

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Kumudamāliya

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Kumuda Chapter, the Eighteenth

[171. Kumudamāliya¹]

In the Himalayan Mountains,
there was a large, natural lake.

I was a *rakkhasa* born there,
of frightful form, having great strength. (1) [2104]

White lotuses were blooming there,
arising just as big as wheels,²
and I [then] picked those³ lotuses.
The Strong One's⁴ group⁵ was [there] then [too]. (2) [2105]

But Atthadassi, Blessed One,
the Biped-Lord, the Bull of Men,
seeing that those flowers were picked,⁶
did come into my presence [then]. (3) [2106]

The God of Gods, the Bull of Men,
the Sambuddha approached [me then].
Picking up all of those flowers
I gave [them all] to the Buddha. (4) [2107]

That company then [stretched] out to
the ends of the Himalayas.⁷
With a canopy [over] him⁸
the Thus-Gone-One did journey forth. (5) [2108]

In the eighteen hundred aeons
since I offered [that] flower [to him],

¹“White-Lotus-Garland-er”

²BJTS Sinhala gloss takes this measure to be that of a chariot wheel (*riya-sak*), in which case they were very large lotuses indeed.

³reading *taṃ* (BJTS) for *ahaṃ* (“I,” PTS).

⁴I follow BJTS in reading *balino* for *phalino* (“of the one bearing fruit,” PTS), though neither *balī* nor *phalī* is one of the regular Buddha-epithets in *Apadāna*, so the choice is somewhat arbitrary: the Buddha might as well be “the Fruitful One” as “the Strong One”.

⁵*Samiti*, which BJTS Sinhala gloss takes to mean the Assembly of monks, i.e., the Buddha and his monastic followers

⁶reading *samocchitaṃ* (BJTS) for *saṅkocchitaṃ* (PTS).

⁷reading *yāvatā himavantantā parisā sā tadā ahu* (BJTS) for *yāvatā himavantato yāva samantato ahu* (“as far as the ends of the Himalayas, on all sides there was,” PTS)

⁸reading *tācchadanasampanno* (“endowed with a canopy [on top of] him”) with BJTS for PTS *aggacchadanasampanno* (“with a canopy on top [on top of him]”)

I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of Buddha-pūjā. (6) [2109]

In the fifteenth aeon ago,
there were seven lords of people,
wheel-turning kings with great power,
[all] known as Sahassaratha.⁹ (7) [2110]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (8) [2111]

Thus indeed Venerable Kumudamāliya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Kumudamāliya Thera is finished.

⁹“Thousand Chariots”.