

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Sampasādaka

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[306. Sampasādaka¹]

“Praise to you, O Buddha-Hero!
You are the Clear One everywhere.
Calamity’s befallen me;
become the refuge for this me.” (1) [2740]

Siddhattha [Buddha], in the world
the Peerless One,² explained to [me]:³
“The [Monks’] Assembly, ocean-like,
is without measure, unexcelled.
Bring your heart pleasure in the monks⁴
and plant the seed of happiness
there in that field which has no flaws,
which provides fruit without limit.”⁵ (2-3) [2741-2742]

Saying that, the Omniscient One,
the World’s Best, the Bull among Men,
after instructing me that way,
rose up into the sky, the sky!⁶ (4) [2743]

Not long after the Bull of Men,
Omniscient One, had gone his way,
the [time of my own] death arrived;
I was reborn in Tusitā. (5) [2744]

Then in that field which has no flaws
which provides fruit without limit,
in the monks, having pleased my heart,
I joyed an aeon in heaven. (6) [2745]

In the ninety-four aeons since
I received that pleasure back then,

¹“Great Pleasure-er”

²*loke appaṭipuggalo*

³lit., “to him,” *tassa*, from the *tassa me* in the prior verse.

⁴lit., “in the Assembly (*saṅghe*)”

⁵*anantaphaladāyaka*. In addition to playing on this monk’s name, this epithet supplied the Sangha (in the mouth of a previous Buddha) fits the (over?-)extended agricultural metaphor at work here: the Sangha is a fertile field in which the mental pleasure of an ordinary person is itself the seed of future happiness. The term used for “field,” *khetta* in the locative, is also evocative of the first verse/setting of the roughly contemporaneous (+/-) *Bhagavad-gītā*, which opens, *dharmakṣetre kurukṣetre*

⁶taking the redundancy (*vehāsam nabham*) as emphatic

I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of [feeling] pleasure. (7) [2746]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (4) [2747]

Thus indeed Venerable Sampasādaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Sampasādaka Thera is finished.