

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Ekasaṅkhiya

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[429. {432.}¹ Ekasaṅkhiya²]

There was a large festival for
Vipassi Buddha's³ Bodhi [tree].
The populace came together,
worshipping⁴ [that] superb Bodhi. (1) [4642]

"Surely he's no inferior,
the one whose Bodhi [tree] this is;
this will be a Best of Buddhas;"
the Teacher's [tree] should be worshipped."⁵ (2) [4643]

After that, taking a conch shell,
I attended [that] Bodhi tree.
Blowing [that conch shell] every day,
I worshipped the supreme Bodhi. (3) [4644]

Doing that karma when near death,
I attained the world of the gods.
[When] my [human] body fell down,
I delighted in the gods' world. (4) [4645]

Thrilled, happy, overjoyed, [playing]⁶
sixty thousand instruments [they]
give service to me all the time:
that's the fruit of Buddha-pūjā, (5) [4646]

I was⁷ seventy one kings [named]
Sudassana⁸ in this aeon,
lords of the grove of rose-apples,⁹
victorious on [all] four sides.¹⁰ (6) [4647]

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 Conch-er"

³lit., "Blessed One's"

⁴lit., "doing pūjā"

⁵lit., "given pūjā"

⁶I follow BJTS Sinhala gloss in specifying the implied subject here

⁷reading āsiṃ with BJTS for PTS āsi ("there were")

⁸"Good to Look At"

⁹jambusaṇḍa = jambudīpa = India, the South Asian Subcontinent

¹⁰cchaturanto vijitāvi, "possessed of conquest of the four quarters," a supreme imperial overlord

The hundred types¹¹ of instruments
are waiting on me all the time.
I'm enjoying [my] own karma:
that is the fruit of attendance. (7) [4648]

In whichever womb I'm reborn,
[whether] it's human or divine,
drums are always sounding for me,
even [while] in [my] mother's womb. (8) [4649]

After serving the Sambuddha,
after enjoying [all that] bliss,¹²
[now] I've attained the deathless state,
auspicious, peaceful, unshaking. (9) [4650]

In the ninety-one aeons since
I did that karma at that time,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of Buddha-pūjā. (10) [4651]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (11) [4652]

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) [4653]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (13) [4654]

Thus indeed Venerable Ekasaṅkhiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ekasaṅkhiya Thera is finished.

¹¹*aṅgasatā*

¹²*anubhotvāna sampadā*