

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Paduma

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[59. Paduma¹]

He was declaring the Four Truths
[while] turning the best *Dhamma*-wheel,
raining the rain of deathlessness,
liberating many people.² (1) [1323]

Taking a lotus with a flag,³
standing half a *kosa*⁴ [away],
happy, I raised it in the air
for the Sage Padumuttara. (2) [1324]

There was a strange occurrence then:
the lotus approached [the Buddha].
Discerning what I was thinking
the Best Debater [then] took [it]. (3) [1325]

Having taken with his fine hand
[that] superb water-born lotus,
standing in the monks' Assembly
the Teacher spoke these verses [then]: (4) [1326]

"I shall relate details of him
who [just] tossed this lotus flower
to the Omniscient Arahant;⁵
[all of] you listen to my words: (5) [1327]

Thirty aeons as king of gods
he will exercise divine rule.
With seven hundred earthly reigns
he will reside upon the earth. (6) [1328]

Taking a bowl [of lotuses]⁶ there,
he'll be a king who turns the wheel.
A rain of flowers from the sky
will rain [on him] all of the time. (7) [1329]

¹"Pink Lotus"

²lit., "making many people achieve nirvana." I am tempted to use a neologism like "nirvan-izing" to get the verbal usage of *nibbāpento*, but refrain.

³BJTS and some PTS alternatives read *sadaṇḍaṃ* ("with the stem") for *sadhajaṇ*, but as cty agrees with PTS in reading *sadhajaṇ* I translate "with a flag" despite the evocative appeal of "with the stem."

⁴a *kosa* is 500 bow lengths, so he would have been standing 250 bow lengths away.

⁵lit., "One Without Outflows," "Undeified One," i.e., the Buddha

⁶this follows the BJTS Sinhala gloss. Cty offers no comment. Could *pattaṇ gahetvā* also be, "taking appointment"?

In one hundred thousand aeons,
arising in Okkāka's clan,
the one whose name is Gotama
will be the Teacher in the world. (8) [1330]

Worthy heir to that one's *Dhamma*,
Dhamma's legitimate offspring,
knowing well all the defilements
he'll reach nirvana, undefiled." (9) [1331]

Coming forth from [my mother's] womb,
[both] comprehending [and] mindful,
when I was [only] five years old⁷
I attained [my] arahantship. (10) [1332]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (11) [1333]

Thus indeed Venerable Paduma Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Paduma Thera is finished.

⁷lit., "being five years from birth"