

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Kesarapupphiya

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[361. {364.}¹ Kesarapupphiya²]

I was a sorcerer³ [back then,
on a Himalayan mountain.
I saw the Spotless One, Buddha,
Great Famed One, walking back and forth. (1) [3191]

At that time I having placed⁴
three *kesara* flowers on [my] head,
I approached [him], the Sambuddha,
[and] did *pūjā* to Vessabhu. (2) [3192]

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 Buddha-*pūjā*. (3) [3193]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (4) [3194]

Thus indeed Venerable Kesarapupphiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Kesarapupphiya 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"*Kesara*-Flower-er." *Kesara* can refer to the *punnāga* tree (Sinh. *domba*) as well as the *mūnamal* or *muḥuṇa mal* tree, *Mimusops Elengi*. The present poem gives no context for deciding which of the two is intended here; BJTS glosses the term as *domba-mal*, but I leave it untranslated as a result.

³*vijjādhara*, "spell-knower"

⁴lit "made"