

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Pañcahatthiya

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Printed September 2026

[45. Pañcchahatthiya¹]

The Sambuddha named Sumedha
was traveling through the bazaar
with downcast eyes,² [speaking] few words,
mindful, with his sense[-doors] guarded. (1) [1191]

Then they brought³ [me] — for my top-crest⁴ —
five handfuls of water lilies.
I did Buddha-pūjā with them
[feeling well-] pleased by [my] own hands. (2) [1192]

[Then] those flowers [that I had] placed
became the Teacher's canopy.
They flocked to⁵ the Great Elephant
like students to a [good] teacher. (3) [1193]

In the thirty thousand aeons
since I offered [him] that flower,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of Buddha-pūjā. (4) [1194]

One hundred twenty aeons hence
there were five [different] kṣatriyans.
[All of them] were named Hatthiya,⁶
wheel-turning kings with great power. (5) [1195]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [1196]

Thus indeed Venerable Pañcchahatthiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Pañcchahatthiya Thera is finished.

¹"Five Handfuls"

²reading *okhitta-cchakkhu* (BJTS, cty) for *khitta-cchakkhu* ("thrown eyes," PTS).

³reading *ahamsu* (BJTS) for *akāsi* (PTS)

⁴BJTS gloss: *mudun malkaḍa*

⁵*saṃsāviṇsu* fr. *saṃsāveti*, to flow together to

⁶"[One] Handful"