

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Pādapīṭhiya

Jonathan S. Walters

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Printed September 2026

[445. {448.}¹ Pādapīthiya²]

The Sambuddha named Sumedha,
the Chief, Compassionate, the Sage,
causing many beings to cross,
[then] reached nirvana, Great-Famed One. (1) [4766]

Happy, with pleasure in [my] heart,
I had a stool for the feet made
close to the lion-throne of him,
of Sumedha, the Sage So Great. (2) [4767]

Doing that wholesome karma which
bears fruit and leads to happiness,³
conforming to [my] good⁴ karma,
I [then] went to Tāvatisa. (3) [4768]

When I was living in that [world,]
being endowed with good⁵ karma,
when lifting up [my] feet a gold
footstool [then] comes to be for me. (4) [4769]

The gain for them is well-received,
who are getting a listening;
serving⁶ [Buddha] in nirvana,⁷
they're receiving huge happiness. (5) [4770]

My karma too was so well done,
[carefully] employing merchants.
After having a footstool made,
I'm receiving a chair of gold. (6) [4771]

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"Footstool-er"

³*sukhapākaṇ sukhūdāyaṇ*, 'whose fruit is happiness, which leads to happiness.' Not that I accept the BJTS reading *sukhūdāyaṇ* ("leading to happiness") for PTS *sukhīndriyaṇ*, "with happy senses with happy senses," though the latter could appropriately be taken as an adverb qualifying *katvāna*, i.e., "doing wholesome karma"

⁴lit., "meritorious"

⁵lit., "meritorious"

⁶*kāraṇ katvāna*, lit., "doing deeds for"

⁷*nibbute*, lit., "with regard to one who has reached nirvana"

⁸*pakkāmi*

Whichever direction I go,⁸
for any reason at all, I'm
stepping on a stool of gold:
that is the fruit of good⁹ karma. (7) [4772]

In the thirty thousand aeons
since I did that karma back then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that is the fruit of a footstool. (8) [4773]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (9) [4774]

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! (10) [4775]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (11) [4776]

Thus indeed Venerable Pādapīṭhiya Thera spoke these verses.
The legend of Pādapīṭhiya Thera is finished.

⁹lit., "meritorious"