

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Ghatamaṇḍadāyaka

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[423. {426.}¹ Ghatamaṇḍadāyaka²]

Seeing the Blessed One, Well-Thought,³
the World's Best One, the Bull of Men,
entered into the great forest,
tormented by internal pain,⁴
bringing pleasure to [my own] heart,
I presented cream from some ghee.⁵ (1) [4539]⁶

From doing and heaping [that] up,⁷
the river [named] Bhāgīrathī,⁸
[and] even the four great oceans
are supplying [ghee-]cream to me. (2) [4540]

And even this [whole] awful earth,
beyond measure, beyond counting,
discerning what I am thinking,
turns into honey and sugar.⁹ (3) [4541]

These trees on [all] four continents,
foot-drinkers growing in the earth,¹⁰
discerning what I am thinking,
turn into¹¹ wishing-trees [for me]. (4) [4542]

Fifty times the lord of the gods,
I exercised divine rule [there].
And fifty-one times I was [then]

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"Cream-of-Ghee Donor." This *apadāna* is repeated verbatim below, with the same name, as #493 {496}.

³*succhintitaṇ*

⁴*vātābādhena*, "a disease of the wind," one of the three humors in classical Indian (including Buddhist) medical traditions.

⁵*ghata* (cream, scum) + *maṇḍa* (clarified butter, ghee), i.e., the best part of the ghee, the purest oil skimmed off the top of a pot of ghee.

⁶PTS and BJTS agree in presenting this as a six-footed verse.

⁷*katattā ācchittattā ccha*, lit., "because of the doing, and because of the heaping up [of that karma]"

⁸This is the BJTS spelling; PTS gives *Bhāgīrasī*

⁹*bhavate madhusakkarā*

¹⁰this foot (as elsewhere) consists of two different words for "tree": *dharaṇī-rūha* ("growing in the earth") and *pādapa* ("drinking from the feet [or roots]"). Though awkward in English, I translate literally here rather than give the non-descriptive "tree, which was a tree".

¹¹*bhavanti*, become

a king who turns the wheel [of law].
[And I enjoyed] much local rule,
innumerable by counting. (5) [4543]¹²

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 the cream from ghee. (6) [4544]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (7) [4545]

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! (8) [4546]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (9) [4547]

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

¹²PTS and BJTS agree in presenting this as a six-footed verse.