

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Sīhāsanadāyaka

Jonathan S. Walters

Copyright © 2026 Jonathan S. Walters.

PUBLISHED BY JONATHAN S. WALTERS AND WHITMAN COLLEGE

<https://apadanatranslation.com>

Licensed under the Attribution, Non-Commercial, Share Alike (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>).

Printed September 2026

Sīhāsana Chapter, the Second

[11. Sīhāsanadāyaka¹]

When the World-Leader Siddhattha,
the Best Biped had reached nirvana,
his words had been spread; many folks
had embraced [his] dispensation. (1) [674]

With a pleased heart [and] happy mind
I had a lion-throne fashioned.
Having had the lion-throne made,
I had a foot-stool² constructed. (2) [675]

[And then] I had a house built there
[to shield] the lion-throne from rain.
Due to the pleasure in my heart
I was reborn in Tusitā. (3) [676]

A heavenly mansion, well-built,
existed at that time for me.
In length it measured twenty-four,
in width [another] fourteen leagues. (4) [677]

Seven³ thousand [lovely] maidens
were always waiting on me [then].
There was a couch made out of gold
well-fashioned in the mansion [there]. (5) [678]

Elephant- and horse-carriages,
and divine carriages served [me].
Palaces and also litters⁴
were produced according to wish. (6) [679]

¹his name means “Donor of a Lion-throne,” the first of many monks (and nuns) in the *Apadāna* who, otherwise unknown, embody/represent/model specific pious actions rather than play a role in the historical dispensation of Gotama Buddha; it’s possible that they weren’t even real people, or in some cases, that they are to be identified with historical monks and nuns who seemingly otherwise are not represented in the collection (associations that are made mostly in the commentary on *Theragāthā* and *Therīgāthā*, partly tracked in DPPN and worthy of a more complete review)

²*pādapiṭṭha*

³alternates including *cty* and *PTS* read *satam* or *sata* (“one hundred”) for *satta* (“seven”) in *PTS*; in that reading the total number of virgins in that heavenly mansion would have been one hundred thousand.

⁴*sivikā* = *siv geya* (dictionary), *doolā* (BJTS Sinhala gloss)

Couches constructed out of gems
and many other costly things
always came into being for me;
that's the fruit of a lion-throne. (7) [680]

I am always climbing up steps
made of gold and made of silver,
made of crystal, made of lapis;
that is the fruit of the foot-stool. (8) [681]

In the ninety-four aeons since
I performed that act [of merit],
I've come to know no bad rebirth;
that is the fruit of good karma. (9) [682]

There were three men [all] named Inda⁵
seventy-three aeons ago;
there were three [more] named Sumana⁶
seventy-two aeons ago; (10) [683]

[and] seventy aeons ago
there were three [kings] named Varuṇa;⁷
they were lords of four continents
possessors of the seven gems. (11) [684]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (12) [685]

Thus indeed Venerable Sīhāsanadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Sīhāsanadāyaka Thera is finished.

⁵“Lord,” = Indra, Śakra, king of the Vedic gods

⁶“Happy” “Good-Minded”

⁷the name of a Vedic god