

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Sumaṅgala

Jonathan S. Walters

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[20. Sumaṅgala]

Wishing to make a sacrifice
I had a meal prepared [back then]
[and] stood in a large *mālaka*¹
venerating the brahmins [there]. (1) [796]

And then I saw the Sambuddha,
Piyadassi, Greatly Famed One,
who was the Tamer of All Worlds,²
the Self-Become, the Neutral One. (2) [797]

Standing before his followers
that Blessed One, really shining,
[was] blazing forth just like the sun
when entering its chariot. (3) [798]

Pressing my hands together [then]
[and] bringing [my] own heart pleasure,
I invited [him] with my mind:
“Let the Great Sage come [to me now].” (4) [799]

Discerning what I was thinking,
he who was Peerless in the World,
Teacher, with a thousand arahants
came [right] up to my doorway [then]. (5) [800]

“Praise to you, O Well-Bred Person!³
Praise to you, Ultimate Person!
Ascending into [my] palace
please sit upon the lion-throne.” (6) [801]

The Tame One, with Tamed Retinue,
Crossed Over,⁴ the Best Ferryman⁵
ascending into [my] palace
sat down upon that seat superb. (7) [802]

Foodstuffs which had been presented
that [still] remained in my own house

¹see note to [687]

²*sabbalokavinetaṛaṇ*

³*purisājañña*, RD “steed of man,” in the voc. Contracted form of *ājāniya/ājāniya*,
“almost exclusively used to donate a thoroughbred horse”

⁴*tiṇṇo*, i.e., one who has gone to the further shore of *samsāra*, one who has reached
nirvana

⁵lit., “Excellent among those who cause [others] to cross over”

I [then] gifted to the Buddha
[feeling well-] pleased by [my] own hands. (8) [803]

With a pleased heart [and] happy mind,
joyful,⁶ with hands pressed together,
I worshipped the Best of Buddhas:
“O! The Buddha’s [great] eminence! (9) [804]

Many arahants are among these
nobles being served [and] eating.⁷
That is your majestic power;
I [too] go for refuge in you.” (10) [805]

Piyadassi the Blessed One
the World’s Best One, the Bull of Men,
sat down in the monks’ Assembly
[and] uttered these verses [aloud]: (11) [806]

[Of] he who fed the Assembly
[which is] upright [and] attentive
and the Sambuddha, Thus-Gone-One,
[all of] you listen to my words: (12) [807]

Twenty-seven times [a god-king]
he will exercise divine rule.
With pleasure in his own karma
he’ll delight in the world of gods. (13) [808]

And also eighteen times he’ll be
a king who turns the wheel [of law].
He will reside upon the earth
[and] have five hundred earthly reigns.” (14) [809]

Plunged into the woods, the forest,
a tiger-frequented jungle,
having put forth great exertion
I destroyed [all] the defilements. (15) [810]

In the eighteen hundred aeons
since I gave [him] that gift back then,
I’ve come to know no bad rebirth;
that is the fruit of giving food. (16) [811]

⁶lit., “with enjoyment born”

⁷lit., “among the eight [types of noble beings] who are constantly attended upon and [now] are eating, there are many arahants”

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (17) [812]

Thus indeed Venerable Sumaṅgala Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Sumaṅgala Thera is finished.

The Summary:

Sihāsani and Ekaṭṭhambhi,
Nanda and CChulla-Panthaka,
Pilinda and also Rāhula,
Vangata, Raṭṭhapālaka,
Sopāka and also Maṅgala,
ten are in the second chapter
and a hundred and thirty-seven
verses are related here.

The Sīhāsani Chapter, the Second.