

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Dhajādayaka

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[340. {343.}¹ Dhajadāyaka²]

The Teacher [then] was named Tissa,
the World's Best One, the Bull of Men.
Having seen his passing away,³
I hoisted a flag [at that place].⁴ (1) [3093]

Due to that karma done very well,
with intention and [firm] resolve,
discarding [my] human body,
I went to Tāvātimsa [then]. (2) [3094]

And [afterwards,] three hundred times,
I ruled over the [world of] gods.
And [furthermore] five hundred times
I was a king who turned the wheel. (3) [3095]

There was [also] much local rule,
innumerable by counting.
I experienced own-karma,
formerly well done by myself. (4) [3096]

In the ninety-two aeons since
I did that [good] karma back then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of giving a flag. (5) [3097]

Today, if I should wish for [it],
[the world] with forests and mountains
is covered by a *khoma* cloth:
the fruit of⁵ what I did⁶ back then. (6) [3098]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (7) [3099]

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"Flag Donor"

³*tayopadhikkhayo* (BJTS reads, a little more cleanly, *tassopadhikkhaye*), lit., "the destruction (*khaya*) of his foundation (substratum, liability) for rebirth (*upadhi*)."⁴ I follow the BJTS gloss in understanding this as a reference to his *parinirvāṇa*.

⁴lit., "a flag was hoisted (or given, carried, displayed, etc.) by me"

⁵lit., "in" (*kate*, locative case)

⁶lit., "my deed"

Thus indeed Venerable Dhajadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Dhajadāyaka Thera is finished.