

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Mañcadāyaka

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[417. {420.}¹ Mañcchadāyaka²]

When Siddhattha reached nirvana,
Compassionate One, World-Leader,
[and] spread throughout the [entire] world,³
gods and men were honoring [him,] (1) [4449]

I was a low-born person⁴ there,
a maker of long-chairs and stools.
I [earn my] living through that work,
[and] through it I feed [my] children. (2) [4450]

Having made a well-made long-chair,
[feeling well-]pleased by [my] own hands,
approaching by myself, I [then]
gave [it] to the monks' Assembly. (3) [4451]

Due to that karma done very well,
with intention and [firm] resolve,
discarding [my] human body,
I went to Tāvatiṃsa [then]. (4) [4452]

Being gone to the world of gods,
I joy in the group of thirty.⁵
Very expensive beds come to
be, according to [my] wishes. (5) [4453]

Fifty times the lord of the gods,
I exercised divine rule [there].
And eighty times I was a king,
a king who turns the wheel [of law]. (6) [4454]

There was [also] much local rule,
innumerable by counting.
I'm [always] happy and famous:
that's the fruit of giving a bed. (7) [4455]

If, falling from the world of gods,
I come into the human state,

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"Couch Donor" "Bed Donor"

³i.e., his corporeal relics had been spread out (in stupas)

⁴cchaṇḍālo, a person of low status, an outcaste

⁵or "among the thirty[-three] gods," "in Tāvatiṃsa heaven"

very costly, excellent beds
come to be for me by themselves. (8) [4456]

This is the final time for me;
[my] last rebirth is proceeding.⁶
Even now, when it's time to lie
down, a bed is waiting for me. (9) [4457]

In the ninety-four aeons since
I gave [him] that gift at that time,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of giving a bed. (10) [4458]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (11) [4459]

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! (12) [4460]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (13) [4461]

Thus indeed Venerable Mañcchadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Mañcchadāyaka Thera is finished.

The Summary:

Bhaddāli and Ekacchchatta,
Tiṇasūla and Maṇsada.
Nāgapalllavika, Dīpi,
Ucchchaṅgī, Yāgudāyaka, cc Patthodanī, Mañcchadada:
the verses that are counted here
number two hundred verses and
one verse more than [those two hundred].

The Bhaddāli Chapter, the Forty-Second

⁶*ccharimo vattate bhavo*