

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Naḷamāliya

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Printed September 2026

[107. Naḷamāliya¹]

Taking up a garland of reeds
and binding it I [then] approached
Padumuttara, the Buddha,
the World's Best One, the Neutral One,
the Tranquil One, the Neutral One,
who was seated in the grass [then,]
[and there] I fanned the Biped-Lord,
the Buddha, [he], the Neutral One.² (1-2) [1646-1647]

The Omniscient One received [it,]
[then] the World-Leader fanned [himself].
Discerning what I was thinking,
he spoke this verse [about me then]: (3) [1648]

“Just as [this one] cooled my body
he will not feel the scorch [of hell];
just so your heart will be freed from
the three-fold fire [of existence].” (4) [1649]

All the gods gathered in a tree
whichever ones [were then thinking],
“we’ll hear the words of the Buddha
which will cause the donor to laugh.” (5) [1650]

[Then], seated there, the Blessed One,
Honored by the Gods’ Assembly
bringing laughter to the donor
spoke these verses [about me too]: (6) [1651]

“Because of this gift of fanning
and the resolve in [his own] heart,
he’ll become a wheel-turning king
known by the name of Subbata.³ (7) [1652]

Through the remainder of that deed,
incited by [his] wholesome roots,
he’ll become a wheel-turning king

¹“Reed-Garland-er.” Reading naḷa° (BJTS) for nala° (PTS)

²It is unclear whether the repetition of “Neutral One” (*tāḍino*) in this string of epithets is intentional (as to emphasize that particular quality) or not (perhaps through conflation of other now-lost epithets)

³“Good Vow” or “Compliant One” (as below, as a Buddha epithet)

known by the name of Māluta.⁴ (8) [1653]

Because of this gift of fanning
and [his] abundant honoring,
for one hundred thousand aeons
he'll come to know no bad rebirth.“ (9) [1654]

In the thirty-thousandth aeon
there were eight [kings named] Subbata.
In the twenty-nine thousandth [aeon]
there were eight [kings] named Māluta. (10) [1655]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (11) [1656]

Thus indeed Venerable Naḷamāliya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Naḷamāliya Thera is finished.

⁴“Breeze”