

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Campakapupphiya

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[136. CChampakapupphiya¹]

[I saw Buddha], the Morning Star,²
shining like a dinner-plate tree,³
sitting down within a mountain,
surveying all the directions. (1) [1909]

There were three young brahmin men then,
well-trained in their own [brahmin] arts.⁴
Taking ascetics' provisions,
they were coming up behind me. (2) [1910]

In a bag were seven flowers
those ascetics had laid down [there].
Having picked them up I gave them
for the knowledge of Vessabhu. (3) [1911]

In the thirty-one aeons since
I offered those flowers [to it],
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of knowledge-*pūjā*. (4) [1912]

In the twenty-ninth aeon [hence,]
[a king] known as Vihatābha,⁵
was a wheel-turner with great strength,
possessor of the seven gems. (5) [1913]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [1914]

Thus indeed Venerable CChampakapupphiya Thera spoke these verses.

¹"CChampaka-Flower-er". The *cchampaka* (Sinh. *sapu*) tree is *Magnolia champaca*, formerly classified as *michelia champaca*. English names for the tree include Champak, Joy Perfume Tree, Yellow Jade Orchid Tree and Fragrant Himalayan Champaca. It was the Bodhi tree of the seventeenth Buddha of the *Buddhavaṃsa*, Atthadassi. It has highly fragrant cream to yellowish-colored blossoms.

²*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.

³*kaṇṇikāra*, *kaṇikāra* = Sinhala *kinihiriya*, *Pterospermum acerifolium*, produces a brilliant mass of yellow flowers; Engl. a.k.a. karnikar, bayur tree, maple-leaf bayur, caniyar (now archaic?), dinner-plate tree; Bodhi tree of Siddhattha Buddha.

⁴presumably sacrificing, chanting mantras, and forth.

⁵"Bright Light"

The legend of CChampakapupphiya Thera is finished.