

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Sālapupphadāyaka

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[139. Sālapupphadāyaka¹]

I was the king of beasts back then,
a [wild] lion who was fearless.
While hunting² in a mountain crag,³
I saw the Leader of the World. (1) [1928]

“This one would be the Great Hero;
he will liberate many folks.⁴
Well then oughtn’t I approach the
God of Gods, the Bull among Men?” (2) [1929]

Breaking a branch of a *sal* tree
I carried [it], flowers [and] buds.⁵
Having approached the Sambuddha,
I gave [him] those superb flowers. (3) [1930]

In the ninety-one aeons since
I offered those flowers [to him],
I’ve come to know no bad rebirth:
that’s the fruit of flower-*pūjā*. (4) [1931]

And in the ninth aeon ago
there were three [different] kings [back then]
known by the name Virocana,⁶
wheel-turning monarchs with great strength. (5) [1932]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [1933]

Thus indeed Venerable Sālapupphadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Sālapupphadāyaka Thera is finished.

¹“*Sal*-Flower-Giver”

²lit., “searching” “foraging”

³lit., “a place on a mountain difficult of access.”

⁴lit., “he will make many people attain nirvana”.

⁵reading *sakosaṃ* (BJTS) for *sakoṭaṇ* (PTS). The cty reads *sakeṭaṃ* and glosses it *sakaṇṇikaṃ* (“with a pinnacle”? “with the ears”?)

⁶“Shiny”