

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Opavuyha

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Printed September 2026

[55. Opavuyha¹]

To Padumuttara Buddha

I gave a [fine] thoroughbred [horse].

Assigning it to the Buddha,²

I [then] went [back] to my own house. (1) [1290]

The Teacher's top follower was

[the monk] whose name was Devala.³

Worthy heir to the best Teaching

he came into my presence [then]. (2) [1291]

"The Blessed One bears his own bowl;

he will not use a thoroughbred.

The Eyeful One accepted it

[because] he had discerned your thoughts." (3) [1292]

I got the price for that wind-quick

speed vehicle [that came] from Sindh.

[Then] I gave a suitable⁴ [gift]

to Padumuttara Buddha. (4) [1293]

In whichever womb I'm reborn,

[whether] it's human or divine,⁵

suitable, and variegated⁶

Sindh-horses⁷ [then] arise for me. (5) [1294]

The gain for them is well-received

who undergo ordination.⁸

If a Buddha's born in the world

[then] they should serve him constantly. (6) [1295]

¹"Fit For Riding"

²lit., "to the Sambuddha"

³cf. below, #252, v. 2 [2504]

⁴reading *khamanīyam* (BJTS, cty, PTS alternative) for *ājānīyaṇ* ("thoroughbred," PTS)

⁵reading *devattam atha mānusaṃ* (BJTS) for *bhavane sabbadā mama* ("in my residence all the time," PTS). PTS alt (also noticed by BJTS) is *deve ccha mānuse bhav* (in a divine and human existences, "paralleling the (BJTS) reading I accept and intimating how the (PTS) one I reject might have evolved through corruption.

⁶reading *cchittā* (BJTS) for *citte* ("in [my] heart," PTS)

⁷here I follow BJTS in understanding *vātajavā* ("[creatures] quick as the wind") as horses of the type originally (mis)gifted to Padumuttara Buddha. The same term is used as an adjective (there *vātajavaṃ*) in the previous verse.

⁸lit., "higher ordination," *upasampadā*.

I was a king with great power
twenty-eight [different] times [back then],
lord of the grove of rose-apples,⁹
victorious on [all] four sides.¹⁰ (7) [1296]

This is the final time for me;
[my] last rebirth is proceeding.¹¹
I've attained the unshaking state
beyond¹² [all] conquest and defeat. (8) [1297]

Thirty-four thousand [aeons thence]
there was a king¹³ of great power,
a wheel-turner who had great strength,
possessor of the seven gems. (9) [1298]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (10) [1299]

Thus indeed Venerable Opavuyha Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Opavuyha Thera is finished.

⁹*jambusaṇḍa* = *jambudīpa* = India, the South Asian Subcontinent

¹⁰*cchaturanto vijitāvi*, "possessed of conquest of the four quarters," a supreme imperial overlord

¹¹*ccharimo vattate bhavo*

¹²lit., "having abandoned"

¹³lit., "a kṣatriyan"