusaṅṭhitagīvo,

Having a round, sizeable, and wellformed neck,

sīhahanū migarājasarīro,

a lion's jaw, a body like the king of beasts,

kañcanasucchaviuttamavaṅṅo,

beautiful golden skin, of supreme colour,

esa hi tuyha pitā narasīho.

that indeed is your father, a lion of a man.

7. Siniddhasugambhiramañjusaghoso,

Having a very deep, charming, and sweet voice,

hiṅgulabandhusurattasujivho,

with a beautiful tongue, red like vermillion,

vīsativīsatisetasudanto,

with twenty by twenty beautiful white teeth,

esa hi tuyha pitā narasīho.

that indeed is your father, a lion of a man.

8. Añjanavaṇṇasunīlasukeso,

Having beautiful, glossy, blackcoloured hair,

kañcanapaṭṭavisuddhanalāṭo,

a forehead like a plate of purified gold,

osadhipaṇḍarasuddhasu-uṇṇo,

and hair between the brows like a pure white star,

esa hi tuyha pitā narasīho.

that indeed is your father, a lion of a man.

9. Gacchati nīlapathe viya cando,

Like the moon going along the dark night path,

tāragaṇāpariveṭhitarūpo,

surrounded by a body of stars,

sāvakamajjhagato Samaṇ'indo,

is the Lord of Ascetics in the midst of his disciples,

esa hi tuyha pitā narasīho ti.

that indeed is your father, a lion of a man.