

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Ekachattiya

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[454. {457.}¹ Ekachattiya²]

The world had turned to [burning] coal,
the earth was mixed with hot embers.³
Padumuttara, Blessed One,
walked back and forth in open air. (1) [4833]

Carrying a white umbrella,
I proceeded along a road.
Having seen the Sambuddha there,
I experienced happiness. (2) [4834]

“The ground is full of [the sun’s] rays;
this earth is like [burning] charcoal.
The gusty winds⁴ that are blowing
deplete the breath of the body.⁵ (3) [4835]

Please accept this, [my] umbrella,
which blocks the [sun’s] heat [and] the winds,
killing⁶ [both] the heat and the cold;
[through it] I will touch nirvana.” (4) [4836]

Merciful, Compassionate One,
Padumuttara, Greatly Famed,
discerning what I was thinking,
the Victor then accepted [it]. (5) [4837]

Lord of gods for thirty aeons,
I exercised divine rule [then,]
and five hundred [different] times,
I was a king who turns the wheel. (6) [4838]

[There was also] much local rule,
innumerable by counting.
I’m enjoying my own karma,
formerly well-done by myself. (7) [4839]

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“One Umbrella-er.” #409 {412} above is the *apadāna* of a monk bearing this same name.

³*kakkulānugatā mahī*

⁴*mahāvātā*

⁵reading *sarirāsukhepanā* with BJTS (and PTS alt.; see Cone, *asu*-1, s.v. for a discussion of this very passage, reading *sarirassa-asu-khepana*) for PTS *sarirass’ ānukhepanā*

⁶reading *viḥanantaṃ* with BJTS for PTS *viḥaranti* (“they are dwelling”)

This is the final time for me;
[my] last rebirth is proceeding.⁷
Even now⁸ a white umbrella
is carried for me all the time. (8) [4840]

In the hundred thousand aeons
since I gave that umbrella then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
the fruit of giving umbrellas. (9) [4841]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (10) [4842]

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! (11) [4843]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (12) [4844]

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

⁷*ccharimo vattate bhavo*

⁸lit., "even today"