

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Asokapūjaka

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[194. Asokapūjaka¹]

In lovely Tivarā City,
there was a royal garden then.
I was a royal attendant,²
the warden of the garden there. (1) [2230]

The Self-Become One, Full of Light,³
named Paduma was [Buddha then].
Sitting in a lotus' shade
that Sage had not [yet] left [the world].⁴ (2) [2231]

Seeing an ashoka⁵ in bloom
heavy with clusters, beautiful,
I gave a bloom to the Buddha,
the excellent-lotus-named Sage. (3) [2232]

In the ninety-four aeons since
I offered that flower [to him,]
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of Buddha-pūjā. (4) [2233]

In the seventieth aeon
were sixteen Aruṇaṇjahas,⁶
wheel-turning monarchs with great strength,
possessors of the seven gems. (5) [2234]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [2235]

Thus indeed Venerable Asokapūjaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Asokapūjaka Thera is finished.

¹"Offerer of Ashoka [Blossoms]"

²BJTS reads *baddhacaro*. Cty explains the term: "I was the servant, the employee of the king"

³*sappabho*

⁴*na jahitaṇṇ muniṇṇ*, taking *jahita* from *jahati* to abandon, leave, relinquish, quit, give up (Sinh. *at harīma*)

⁵Jonesia Asoka, *Saraca asoca*; a large, flowering tree with dense clusters of red flowers

⁶"Abandoning the Sun"