

# **Legends of the Buddhist Saints**

*Apadānapāli*

TRANSLATED BY  
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# Ekadīpiya

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**[413. {416.}<sup>1</sup> Ekadīpiya<sup>2</sup>]**

When the Well-Gone-One passed away,<sup>3</sup>  
Siddhattha, Leader of the World,  
all the gods and human beings  
are worshipping<sup>4</sup> the Best Biped. (1) [4391]

And when a shrine<sup>5</sup> had been set up  
for Siddhattha, the World-Leader,  
they're worshipping the Teacher's shrine  
as vigorously as [each] could. (2) [4392]

In the shrine's vicinity, I  
lit a lamp [for the Buddha].  
I kept my lamp lit [the whole night,]  
until the sun rose [the next day]. (3) [4393]

Due to that karma done very well,  
with intention and [firm] resolve,  
discarding [my] human body,  
I went to Tāvātimsa [then]. (4) [4394]

There my well-constructed mansion  
was known [by the name] "Single Lamp."  
One hundred thousand lamps [always]  
are lit for me in the mansion. (5) [4395]

Like the sun [when it] is rising,  
my body is always shining.  
There is light for me all the time  
through all the light of my body. (6) [4396]

[Right] through walls, [also right] through rocks,  
[and] passing over mountain[-top]s,<sup>6</sup>  
I am seeing, with [my own] eyes,  
[even] one hundred leagues [distant]. (7) [4397]

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<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>"Single-Lamp-er"

<sup>3</sup>lit., "reached nirvana"

<sup>4</sup>pūjenti, "doing pūjā"

<sup>5</sup>or stupa: cchitake, Sinh. cchaitya

<sup>6</sup>lit., "having passed over a mountain"

And seventy-seven times I  
delighted in the world of gods.  
And thirty-one [different] times,  
I exercised divine rule [there]. (8) [4398]

And [then] twenty-eight times I was  
a king who turns the wheel [of law].  
There was [also] much local rule,  
innumerable by counting. (9) [4399]

Falling from the world of the gods,  
I was born in a mother's womb.  
Even inside' [my] mother's womb,  
[one of my] eyes remains open.<sup>8</sup> (10) [4400]

I went forth into homelessness  
when I was [only] four years [old].  
When eight months still had not elapsed,  
I attained [my] arahantship. (11) [4401]

I purified [my] "divine eye;"  
all [new] existence is destroyed.  
Every defilement is cut off:  
that's the fruit of a single lamp. (12) [4402]

[Right] through walls, [also right] through rocks;  
I am seeing, passing over  
even entire mountain[-top]s:<sup>9</sup>  
that's the fruit of a single lamp. (13) [4403]

Uneven spots are even for  
me; darkness is not [ever] known;  
I don't see [anything] darkly:  
that's the fruit of a single lamp. (14) [4404]

In the ninety-four aeons since  
I gave [Buddha] a lamp back then,  
I've come to know no bad rebirth:  
that's the fruit of a single lamp. (15) [4405]

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<sup>7</sup>lit., "gone to"

<sup>8</sup>*na nimilati*, lit., "is not shutting"

<sup>9</sup>lit., "having passed over a mountain"

My defilements are [now] burnt up;  
all [new] existence is destroyed.  
Like elephants with broken chains,  
I am living without constraint. (16) [4406]

Being in Best Buddha's presence  
was a very good thing for me.  
The three knowledges are attained;  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (17) [4407]

The four analytical modes,  
and these eight deliverances,  
six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (18) [4408]

Thus indeed Venerable Ekadīpiya Thera spoke these verses.  
The legend of Ekadīpiya Thera is finished.