

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Ucchaṅgapupphiya

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[414. {417.}¹ Ucchchaṅgapupphiya²]

In the city, Bandhumatī,
I was a gardener back then.
Having filled [my] lap³ [with flowers,]
I went⁴ to the bazaar [with them]. (1) [4409]

The Buddha⁵ in that period,
Honored by the monks' Assembly,
the World-Leader, was going by,⁶
through [his] enormous majesty.⁷ (2) [4410]

Having seen the Lamp of the World,
Vipassī, Crosser of the World,
taking a flower from my lap,
I offered⁸ [it] to Best Buddha. (3) [4411]

In the ninety-one aeons since
I offered⁹ a flower [back then],
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of Buddha-pūjā. (4) [4412]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (5) [4413]

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! (6) [4414]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,

¹Apadāna 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"Lapful-of-Flowers-er"

³BJTS Sinhala gloss suggests the meaning is "[my] lap-pocket (*Oḍokkuwa*), formed in the fold in the waist-garment (e.g., sarong, dhoti).

⁴reading *agamaṇ* with BJTS (and PTS alt.) for PTS *āgamaṇ* ("I came")

⁵lit., "the Blessed One"

⁶*niyyāti*, or "going out" "getting out"

⁷*mahatā ānubhāvena*

⁸lit., "did pūjā"

⁹lit., "did pūjā"

six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (7) [4415]

Thus indeed Venerable Uccchaṅgapupphiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Uccchaṅgapupphiya Thera is finished.