

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Nalāgārika

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[342. {345.}¹ Nalāgārika²]

Close to the Himalayan range,
there's a mountain named Hārīta.³
The Self-Become One, Nārada,
dwelt at the roots of a tree then. (1) [3104]

Having fashioned a house of reeds,
I covered it with grass [as thatch],
[and] clearing a walkway I [then]
gave [them] to the Self-Become One. (2) [3105]

In the fourteenth aeon [ago]
I delighted in the gods' world,
and seventy-four times did I
exercise rule over the gods. (3) [3106]

And seventy-seven times I
was [then] a wheel-turning monarch.
There was [also] much local rule,
innumerable by counting. (4) [3107]

My dwelling-place was very tall,
rising up like Indra's post.
One thousand-pillared, unsurpassed,
a mansion full of radiance. (5) [3108]

Enjoying both accomplishments,⁴
incited by [my] wholesome roots,
I went forth in the religion⁵
of Gotama, the Blessed One. (6) [3109]

Being one bent on exertion,
calmed,⁶ devoid of grounds for rebirth,⁷

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"Reed-Hut-er." BJTS reads *Nalāgārika*.

³perhaps "Charming," from *hāri*, or "Carrying," from *harati*. A parallel *apadāna* below, of Nalakuṭika Thera, which begins with the same two verses, reads the name as Bhārīka (BJTS Bhārīta) with *Hārīta* and *Hiriko* as alts.

⁴i.e., birth as a human being and birth as a god

⁵*sāsane*, lit., "dispensation"

⁶*upasanto*

⁷*nirūpadhi*

like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (7) [3110]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (8) [3111]

Thus indeed Venerable Nalāgārika Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Nalāgārika Thera is finished.