

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Avanṭaphaliya

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[463. {466.}¹ Avaṇṭaphaliya²]

The Blessed One, Hundred-Ray³ed One,
the Self-Become, Unconquered One,
Seclusion-Lover,⁴ Sambuddha,
went forth in order to seek food. (1) [4889]

[Holding] fruit in [my] hand I saw
the Bull of Men who had approached.
Happy, with pleasure in [my] heart,
I gave [him] fruit with stems removed. (2) [4890]

In the ninety-four aeons since
I gave [him] that fruit [at that time],
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that is the fruit of giving fruit. (3) [4891]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (4) [4892]

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) [4893]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [4894]

Thus indeed Venerable Avaṇṭaphaliya⁵ 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.

²this is the BJTS spelling; PTS reads *Avaṇṭaphaliya*. This same *apadāna* (with the slight difference that the third and fourth verses are inverted there) appears above, titled *Avaṇṭaphaladāyaka-apadāna*, as #378 [381], and also below, #501 {504}, titled *Avaṇṭaphaliya-apadāna*. With the name *Tālaphaliya*[°], and only a slight change, it also appears as #506 {509} The meaning is "Stemless Fruit-er"

³*sataṇṇasi*, i.e., "the Sun"

⁴*viveka-kāma*

⁵this is the BJTS spelling; PTS reads *Avaṇṭaphaliya*. Cone (s.v.) accepts the spelling *avaṇṭa* but indicates the possibility that it might be a mistake for *avaṇṭa*. Though she recognizes the literal meaning of the latter ("stemless"), she treats these *Apadāna* passages as references to a type of fruit by that name.

The legend of Avaṇṭaphaliya⁶ Thera is finished.

⁶this is the BJTS spelling; PTS reads *Avaṇṭaphaliya*.