

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Utulhipupphiya

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Printed September 2026

[442. {445.}¹ Utulhipupphiya²]

Taking an *utulhi* flower,
I offered it to the Bodhi,
when [that] banyan³ tree had grown large,
in the golden-colored sunlight.⁴ (1) [4747]

Within the [present] aeon, since
I offered a flower back then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of Bodhi-*pūjā*. (2) [4748]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (3) [4749]

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! (4) [4750]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (5) [4751]

Thus indeed Venerable Utulhipupphiya⁵ Thera spoke these verses.

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"*Utuhi*-Flower-er." BJTS reads *Uttalipupphiya*, "*Uttali*-Flower-er."

³*nigrodhe*, *nigrodha* = Sinh. *nuga*, RD: the banyan or Indian fig-tree, *Ficus Indica*; Bot. dict.: milky fig tree, *Ficus altissima* (*Urti*.) The banyan was the Bodhi tree only of Kassapa Buddha, the twenty-third Buddha of *Buddhavaṃsa* and third of the five Buddhas of the present "auspicious" or "lucky" (*bhadda*) aeon (Gotama is the fourth, Maitreya will be the fifth); thus the text inadvertently indicates that this offering was made in the Kassapa Buddha-era.

⁴I take *haritobhāsa* as *haritā* + *obhāsa*, but it could also be *harita* + *obhāsa* = splendorous pale green, modifying the tree, which seems to be BJTS' preferred reading (gloss: *nil-pāhā āti*, "having blue color"). I also take the string of locatives as an absolute construction ("when...") whereas BJTS treats them as straightforward locatives, with the protagonist taking a flower on the banyan tree. BJTS seems to misunderstand *nigrodha*, glossing it *nāgabodhirukṣayehi*, "on the ironwood bodhi tree." Ironwood was the Bodhi tree of four previous Buddhas (Maṅgala, Sumana, Revata and Sobhita) but all of them lived before the present aeon.

⁵BJTS reads *Uttalipupphiya*, "*Uttali*-Flower-er."

The legend of Utulhipupphiya⁶ Thera is finished.

⁶BJTS reads *Uttalipupphiya*, “*Uttali*-Flower-er.”