

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Ekacintita

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[187. Ekacchintita¹]

When according to [his] lifespan,
a god falls from the world,²
three sayings³ get emitted [then,]
[in] the rejoicing of the gods. (1) [2185]⁴

“From here, sir,⁵ go to a good state,
in the company of people.
Becoming human do obtain
great faith in the Excellent Truth.⁶ (2) [2186]

“Having established that, your faith,
in the well-known Excellent Truth,
[well-]fixed, born of [those happy] roots,
[be] steadfast as long as [you] live. (3) [2187]

“Doing good [deeds]⁷ with [your] body,
[and doing] much good⁸ with [your] speech;
doing good⁹ with [your] mind [as well,]
[be] free of hate and attachment.¹⁰ (4) [2188]

“Thus exalting the life [you live],
doing merit with much giving,
make other men also enter
the chaste life [and] Excellent Truth.” (5) [2189]

When gods know that a god’s falling,¹¹
[filled] with this [sort of] compassion,
they rejoice [about his rebirth]:
“O god come [back] repeatedly.” (6) [2190]

¹“Once-Thought-Out.”

²or body (*kāyā*); this reading follows BJTS

³lit., sounds, objects of hearing

⁴verses 1-10 plus the first two feet of v. 11 here are repeated almost verbatim as the same verses of #327, below.

⁵*bho*, BJTS glosses *pinvata* (“O meritorious one”)

⁶*saddhamme*

⁷*kusalaṇ*, “wholesome [karma]”

⁸*kusalaṇ*

⁹*kusalaṇ*

¹⁰lit., “[be a person] who is not one with ill-will, [one who is] free of attachment.”

¹¹reading *devā devaṇ yadā vidū cchavantaṇ* with BJTS for PTS *devadevaṇ yathāvidū bhavantaṇ*

I was moved when at that time the
assembly of gods had gathered,
“Well now then to what womb should I
go when [I have] fallen from here?” (7) [2191]

Padumuttara’s follower,
known by the name of Sumana,¹²
a monk with senses [well-]controlled,
realizing that I was moved
[and] desiring to lift me up,
did come into my presence then
[and] stirred me up instructing [me]
in the meaning and the Teaching.¹³ (8-9) [2192-2193]

Having listened to his words, I
made my heart pleased in the Buddha.
Having saluted that wise [monk,]
I [then] passed away on the spot. (10) [2194]

I was reborn right then and there,
incited by [those] happy roots.
For one hundred thousand aeons
I was not born in a bad state.¹⁴ (11) [2195]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (12) [2196]

Thus indeed Venerable Ekacchintita Thera spoke these verses.
The legend of Ekacchintita Thera is finished.

¹²“Cheerful” or “Good-Minded”

¹³*atthadhammānusāsivā*

¹⁴*duggatiṃ nūpapajj’ ahaṃ*