

extolling his virtue, called him "The great-tree (Mahâ-vṛksha) Rîshi." The Rîshi gazing once on the river-bank as he wandered forth to behold the woods and trees, saw the daughters of the king following one another and gambolling together. Then the love of the world (*the world of desire—Kâmadhâtu*), which holds and pollutes the mind, was engendered in him. Immediately he went to Kusumapura for the purpose of paying his salutations to the king and asking (*for his daughter*).

The king, hearing of the arrival of the Rîshi, went himself to meet and salute him, and thus addressed him graciously: "Great Rîshi! you were reposing in peace—what has disturbed you?"⁸ The Rîshi answered, "After having reposed in the forest many years, on awaking from my trance, in walking to and fro I saw the king's daughters; a polluted and lustful heart was produced in me, and now I have come from far to request (*one of your daughters in marriage*).

The king hearing this, and seeing no way to escape, said to the Rîshi, "Go back to your place and rest, and let me beg you to await the happy period." The Rîshi, hearing the mandate, returned to the forest. The king then asked his daughters in succession, but none of them consented to be given in marriage.

The king, fearing the power of the Rîshi, was much grieved and afflicted thereat. And now the youngest daughter of the king, watching an opportunity when the king was at liberty, with an engaging manner said, "The king, my father, has his thousand sons, and on every side his dependents⁹ are reverently obedient. Why, then, are you sad as if you were afraid of something?"

The king replied, "The great-tree-Rîshi has been pleased to look down on you¹⁰ to seek a marriage with one of you,

⁸ Or it may be rendered, "What outward matter has been able to excite for a while the composed passions of the great Rîshi?" It does not seem probable that the king was acquainted with the Rîshi's inten-

tion; he could not, therefore, use the words as if expostulating with him.

⁹ His ten thousand kingdoms.

¹⁰ That is, on the daughters generally.