

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Sayanadāyaka

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

[53. Sayanadāyaka¹]

Padumuttara the Buddha
had pity on the whole world.
I donated a bed to him,
with a mind that was very clear. (1) [1277]

Because of that gift of a bed,
food would [then] just appear [to me,]
[like] a seed's yield in a good field:
that's the fruit of giving that bed. (2) [1278]

I make [my] bed [up] in the sky;
I am carrying the [whole] earth;
I have lordship over creatures:
that is the fruit of a bed[-gift]. (3) [1279]

[Then] five thousand aeons [ago,]
there were eight [named] Mahāvāra;²
thirty-four hundred aeons [hence,]
there were four [kings] with great strength. (4) [1280]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (5) [1281]

Thus indeed Venerable Sayanadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Sayanadāyaka Thera is finished.

¹“Bed-Donor”

²“Great Excellent One”. PTS gives the name as Mahāvīra (“Great Hero”); I follow BJTS.