

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Ummāpupphiya

Jonathan S. Walters

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[145. Ummāpupphiya¹]

When Siddhattha, the Blessed One,
Sacrificial Recipient,
the World-Worshipped One passed away,²
a stupa festival³ took place. (1) [1961]

While the festival proceeded
for Siddhattha the Sage so Great,
taking a [blue] flax flower⁴ [then
I placed [it] upon the stupa. (2) [1962]

In the ninety-four aeons since
I offered that flower [there then],
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of stupa-*pūjā*. (3) [1963]

And in the ninth aeon ago
there were five and eighty monarchs.
[All] were known as Somadeva,⁵
wheel-turning kings with great power. (4) [1964]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (5) [1965]

Thus indeed Venerable Ummāpupphiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ummāpupphiya Thera is finished.

¹“Blue Flax-Flower-er”. cf. #321. *Ummāpuppha* (Skt. *umāpuṣpa*) refers to the flowers of *Linum usitatissimum*, Linseed. The small flowers of this fiber-bearing plant are distinctively and deeply blue in color, and the seeds, as the English name implies, bear a useful oil.

²lit., “reached nirvana”

³lit., “a great stupa festival” or “a large stupa festival”

⁴*ummā-pupphaṇ*

⁵“God Soma” or “Moon God”.