

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Ucchukandika

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[432. {435.}¹ Ucchchukaṇḍika²]

In the city, Bandhumatī,
I was a gate-keeper [back then].
I saw the Buddha, Stainless One,
[who was] Master of Everything. (1) [4673]

Happy, with pleasure in [my] heart,
bringing a stalk of sugarcane,³
I gave it to [him,] the Best Buddha,
the Great Sage [known as] Vipassi. (2) [4674]

In the ninety-one aeons since
I gave [the Buddha] sugar-cane,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
the fruit of a sugar-cane stalk. (3) [4675]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (4) [4676]

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! (5) [4677]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [4678]

Thus indeed Venerable Ucchchukaṇḍika⁴ Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ucchchukaṇḍika⁵ Thera is finished.

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"Stalk of Sugarcane-er" BJTS reads *Ucchchukhaṇḍika* ("Broken Bit/Stick of Sugar-cane")

³*ucchchu* + *kaṇḍika*, fr. *kaṇḍa*, a reed or stalk or arrow shaft (or the entire arrow). BJTS reads *ucchchu* + *khaṇḍaka*, with much the same meaning. Sugar-cane grows like bamboo, shooting up discrete stalks or canes (hence the name) which are then chewed raw, or boiled and processed into granulated sugar.

⁴BJTS reads *Ucchchukhaṇḍika*°

⁵BJTS reads *Ucchchukhaṇḍika*°