

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Sudassana

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[132. Sudassana¹]

On the Vitattha² River's bank,
[there] was a fig tree³ bearing fruit.
While I was searching for that tree
I saw the Leader of the World. (1) [1879]

Seeing a pandanus⁴ in bloom,
after having cut off a stalk,
I gifted [it] to the Buddha,
Sikhi, the Kinsman of the World. (2) [1880]

“Whatever knowledge you've attained
of the eternal, deathless, state,
I sing that knowledge's praises,
O Best Buddha, O Sage so Great.” (3) [1881]

Doing *pūjā* [thus] for knowledge,
I [then] saw the [fruiting] fig tree;
I have obtained that perception:
that's the fruit of knowledge-*pūjā*. (4) [1882]

In the thirty-one aeons since
I offered that flower [to him,]
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of knowledge-*pūjā*. (5) [1883]

In the thirteenth aeon ago
there were twelve [named] Phaluggata,⁵
wheel-turning kings with great power,
possessors of the seven gems. (6) [1884]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (7) [1885]

Thus indeed Venerable Sudassana Thera spoke these verses.
The legend of Sudassana Thera is finished.

¹“Good to Look At”

²PTS reads *vitthatāya nadītire*, “on a wide river bank”. I follow BJTS in the spelling of the proper name.

³lit., “*pilakkha* [tree]” (Sinh. *pulila*), the wave-leaved fig tree.

⁴*ketaka* or *ketakī* (Sinhala *vātakē* or *vātakeyiyā*)

⁵“Fruit Risen Up.” This is the BJTS spelling; PTS gives *Khaluggata*, “Surely Risen Up.”