

orders; let that follow whatever it be.”³³ Then the Śākya youth said, “By the power of my accumulated merit let this Nāga woman be turned into human shape.” The woman was immediately so converted. On seeing herself thus restored to human shape she was overjoyed, and gratefully addressed the Śākya youth thus: “By my evil deeds (*through the accumulation of evil deeds*), I have been compelled to migrate through evil forms of birth, till now happily, by the power of your religious merit, the body which I have possessed through many kalpas has been changed in a moment. My gratitude is boundless, nor could it be expressed if I wore my body to dust (*with frequent prostrations*). Let me but acquaint my father and mother; I will then follow you and obey you in all things.”³⁴

The Nāga maiden then returning to the lake addressed her father and mother, saying, “Just now, as I was wandering abroad, I lighted upon a Śākya youth, who by the power of his religious merit succeeded in changing me into human form. Having formed an affection for me, he desires to marry me. I lay before you the matter in its truth.”

The Nāga-rāja was rejoiced to see his daughter restored to human form, and from a true affection to the holy tribe he gave consent to his daughter’s request. Then proceeding from the lake, he expressed his deep gratitude to the Śākya youth, and said, “You have not despised creatures of other kinds, and have condescended to those beneath you. I pray you come to my abode, and there receive my humble services.”³⁵

an object, the *saccha kiriya* (*satya-kriyā*) of the Southern School of Buddhism. See Childers, *Pāli Dict.*, sub voc.; also *Abstract of Four Lectures*, p. 40.

³³ Julien translates this passage: “I am prepared to follow you.” The meaning may also be, “only let that follow which you desire;” or, “only let that be accomplished which is the consequence of the past,” i.e., your past deeds.

³⁴ The literal translation of this passage is: “Desiring to make returns for this goodness, grinding my body to dust, I should not yet thank you enough. My heart desires to follow you in your travels; one thing restrains me, the propriety of things; let me,” &c. Instead of “obey you,” the word *hi* may refer to ceremonial or marriage rites.

³⁵ Literally, “sweepings and bathings.”