

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Ukkhittapadumiya

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Printed September 2026

[337. {340.}]¹ Ukkhittapadumiya²

In the city, Haṃsavatī,
I was a florist at that time.
Plunging into a lotus lake,
I gathered [some] lotus blossoms. (1) [3060]

The Victor Padumuttara
was the Master of Everything.³
Along with one hundred thousand
such-like ones whose minds were peaceful,
pure ones with defilements destroyed,
six special knowledge-possessors,
the Ultimate Person approached
desirous of my improvement.⁴ (2-3) [3061-3062]

Having seen [him], the God of Gods,
the Self-Become One, World-Leader,
breaking off the stems I tossed [those]
lotuses into the air then. (4) [3063]

“If you are a Buddha, Hero,
the World’s Best One, the Bull of Men,
let [these] lotuses by themselves
go [and] be carried on your head.” (5) [3064]

The World’s Best One, the Bull of Men,
the Great Hero then wishing so,
through the power⁵ of the Buddha,
those [blooms] were carried on his head. (6) [3065]

Due to that karma done very well,
with intention and [firm] resolve,
discarding [my] human body,
I went to Tāvatiṃsa [then]. (7) [3066]

There my well-constructed mansion

¹Apadāna numbers provided in {fancy brackets} correspond to the BJTS edition, which contains more individual poems than does the PTS edition dictating the main numbering of this translation.

²“Tossed Lotus-er”

³lit., “Master of All Things (*dhamma*)” (or “Master of All Teachings”)

⁴*vuddhi*, lit., “increase” or “furtherance”.

⁵*ānubhāvena*

was known as⁶ “One Hundred Petals.”⁷

It rose up sixty leagues [in height];
[and it] was thirty leagues in width. (8) [3067]

A thousand times the lord of gods,
I exercised divine rule [then].
And seventy-five times I was
a king who turned the wheel [of law]. (9) [3068]

There was [also] much local rule,
innumerable by counting.
I experienced own-karma,
formerly well done by myself. (10) [3069]

Due to just that single lotus,
experiencing good fortune,
I realized the Teaching of
the Blessed [Buddha], Gotama. (11) [3070]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (12) [3071]

In the hundred thousand aeons
since I offered [him]⁸ that flower,
I’ve come to know no bad rebirth:
the fruit of a single lotus. (13) [3072]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (14) [3073]

Thus indeed Venerable Ukkhittapadumiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ukkhittapadumiya Thera is finished.

The Summary:

Gandhodaka and Pūjani,
Punnāga, Ekadussika,
Phusita and Pabhaṅkara,

⁶*vuccchhati*, lit., “was called”

⁷*sattapattan* = “Lotus”

⁸lit., “since I did *pūjā*”

Kuṭida, Uttariyaka,
Savani, Ekapadumi:
the clump of verses there [numbers]
one hundred verses and also
forty-four [additional ones].

The Gandhathūpiya Chapter, the Thirty-Fourth