

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Koṭumbariya

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[183. Koṭumbariya¹]

Happy, [and] with a happy heart,
I approached the Best among Men,
shining like a dinner-plate tree,²
sitting down amidst the mountains,
like the ocean without measure,
extending³ as far as the earth,
worshipped⁴ by the gods' assembly,⁵
of the best race of bulls of men. (1-2) [2163-2164]

I [once] offered to the Buddha
Sikhi, the Kinsman of the World,
a piece of cloth⁶ [which I had] filled
with seven flowers [I] had plucked. (3) [2165]

In the thirty-one aeons since
I did *pūjā* [with] that flower,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of Buddha-*pūjā*. (4) [2166]

In the twentieth aeon hence
I was a greatly powerful
wheel-turning monarch with great strength,
[known by the] name Mahāṇela.⁷ (5) [2167]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [2168]

Thus indeed Venerable Koṭumbariya⁸ Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Koṭumbariya⁹ Thera is finished.

¹*koṭumbariya* is a kind of cloth; the name would mean "[That Kind of Cloth]-er". This spelling follows BJTS; PTS gives *Kotumbariya*.

²*kaṇṇikāra*, *kaṇikāra* = Sinhala *kinihiriya*, *Pterospermum acerifolium*, produces a brilliant mass of yellow flowers; Engl. a.k.a. *karnikar*, bayur tree, maple-leaf bayur, *caniyyar* (now archaic?), dinner-plate tree; Bodhi tree of Siddhattha Buddha.

³reading *vitthataṃ* with BJTS for PTS *uddhataṇ* ("risen up")

⁴reading *pūjitaṃ* with BJTS for PTS *paretaṇ* ("dead," "oppressed")

⁵*devasanghena*

⁶lit., "a *koṭumbara*"

⁷BJTS reads *Mahāṇela*, meaning = ?

⁸PTS reads *Kotumbariya*

⁹PTS reads *Kotumbariya*