

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Ekadhammasavanīya

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[424. {427.}]¹ Ekadhammasavaniya²

The Victor, Padumuttara,
was the Master of Everything.
[While] preaching the Four Noble Truths,
he ferried many folks across. (1) [4548]

A matted-haired ascetic³ then,
I practiced fierce austerities.⁴
Throwing off [my] clothes made of bark,
I traveled in the sky back then. (2) [4549]

I am not [then] able⁵ to go
over [him,] the Best of Buddhas.
Like a bird that has struck a rock,
I am unable to proceed.⁶ (3) [4550]

Having walked⁷ upon the water,
so I am flying through the sky.
Previously my behavior
never had been interrupted. (4) [4551]

“Well now I’ll investigate that.
I might get some small benefit.”
Descending from the sky I then
heard the [sweet] sound of the Teacher,
who was preaching impermanence
with a voice that was enticing,
good to listen to, beautiful.
I took up that [Teaching] back then. (5-6) [4552-4553]

Having perceived impermanence,⁸
I went [back] to my hermitage.

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-Teaching-Hearer.” BJTS spells the name *Ekadhammasavaniya*

³*jaṭṭila*, an ascetic who wears his hair in a matted braid (*jaṭṭā*)

⁴lit., “I was one who practices fierce austerities,” reading *ugga-tāpano* with BJTS (and PTS alternative) for PTS *uggata-āpaṇa*, “rising over the bazaar”

⁵*na gantuṃ visahāma’ ahaṃ*

⁶lit., “I do not receive going”

⁷reading *‘vokammitvāna* (“set out”) with BJTS for PTS *vomisitvāna* (?).

⁸lit., “taking the perception of impermanence”

Remaining as long as I lived,
I [later] passed away [right] there. (7) [4554]

In subsequent existences,
I recalled hearing the Teaching.⁹
Due to that karma done very well,
with intention and [firm] resolve,
discarding [my] human body,
I went to Tāvatiṃsa [then]. (8) [4555]¹⁰

For thirty thousand aeons I
delighted in the world of gods,
and fifty-one times [while there], I
exercised rule over the gods. (9) [4556]

And twenty-one times I was [then]
a king who turns the wheel [of law].
[And I enjoyed] much local rule,
innumerable by counting. (10) [4557]

I enjoyed [my] own good karma,¹¹
being happy from birth to birth.
Recalling that perception, I
transmigrated from birth to birth.
I do not comprehend the end,¹²
nirvana, the eternal state. (11) [4558]¹³

Sitting down in my father's house,
a monk with senses [well-]controlled
was [then] explaining this sermon,¹⁴
spoken about impermanence:¹⁵ (12) [4559]

"In flux indeed is all that is;
things that arise and [then] decline
are being born [and then] dying;
happy is the relief from them." (13) [4560]

⁹lit., "the Good Teaching," *saddhamma*^o

¹⁰PTS and BJTS agree in presenting this as a six-footed verse.

¹¹lit., "merit," *sakaṇ puññaṇ*

¹²*na koṭi paṭivijjhāmi*

¹³PTS and BJTS agree in presenting this as a six-footed verse.

¹⁴*kathāyaṇ* (BJTS reads *kath'ayaṇ*)

¹⁵reading *aniccchchatam udāhari*

Right after having heard [that] verse,
I recalled my past perception.
Sitting down on a single seat,
I attained [my] arahantship. (14) [4561]

When [only] seven years of age,
I attained [my] arahantship.
The Buddha [himself] ordained me:
the fruit of hearing the Teaching. (15) [4562]

In the hundred thousand aeons
since I heard the Teaching back then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
the fruit of hearing the Teaching. (16) [4563]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (17) [4564]

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! (18) [4565]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (19) [4566]

Thus indeed Venerable Ekadhammasavanīya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ekadhammasavanīya Thera is finished.