

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Ekacāriya

Jonathan S. Walters

Copyright © 2026 Jonathan S. Walters.

PUBLISHED BY JONATHAN S. WALTERS AND WHITMAN COLLEGE

<https://apadanatranslation.com>

Licensed under the Attribution, Non-Commercial, Share Alike (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>).

Printed September 2026

[189. Ekacchāriya¹]

At that time a great din arose
among the Tāvatisa gods:
“The world’s Buddha has passed away²
and we’re [still] afflicted with lust.” (1) [2202]

Among them who had [thus] been moved,
afflicted with arrows of grief,
made firm by [my] own [mental]³ strength,
I went into Buddha’s presence. (2) [2203]

Plucking a *mandāra* bloom,
tender, created with magic,
I [then] offered [it] at the time
of the Buddha’s Passing Away.⁴ (3) [2204]

All the gods and celestial
nymphs rejoiced for me at that time.
For one hundred thousand aeons
I was not born in a bad state.⁵ (4) [2205]

Sixty thousand aeons ago
there were [born] sixteen [great] people
[all] named Mahāmallajana⁶
wheel-turning monarchs with great strength. (5) [2206]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [2207]

Thus indeed Venerable Ekacchāriya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ekacchāriya Thera is finished.

¹“Once Practicer”

²“reached nirvana”

³I follow BJTS in assuming the implied *cchitta* here

⁴reading *parinibbāṇakālamhi* with BJTS for PTS *parinibbānākālamhi*

⁵*duggatiṇ nūpapajj’ ahaṇ*

⁶this reading follows BJTS; PTS gives the name as Mahāmallājanā. The meaning is “Great Wrestling Men”.