

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Punnāgapupphiya

Jonathan S. Walters

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Printed September 2026

[159. Punnāgapupphiya¹]

Plunging into a forest grove,
I [lived there as] a hunter [then].
Seeing a laurel² tree in bloom,
I called to mind the Best Buddha. (1) [2038]

Having plucked a flower [from it],
well-perfumed [and] scented with scents,
having made a stupa of sand,³
I offered [it] to the Buddha. (2) [2039]

In the ninety-two aeons since
I did that flower-*pūjā* [then],
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of Buddha-*pūjā*. (3) [2040]

In the ninety-first aeon [thence]
lived [a ruler], Tamonuda,⁴
a wheel-turning king with great strength,
possessor of the seven gems. (4) [2041]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (5) [2042]

Thus indeed Venerable Punnāgapupphiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Punnāgapupphiya Thera is finished.

¹*Punnāga*-Flower-er,“ *punnāga* being a type of flowering tree (Sinhala *domba*), Alexandrian laurel.

²*punnāga*

³lit., “in sand”

⁴= *tama* (darkness) plus *ūna-da* (less, reduced)?