

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Ambapiṇḍiya

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[436. {439.}¹ Ambapiṇḍiya²]

I was then an elephant-king,
with tusks like plough-poles, fully grown.
Wandering in a large forest,³
I saw the Leader of the World. (1) [4701]

Taking a cluster of mangoes,⁴
I gave [them] to [him,] the Teacher.
The Great Hero accepted them,
Siddhattha, Leader of the World. (2) [4702]

While I⁵ meditated [on him],
the Victor then consumed [that fruit].
Bringing pleasure to [my] heart there,
I was reborn in Tusitā.⁶ (3) [4703]

After falling down from there, I
was a monarch who turns the wheel.
[Then] through that very method, I,
having enjoyed [great] good fortune,⁷
being one bent on exertion,
calmed,⁸ devoid of grounds for rebirth,⁹
knowing well all the defilements,
am living [here now,] undefiled. (4-5) [4704-4705]

In the ninety-four aeons since
I gave that fruit [to him] back 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“Mango-Cluster-er”

³reading *brahārañṇe* with BJTS (and PTS alt.) for PTS *Brahmārañṇe* (“Brahmā’s forest”)

⁴*ambapiṇḍi*. The term can mean “lump” or “round mass” too, but it’s not clear how an elephant would get or make a lump or ball of mango to present a Buddha; “mango-cud” seems unlikely. Wild elephants eat by breaking branches, fronds or stems off trees and shrubs with their trunks, and the image here seems to be along those lines: mangoes fruit in clusters along branches, and the protagonist has apparently broken off such a branch, clustered with mangoes, to give the Buddha.

⁵reading *mama* with BJTS (and PTS. alt.; gen. abs. construction) for PTS *mamaṃ* (acc.)

⁶the heaven of happiness

⁷*sampadā*, [good] achievements, etc.

⁸*upasanto*

⁹*nirūpadhi*

I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that is the fruit of giving fruit. (6) [4706]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (7) [4707]

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) [4708]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (9) [4709]

Thus indeed Venerable Ambapiṇḍiya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ambapiṇḍiya Thera is finished.