

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Ekâsanadāyaka

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[420. {423.}¹ Ekâsanadāyaka²]

In the Himalayan region,
there's a mountain named Kosika.
My well-built hermitage [is there,]
with well-fashioned halls made of leaves. (1) [4497]

My name [back then] was Nārada,
[and] I was known as Kassapa.
I'm living on Kosika then,
seeking the path of purity.³ (2) [4498]

The Victor, Padumuttara,
the [Great] Master of Everything,
Solitude-Lover, Sambuddha,
came [there] in the path of the wind. (3) [4499]

Seeing the rays of the Great Sage,
flying⁴ over the forest⁵ [then],
I prepared a couch out of sticks,
and spread [my] leather robe⁶ [on it]. (4) [4500]

After preparing [him that] seat,
hands pressed together on [my] head,
declaring [my] great state of mind,
I spoke these words [to him back then]: (5) [4501]

“[You are]⁷ the Surgeon,⁸ [Great] Hero,
the Physician⁹ for the diseased.
O Guide, give your healing [to me],
one who's afflicted with disease. (6) [4502]

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“One-Seat-Donor”

³suddhimaggaṇ gavesanto

⁴lit., “going”

⁵vanagge, lit., “on the top of the forest”

⁶ajinaṇ, lit., “deer-leather [robe]”

⁷BJTS omits PTS *tuvaṇ* and gives *mahāvīra* for PTS *vīra*, keeping the meter. This translation preserves both the *tuvaṇ* of PTS and the *mahā°* of BJTS, but also indicates their absence in the respective other texts by including them in square brackets

⁸sallakatto, lit., “one who works on the (poison) arrow,” a doctor who does surgery.

⁹tikicchchako

O Sage, those seeking what is right¹⁰
who see you, O Best of Buddhas,
always gain success in their goal:¹¹
existence is shattered for them.¹² (7) [4503]

There's nothing for me to give you;
I [live] eating [only] wild fruits.
[But] I do have this seat [to give;]
sit down on this couch made of sticks." (8) [4504]

The Blessed One did sit down there,
unfrightened like a lion[-king].
After spending a moment [there,]
he spoke these words [to me back then]: (9) [4505]

"Be confident, don't be afraid;
you have obtained a wishing stone.¹³
Everything which you have wished for
will be fulfilled in the future. (10) [4506]

It is no trifle, what you've done,
in the unexcelled merit-field.
Self-lifting up is possible
for one whose mind is [well-]controlled. (11) [4507]

Because of this gift of a seat,
[done] with intention and resolve,
for one hundred thousand aeons
you won't fall¹⁴ into suffering.¹⁵ (12) [4508]

Fifty times the lord of the gods,
you will exercise divine rule,
and eighty times you'll be a king,
a king who turns the wheel [of law]. (13) [4509]

[And there will be] much local rule,
innumerable by counting.

¹⁰reading *kalla-atthikā* with BJTS for PTS *kallaṭṭhikā*. BJTS glosses *kalla* ("what is fitting") as "nirvana" (*nivan kāmātt yamkenek*)

¹¹reading *dhuvatthasiddhiṇ* with BJTS for PTS *dhuvan ti siddhiṇ*, "their goal called permanence" or "their goal called nirvana" (following PSI for the latter definition).

¹²*etesañ jajjaro bhavo*, following BJTS gloss (= "comes to an end")

¹³*jotiraso*

¹⁴lit., "go"

¹⁵*vinipātaṇ*, lit., "a state of suffering" or "ruination"

Being happy in every place,
you'll transmigrate in existence." (14) [4510]

Having said this, the Sambuddha,
the Leader, Ultimate Lotus,
the Hero¹⁶ rose into the sky,
just like a swan-king in the air. (15) [4511]

Elephant- [and] horse-vehicles,
with chariots and palanquins —
I am obtaining all of them:
that's the fruit of a single seat. (16) [4512]

Even having entered the woods,
whenever I wish for a seat,
discerning what I am thinking,
a palanquin's waiting on me. (17) [4513]

Being gone into the water¹⁷
whenever I wish for a seat,
discerning what I am thinking,
a palanquin's waiting on me. (18) [4514]

In whichever womb I'm reborn,
[whether] it's human or divine,
a hundred thousand palanquins
are waiting on me all the time. (19) [4515]

I transmigrate in [just] two states:
that of a god, or of a man.
[When human] I'm born in two clans:
the kṣatriyan or the brahmin. (20) [4516]

Having given a single seat
in the unexcelled merit-field,
taking the Teaching-palanquin,
I'm living without defilements. (21) [4517]

In the hundred thousand aeons
since I gave that gift at that time,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of a single seat. (22) [4518]

¹⁶BJTS reads *dhīro* ("the wise one")

¹⁷lit., "in the middle of water"

[My] defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (23) [4519]

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! (24) [4520]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (25) [4521]

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