

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Aṅkolaka

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

[195. Aṅkolaka¹]

Seeing an *aṅkola* in bloom
with excellent flowers and buds,²
having plucked a flower [from] it,
I went to the Buddha's presence. (1) [2236]

In that period Siddhattha
was the Hidden One,³ the Great Sage.
Honoring him for a moment,
I tossed that bloom into the cave. (2) [2237]

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*. (3) [2238]

In the thirty-sixth aeon hence
I was one Devagajjita,⁴
a wheel-turning king with great strength,
possessor of the seven gems. (4) [2239]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (5) [2240]

Thus indeed Venerable Aṅkolaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Aṅkolaka Thera is finished.

¹"Alangium Donor." The *aṅkola* (Sinh. *rukaṅgana*; *Alangium hexapetalum*, a.k.a. sage-leaved alangium) is a flowering tree

²reading *mālāvaraṇi sakosakaṇi* with BJTS for PTS *māhāsārasamotataṇi*

³*patilīna*; as is clear in the fourth foot, he is "hidden" within a cave

⁴"Roaring (or Thunder, or Furious Elephant) of the Gods"