

Samyutta Nikaya II.9
Candima Sutta
The Moon Deity's Prayer for Protection

Translated from the Pali by Piyadassi Thera.
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Introduction:

In Theravada tradition, Buddhists chant the Candima Sutta and Suriya Sutta for devotional and ceremonial purpose to provide protection. The two suttas are part of the major parittas suttas. In these two suttas the Buddha intervenes on behalf [devas](#) caught in the grips of a wicked demon ([Asura](#))¹. The two suttas belong to the group of paritta (protection) suttas that are chanted by monastics for devotional and ceremonial purposes.

Laitiy except by Monks does not so frequently chant these two suttas for special ceremonial purposes to invoke good fortune. Buddhists in Myanmar, both Monks and Laitiy, will chant Mahaparitta Suttas to invoke special protection. Note here that Buddha provides protection, not only to human devotees, but also to Devas, God of the Moon and Sun. From these two Paritta Suttas we can draw our conclusion that the Deity God/Goddess of the Moon and the Sun do exist in the Universe. That was why many throughout the world worshipped and venerated them because of their special power. Liberation from the Samsara being our primary concern, we pay less attention to Devas; but we need to recognize their existence in this 31 planes of existence, as illustrated in this Suttas – Pali Sutta Pitaka. However, to Astrology practitioner, the two Suttas are frequently chanted to provide protection for the devotees.

Thus have I heard:

On one occasion, the Blessed One was living near [Savatthi](#), at [Jetavana](#) at [Anathpindika's](#) monastery. At that time [Candima](#), the moon deity, was seized by [Rahu](#), lord of Asura. Thereupon calling to mind the Blessed One, Candima, the moon deity, recited this stanza:

¹ Asura: A race of beings who, like the Titans of Greek mythology, fought the [devas](#) for sovereignty over the heavens and lost.

i. "O Buddha, the Hero, thou art wholly free from all evil. My adoration to thee. I have fallen into distress. Be thou my refuge."

Thereupon the Blessed One addressed a stanza to Rahu, Lord of Asuras, on behalf of Candima, thus:

ii. "O Rahu, Candima has gone for refuge to the Tathagata, the Consummate One. Release Candima. The Buddhas radiate compassion on the world (of beings)."

Thereupon Rahu, Lord of Asuras, released Candima, the deity, and immediately came to the presence of *Vepacitta*, **Lord of Asuras**, and stood beside him trembling with fear and with hair standing on end. Then Vepacitta addressed Rahu in this stanza.

iii. "Rahu. Why did you suddenly release Candima? Why have you come trembling, and why are you standing here terrified?"

iv. "I have been spoken to by the Buddha in a stanza (requesting me to release Candima). If I had not released Candima my head would have split into seven pieces. While yet I live, I should have had no happiness. (Therefore I released Candima)."

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<http://www.accesstoinsight.org/canon/samyutta/sn02-009.html>

Samyutta Nikaya II.10
Suriya Sutta
The Sun Deity's Prayer for Protection

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Thus have I heard:

On one occasion the Blessed One was living near [Savatthi](#) at [Jetavana](#) at [Anathapindika's](#) monastery. At that time [Suriya](#), the sun deity, was seized by [Rahu](#), [Lord of Asuras](#). Thereupon calling to mind the Blessed One, Suriya, the Sun deity, recited this stanza:

i. "O Buddha, the Hero, thou art wholly free from all evil. My adoration to thee. I have fallen into distress. Be thou my refuge."

There upon the Blessed One addressed a stanza to Rahu, Lord of Asuras, on behalf of Suriya thus:

ii. "O Rahu, Suriya has gone for refuge to the Tathagata, the Consummate One. Release Suriya. The Buddhas radiate compassion on the world (of beings).

iii. "O Rahu, swallow not the dispeller of darkness, the shining one, the radiant and effulgent traveler through the sky. Rahu, release Suriya, my son."

Thereupon Rahu, Lord of Asuras, released Suriya, and immediately came to the presence of [Vepacitta](#), Lord of Asuras, and stood beside him trembling

with fear and with hair standing on end. Then Vepacitta addressed Rahu in this stanza:

iv. "Rahu, why did you suddenly release Suriya? Why have you come trembling, and why are you standing here terrified?"

"I have been spoken to by the Buddha in a stanza (requesting me release Suriya). If I had not released Suriya my head would have split into seven pieces. While yet I live, I should have had no happiness. (Therefore I released Suriya)."

Reference and Source -

<http://www.accesstoinsight.org/canon/samyutta/sn02-010.html>

