

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Āluvadāyaka

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

[278. Āluvadāyaka¹]

On a Himalayan mountain
flows the great Indus, beautiful.
There I saw the Passionless One,
the Radiant One,² Beautiful. (1) [2612]

Amazed after [I] had seen him,
Engaged in the Ultimate Calm,
I gave [some] bulbous roots to him,
[feeling well-]pleased by [my] own hands. (2) [2613]

In the thirty-one aeons since
I gave those bulbous roots back then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of bulbous-root-gifts. (3) [2614]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered:
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (4) [2615]

Thus indeed Venerable Āluvadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.
The legend of Āluvadāyaka Thera is finished.

¹“Bulbous Root Donor.” BJTS glosses this term as Sinh. *ala*, root, bulbous root, as in *ala-tarpal*, potato. Cty says it was a portion (*khaṇḍa*) of the stuff.

²following Cty and BJTS in reading *sappapabhāsa* as = *su-(p)pabhāsa*, “very bright”