

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Kisalayaṭjaka

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[196. Kisalayapūjaka¹]

In the city, Dvāravatī,
I had a small flowering tree.²
There was a well there [in that place,
[whose water] made the trees grow tall.³ (1) [2241]

Siddhattha, the Unconquered One,
made firm by [his] own [mental]⁴ strength,
showing [his] compassion for me,
traveled in the path of the wind.⁵ (2) [2242]

I am looking at nothing else,
fixed on worship of the Great Sage.
Seeing an ashoka tree sprout
I threw it up into the sky. (3) [2243]

Those shoots are going backwards
to the Buddha going [in the sky].
That I, seeing that miracle,
[thought], “O! The Buddha’s loftiness!”⁶ (4) [2244]

In the ninety-four aeons since
I offered [the Buddha] that sprout,
I’ve come to know no bad rebirth:
that’s the fruit of Buddha-*pūjā*. (5) [2245]

In the twenty-seventh aeon
ago lived one Ekassara,⁷
a wheel-turning king with great strength,
possessor of the seven gems. (6) [2246]

¹“Offerer of a Tender Sprout (or Shoot)”

²lit., “there was a small flowering tree (or shrub) of mine”

³lit., “making grow up of the trees,” apposite “well”

⁴see above, #189, v. 2 (BJTS 2203)

⁵BJTS gloss makes clear: out of compassion he demonstrated his Buddha powers by flying through the sky for a moment.

⁶reading *uḷāratā* with BJTS for PTS *pūjaka* (“offerer”). The latter reading — which is also possible — would mean that his amazement was at the fact that his *pūjā* resulted in his seeing the miracle, rather than the miracle itself (the *iddhi* powers of a Buddha).

⁷the name means “One Mule,” which seems rather diminutive for a world-conquering monarch. Both PTS and BJTS give alternate reading Ekissaro, “One Lord,” which would seem more appropriate, but both accept Ekassara as the preferred reading based on the manuscript record.

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (7) [2247]

Thus indeed Venerable Kisalayapūjaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Kisalayapūjaka Thera is finished.