

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Ekapadumiya

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Ekapadumiya Chapter, the Thirty-Fifth

[338. {341.}¹ Ekapadumiya²]

The Victor Padumuttara
was the Master of Everything.³
Explaining⁴ all existences,⁵
he ferried many folks across. (1) [3074]

At that time I was a swan-king;
I was distinguished among birds.
Plunged into a natural lake,
I am sporting the sports of swans. (2) [3075]

Padumuttara, World-Knower,
Sacrificial Recipient,
the Victor would fly,⁶ all the time,
over that natural lake [there]. (3) [3076]

I having seen the God of Gods,
the Self-Become One, World-Leader,
gathered lotuses with my beak —
lovely, with a hundred petals —
[and] having broken off the stems,
tossing them into the sky, I
did *pūjā* to the Best Buddha,
pleased by⁷ the Leader of the World. (4-5) [3077-3078]

Padumuttara, World-Knower,
Sacrificial Recipient,
the Teacher, standing in the sky,
gave me this expression of thanks.⁸ (6) [3079]

“Due to this single lotus [gift],
with intention and [firm] resolve,

¹*Apadāna* 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“One-Lotus-er”

³lit., “master of all things (*dhamma*)” (or “Master of All Teachings”)

⁴*vibhāvento*, could also be “understanding” or “annihilating”

⁵*bhavābhav*, lit., “all sorts of existence,” “this and that type of existence”

⁶lit., “came” or “approached”

⁷lit., “in”

⁸lit., “made this expression of thanks for me”

for one hundred thousand aeons
you won't fall into⁹ suffering."¹⁰ (7) [3080]

Having said this the Sambuddha
whose name was Ultimate Lotus,¹¹
after detailing my karma,
went according to his wishes. (8) [3081]

In the hundred thousand aeons
since I did that [good] karma then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of Buddha-*pūjā*. (9) [3082]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (10) [3083]

Thus indeed Venerable Ekapadumiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ekapadumiya Thera is finished.

⁹lit., "go"

¹⁰*vinipātaṇ*, lit., "a state of suffering" or "ruination"

¹¹*jalajuttama*, the literal meaning of Padumuttara