

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Sovaṇṇakiṅkhaniya

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Printed September 2026

[426. {429.}]¹ Sovanṇakiṅkhaniya²

Having departed [home] with faith,
I went forth into homelessness.
Wearing robes made out of bark, I
placed [my] trust in asceticism.³ (1) [4600]

Atthadassi, the Blessed One,
the World's Best One, the Bull of Men,
came to be in that period,
ferrying many folks across. (2) [4601]

[All] my strength was [then] exhausted,
due to a serious⁴ illness.
Remembering the Best Buddha,
making an excellent stupa
of sand, with a happy heart I
scattered golden *kiṅkhani* blooms,
by the thousands, [on that stupa,]
my mind [full of] exultation.⁵ (3-4) [4602-4603]

As though facing⁶ the Sambuddha,
I attended on that stupa
with mental pleasure about [him],
Atthadassi, the Neutral One. (5) [4604]

Reborn in⁷ the world of the gods,
I'm obtaining great happiness.
There I was the color of gold:
that's the fruit of Buddha-*pūjā*. (6) [4605]

[There] I had eight hundred million
women dressed in their ornaments.⁸

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"Gold *Kiṅkhani* Flower-er." BJTS spells the name "Soṇṇakiṅkhaniya"

³*tapokammaṇ apassito*.

⁴*paramena*, "superior" "best." BJTS Sinhala gloss: *dāḍi*, "strong"

⁵reading *udaggamānaso* ("thrilled mind") with BJTS for PTS *uddaggamānaso* ("a mind on top of water")

⁶or "face to face with"

⁷lit., "being gone to"

⁸*samalaṅkatā*, lit., "well-ornamented," "together with their ornaments," "all decked out"

They're waiting on me all the time:
that's the fruit of Buddha-pūjā. (7) [4606]

There sixty thousand instruments,
bhera-drums⁹ and *paṇava*-drums,¹⁰
conch-shells and *deṇḍima*-drums¹¹ [too,]
speaking the lovely sound of drums.¹² (8) [4607]

[And also] eighty-four thousand
elephants all-ornamented,
*mātāṅgas*¹³ rutting in three ways¹⁴
[and] tuskers sixty years of age,
covered over with nets of gold,
[always] are attending¹⁵ on me,
and elephants equipped for war,¹⁶
are not [ever] lacking for me.¹⁷ (9-10) [4608-4609]

I am enjoying the result
of golden *kiṅkhani*¹⁸ flowers.
Fifty-eight times I exercised
sovereignty over [all] the gods. (11) [4610]

And seventy-one times I was
a king who turns the wheel [of law].
On earth, a hundred and one times,
I exercised world-rulership. (12) [4611]

That one has now gained deathlessness,
unconditioned, hard to perceive.
The fetters have [all] been destroyed;
now there will be no more rebirth. (13) [4612]

⁹*bheriyo*, “kettle-drums,” BJTS Sinh. gloss *gāṭabera*

¹⁰*paṇavāni*, “a kind of small drum or cymbal,” BJTS Sinh. gloss *paṇā* [read *panā*] *bera*

¹¹*deṇḍimā*, “a kind of kettle-drum”

¹²*vaggu* [BJTS *vaggum*] *vadati dundubhi* (BJTS, “speaking beautifully the sound of drums”)

¹³see n. to #1, v. 25 [164]. Or glossary?

¹⁴i.e., showing their rut in their eyes, ears, and genitals. See cty, p. 288.

¹⁵lit., “are doing attendance”

¹⁶*balakāye gaje c’eva*, lit., “and also army elephants” or “also elephants army troops”
or “also cavalry elephants”

¹⁷lit., “a lack...does not exist for me”

¹⁸BJTS reads °*kiṅkhani*°

In the eighteen hundred aeons
since I presented that flower,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that is the fruit of Buddha-*pūjā*. (14) [4613]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (15) [4614]

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! (16) [4615]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (17) [4616]

Thus indeed Venerable Sovaṇṇakīṅkhaniya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Sovaṇṇakīṅkhaniya Thera is finished.