

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Rattipupphiya

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[173. Rattipupphiya¹]

I was a deer-hunter back then,
within a grove in the forest.
I saw Vipassi Buddha [then],
the God of Gods, the Bull of Men. (1) [2116]

Having seen red [flowers] blooming
on a winter cherry² tree [then],
having taken [them] with [their] stems,
I offered [them] to the Great Sage. (2) [2117]

In the ninety-one aeons since
I offered [those] flower[s] [to him],
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of giving flowers. (3) [2118]

And in the eighth aeon ago,
I was a monarch with great strength,
with the name of Suppasanna,³
possessor of the seven gems. (4) [2119]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (5) [2120]

Thus indeed Venerable Rattipupphiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Rattipupphiya Thera is finished.

¹“Red Flower [Donor]”

²*kuṭaja*, *Wrightia zeylanica*, Sinhala *keḷinda*. Bot. dict.: “a tree bearing a medicinal nut or seed used as a remedy for diarrhoea;” other names include Conessi bark, Tellicherri bark, for the astringent bark which is also used toward this medicinal end; arctic snow. However, as its name implies, it bears small white flowers, making rather miraculous the appearance of red flowers blooming on it.

³“Very Pleased”