

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Sāgata

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

[32. Sāgata]

Back then I was a brahmin man
known by the name of Sobhita.
Being honored by my students,
I went out to the ashram [then]. (1) [1019]

Honored by the monks' Assembly,
[right] at that time the Blessed One,
setting out from the ashram's door,
stood [there], the Ultimate Person. (2) [1020]

I [then] saw him, the Sambuddha,
Tame One with a Tamed Retinue.
Bringing pleasure to [my] own heart
I praised the World-Leader kindly: (3) [1021]

“Whatever trees that there might be
they all grow up in the [firm] earth.
So too, smart beings [all] grow up
in the Victor's dispensation. (4) [1022]

The Caravan-Leader, O Wise One,
you do remove¹ many people
from the wrong road, lifting them up
by declaring the road [to them]. (5) [1023]

Tame One surrounded by the tamed,
Meditator, by trance-lovers,
by those bent on exertion [and]
by peaceful ones, by neutral ones, (6) [1024]

adorned by² [all] your followers
with their virtues, you are splendid.
Your light spreads over³ [everything]
like the sun [when it] is rising.”⁴ (7) [1025]

¹reading 'panesi for panesi, and avoiding the alternate reading (and BJTS) mahesi (mahesi).

²reading parisāhi (BJTS) for parisato (PTS)

³there are problems with this verse; many alternate readings in the different manuscripts and editions. I follow BJTS Sinhala gloss in taking niddhāvate as “paetireyi,” “spreads out over.”

⁴reading suriyodāyate (BJTS) for suriyo 'bbhaghane (“like the sun in a mass of clouds,” PTS).

Seeing the pleasure in my heart
the Great Sage Padumuttara,
standing in the monks' Assembly,
the Teacher spoke these verses [then]: (8) [1026]

"I'll relate details of this brahmin
who has caused joy to be produced.
For a hundred thousand aeons
he'll delight in the world of gods. (9) [1027]

Falling from Tusitā heaven
incited by [his] wholesome roots
he will renounce in the Blessed
One, Gotama's dispensation. (10) [1028]

Due to that karma done very well⁵
he will attain arahantship.
He'll be the Teacher's follower
known by the name of Sāgata. (11) [1029]

After renouncing he'll avoid
bad⁶ karma done with the body [then].
Avoiding bad karma with words
he'll purify his livelihood." (12) [1030]

I am [now] living in that way,
skilled in the elements of power.
Knowing well all the defilements,
without defilements I [now] live. (13) [1031]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (14) [1032]

This indeed Venerable Sāgata Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Sāgata Thera is finished.

⁵reading (with BJTS, PTS alternatives) *tena kammaṇa sukatena* for PTS *vimbakapa-suto hutvā*

⁶or "evil:" *pāpa*°