

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Saddasañña

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Printed September 2026

Saddasañña Chapter, the Thirty-Sixth

[348. {351.}]¹ Saddasañña²

I was a deer-hunter back then,
within a grove in the forest.
There I saw the Sambuddha [once],
honored by the gods' assembly.³ (1) [3140]

[While] preaching the Four Noble Truths
he ferried many folks across.
I [also] heard [his] honeyed speech
like⁴ the song⁵ of a cuckoo bird.⁶ (2) [3141]

Having pleased [my] heart in the sound
of Sikhi [Buddha], World's Kinsman,
the Sage, Divine Sound Intoner,⁷
I attained [my] arahantship.⁸(3) [3142]

In the thirty-one aeons since
I did that [good] karma back then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of [feeling] pleasure. (4) [3143]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (5) [3144]

Thus indeed Venerable Saddasañña Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Saddasañña Thera is finished.

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"Sound-Perceiver," cf. #88, #294, #317

³*devasaṅghapurakkhataṇ*

⁴lit., "comparable to" or "metaphorically"

⁵*ruda*, lit., "cry" (of an animal)

⁶i.e., melodious and clear

⁷*brahmassara*. RD explains this as "a beautiful and deep voice (with 8 fine qualities: see *enumd* under *bindu*) D ii.211=227; J i.96; v.336."

⁸lit., "I attained the destruction of the outflows" (*āsavakkhayaṇ*). This has to be read as a reference to the much later (present) life, for if he had become an arahant in the time of Sikhi Buddha he would not have been reborn during the time of the present (Gotama) Buddha.