

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Gandhamuṭṭhiya

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[373. {376.}¹ Gandhamuṭṭhiya²]

When a stupa³ was being built,
various perfumes⁴ were gathered.
Happy, with pleasure in [my] heart,
I gave⁵ a handful of incense. (1) [3252]

In the hundred thousand aeons
since I worshipped⁶ that stupa [then,]
I’ve come to know no bad rebirth:
that’s the fruit of stupa-pūjā. (2) [3253]

My being in Buddha’s presence⁷
was a very good thing for me.
The three knowledges are attained;
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (3) [3254]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (4) [3255]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (5) [3256]

Thus indeed Venerable Gandhamuṭṭhiya Thera spoke these verses.

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“A Handful of Incense-er”

³or more generally, “shrine,” *cchita*. I read *cchitake karīyamāne* (locative absolute construction) with BJTS for PTS *cchitesu kiramānesu*, “when stupas (or shrines) were being scattered”

⁴*gandha*, lit., “[good] smells,” “types of incense”

⁵lit., “did *pūjā*”

⁶lit., “did *pūjā*”

⁷this slight deviation on the first verse of the standard refrain — reading *mama buddhassa* for the more common *buddhaseṭṭhassa* (“Best Buddha’s”) — appears to be quite random. Here, PTS has the variant but BJTS reads *buddhaseṭṭhassa*; elsewhere, BJTS also presents the variant. I have tried to keep these straight and to mark the variant when it occurs — likewise other small variants on the second verse of the refrain, but may have missed some, as it’s all-too-easy to just assume the default reading without looking closely, exacerbated by the PTS tendency to substitute “*pe*” (“etc.”) for the full verses of the refrain. This may account for the randomness of the variant readings in the manuscripts themselves, as the scribes no doubt experienced similar failures to detect the distinctions in these verses, which appear in nearly every *apadāna*

The legend of Gandhamuṭṭhiya Thera is finished.