

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Sobhita

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

Sobhita Chapter, the Fourteenth

[131. Sobhita]

The Victor Padumuttara,
the World's Best One, the Bull of Men,
before a large body of folks
did preach the path of deathlessness. (1) [1870]

[Then] having listened to his words,
those majestic words he uttered,
pressing both my hands together,
I became tranquil at that time. (2) [1871]

“As the [great] ocean is
the foremost of the seas,
[and] the rock-heap Meru
is the best of mountains, (3)
likewise those [people] who
are controlled by the heart
approach not a tittle
of the Buddha's knowledge.” (4) [1872]¹
The Buddha, Compassionate, Sage,
setting forth the *Dhamma*-method,
seated in the monks' Assembly,
uttered this verse [about me then]: (5) [1873]

“He who praises knowledge [like this]
when the Buddha, World-Leader [lives],
for one hundred thousand aeons
will come to know no bad rebirth. (6) [1874]

Having destroyed the defilements,
tranquil and well-attentive,
he'll be the Teacher's follower,
known by the name of Sobhita.” (7) [1875]

I have burnt up [my] defilements,
all [new] existence is destroyed.
The three-fold knowing is attained,

¹PTS presents these lines as two verses with feet of only six syllables each; BJTS presents them (I think correctly) as a single verse whose feet measure twelve syllables each.

[I have] done what the Buddha taught. (8) [1877]²

In the fifty-thousandth aeon

there were seven Samuggatas,³

wheel-turning kings with great power,

possessors of the seven gems. (9) [1876]

The four analytical modes,

and these eight deliverances,

six special knowledges mastered,

[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (10) [1878]

Thus indeed Venerable Sobhita Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Sobhita Thera is finished.

²note that BJTS and PTS invert verses [1877] and [1876]/(8) and (9). I follow the PTS for consistency even though I suspect BJTS has it right.

³“Risen Up Together”