

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Pañcahatthiya

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[184. Pañcchahatthiya¹]

The Blessed One known as Tissa
was the World's Best, the Bull of Men;
Honored by the monks' Assembly,²
he went out onto³ the highway. (1) [2169]

Wishing to give an offering
to achieve my vow, I picked up⁴
five handfuls of lotus blossoms
and four [more handfuls]⁵ placed by me. (2) [2170]

Delighted⁶ by the Buddha's rays,
I gave [them]⁷ to the Best Biped,
the Golden-Colored Sambuddha
who was walking⁸ through the bazaar. (3) [2171]

In the ninety-two aeons since
I offered [those] flowers⁹ [to him,]
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of Buddha-pūjā. (4) [2172]

In the thirtieth aeon hence
there were five Subhāsammataṣ,¹⁰
wheel-turning monarchs with great strength,
possessors of the seven gems. (5) [2173]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [2174]

Thus indeed Venerable Pañcchahatthiya Thera spoke these verses.

¹"Five-handful-er"

²lit., "honored by [his] followers"

³lit., "entered into"

⁴lit., "are picked up," reading *paggaṇhitam* with BJTS for PTS "*haṇ mūgo 'mhi*" ("I am a deer")

⁵That is, nine handfuls total. BJTS suggests another readings of "five or four handfuls," but the "*ccha*" suggests that the reading 5+4 is more appropriate. The cty does not take this up.

⁶reading *abhituṭṭho* with BJTS for PTS *abhighuṭṭho* ("proclaimed, announced")

⁷lit., "I did pūjā [with them]"

⁸lit., "going"

⁹lit., "that flower"

¹⁰that is, five men named Subhāsammata, all of whom were rebirth precursors of Rev. Pañcchahatthiya. The name means "Well-Approved" or "Well Agreed Upon".

The legend of Pañcchahatthiya Thera is finished.