

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Gandhodaka

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

[54. Gandhodaka¹]

There was a Bodhi Tree festival
for Padumuttara Buddha.

Taking a decorated pot,
I donated scented water. (1) [1282]

When that Bodhi was being bathed
a huge cloud rained down [upon it].
And there was a deafening sound²
when the lightening [bolts] burst forth [there]. (2) [1283]

Due to the force of that lightening
I passed away [right then and] there.
Standing in the world of the gods
I uttered these verses [aloud]: (3) [1284]

“O! the Buddha! O! the Teaching!
O! our Teacher’s [great] achievement!
My dead body has fallen down
[and] I [now] delight in heaven! (4) [1285]

My residence is [very] tall,
rising up one hundred stories.
A hundred thousand virgins [now]
are around me all of the time. (5) [1286]

Disease does not exist for me;
grief [too] does not exist for me;
I do not experience pain:
that is the fruit of good karma.” (6) [1287]

Twenty eight hundred aeons thence
I³ was [named] King Saṃvasita,
a wheel-turner with great power,
possessor of the seven gems. (7) [1288]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (8) [1289]

¹“Scented Water.” BJTS spells the name Gandhodakiya; both BJTS and PTS give the latter spelling in the colophon

²lit., “a large sound”

³reading *ahum* (BJTS) for *ahu* (“there was,” PTS)

Thus indeed Venerable Gandhodakiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Gandhodaka Thera is finished.