

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Nalinakesariya

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[243. Naḷinakesariya¹]

I was a water bird² who dwelled
within a natural lake³ [there].
Then I saw [him], the God of Gods,
[when] he was flying⁴ through the sky. (1) [2470]

With a mind that was very clear
I plucked some pollen⁵ with my beak
[and then] offered it to Tissa,
the Buddha, Kinsman of the World. (2) [2471]

In the ninety-two aeons since
I did *pūjā* [with] that flower,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of Buddha-*pūjā*. (3) [2472]

In the seventy-third aeon
I was [one] named Satapatta,⁶
a wheel-turning king with great strength,
possessor of the seven gems. (4) [2473]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (5) [2474]

Thus indeed Venerable Naḷinakesariya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Naḷinakesariya Thera is finished.

¹“Lotus-Lake-er”

²*jalakukkuṭa* = water-fowl, a duck or something similar.

³This follows the BJTS gloss, which follows the cty. lit., “living in the center of a self-produced lake”

⁴lit., “going”

⁵*kesariṇ* = flower pollen (or filaments, “hairs”). BJTS understands this to be the pollen of a lotus blossom growing on the lake.

⁶“Lotus Flower”