

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Vaṇṇakāraka

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[236. Vaṇṇakāraka¹]

In Aruṇavatī city

I was a dyer at that time.

With various colors I dyed
the cloth items on the stupa.² (1) [2446]

In the thirty-one aeons since

I dyed with colors at that time,

I've come to know no bad rebirth;

that's the fruit of giving colors. (2) [2447]

In the twenty-third aeon hence

[I was one] named CChandupama,³

a wheel-turning king with great strength,
possessor of the seven gems. (3) [2448]

The four analytical modes,

and these eight deliverances,

six special knowledges mastered,

[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (4) [2449]

Thus indeed Venerable Vaṇṇakāraka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Vaṇṇakāraka Thera is finished.

¹“Dyer” (*vaṇṇa* = color, hence lit., “color-er;” cf. *vaṇṇaka*, dye, perfume)

²*cchetiye*. These would presumably consist of banners, flags, and/or girdles attached to the stupa. *CChetiya* can also mean any shrine, so it is also possible that we should think of the cloths as curtains, robes on statues, and/or table cloths in an image house, or flags and so forth attached to a Bodhi tree.

³“Moon-like” or “Similar to the Moon”