

# **Legends of the Buddhist Saints**

*Apadānapāli*

TRANSLATED BY  
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# Nāgapupphiya

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**[158. Nāgapupphiya<sup>1</sup>]**

There was a man named Suvacchcha<sup>2</sup>  
a brahmin master of mantras,  
placed in front by his own students,  
residing upon a mountain. (1) [2031]

The Victor, Padumuttara,  
Sacrificial Recipient,  
with a wish for my upliftment  
did come into my presence [then]. (2) [2032]

He walked back and forth in the sky,  
like he was smoking and burning,<sup>3</sup>  
[and] after he had made me smile,<sup>4</sup>  
he departed facing the east. (3) [2033]

And having seen that miracle,  
marvel making hair stand on end,  
taking an ironwood flower,  
I scattered [it] in his pathway.<sup>5</sup> (4) [2034]

In the hundred thousand aeons  
since I scattered that flower [then],  
due to the pleasure in [my] heart,  
I've come to know no bad rebirth. (5) [2035]

In the thirty-first aeon [hence]  
I was the king, Mahāratha,<sup>6</sup>  
a wheel-turner with great power,  
possessor of the seven gems. (6) [2036]

The four analytical modes,  
and these eight deliverances,  
six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (7) [2037]

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<sup>1</sup>“Ironwood-Flower-er”

<sup>2</sup>“Good Calf” or “Very Young One”

<sup>3</sup>reading *dhūpeti jalate* (BJTS) for *dhūpo 'tjalate* (“as though incense were flaming up,” PTS).

<sup>4</sup>reading *hāsaṃ mama veditvāna* (lit., “making a smile [or laughter] known to me”) with BJTS for PTS *ve hāsaṃ mama disvāna* (“surely having seen my smile [or laughter]” PTS).

<sup>5</sup>lit., “on the road he took”.

<sup>6</sup>“Big Chariot”

Thus indeed Venerable Nāgapupphiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Nāgapupphiya Thera is finished.