

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Madhupiṇḍika

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[97. Madhupiṇḍika¹]

In a quiet and trouble-free
forest grove, I [once] having seen
Siddhattha the Sage, the Supreme,²
Sacrificial Recipient, (1) [1588]

Gone-Out-One, the Great Elephant,
Bull of Men,³ like a thoroughbred,
shining forth like the morning star,⁴
praised by the assembly of gods,
much⁵ happiness arose in me;
knowledge came into being then. (2) [1589]⁶

Giving honey to the Teacher
who'd risen from meditation,
[and] worshipping the Teacher's feet,
I departed facing the east. (3) [1590]

[Then] thirty-four aeons [ago]
I was the king, Sudassana;⁷
sweet honey flowed from lotus roots
whenever I was eating [them].
[And] it rained a rain of honey:
that's the fruit of former karma. (4) [1591]⁸

In the ninety-four aeons since
I gave [him] that honey back then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of giving honey. (5) [1592]

[And] thirty-four aeons ago
there were four [named] Sudassana,

¹“Honey-Ball-er”

²reading *setṭhaṃ* (BJTS) for *setthaṃ* (PTS)

³compare *nisabha* with *narasabha*, which I also translate “Bull of Men”.

⁴*osadhī*. RD (s.v.) points out that all we really know about this star is that it was particularly bright, leading Childers to translate it as “Venus” and others as the morning star.

⁵reading *pahutā āsi* (BJTS) for *pahunā tāva* (PTS)

⁶BJTS agrees with PTS in presenting this as a six-footed verse

⁷“Good to Look At”

⁸PTS does not include the last two feet of this verse, which appear only in BJTS. The latter presents it as a six-footed verse, the former as a four-footed verse containing the first four feet translated here.

wheel-turning kings with great power,
possessors of the seven gems. (6) [1593]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (7) [1594]

Thus indeed Venerable Madhupiṇḍika Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Madhupiṇḍika Thera is finished.