

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Labujadāyaka

Jonathan S. Walters

Copyright © 2026 Jonathan S. Walters.

PUBLISHED BY JONATHAN S. WALTERS AND WHITMAN COLLEGE

<https://apadanatranslation.com>

Licensed under the Attribution, Non-Commercial, Share Alike (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>).

Printed September 2026

[464. {467.}¹ Labujadāyaka²]

In the city, Bandhumatī,
I worked in a hermitage then.³
I saw the Spotless One, Buddha,
[who] was traveling through the sky. (1) [4895]

Taking fruit of a breadfruit⁴ [tree,]
I gave [it] to the Best Buddha.
Standing in the sky, the Calm One,
the Great Famed One accepted [it].
With a mind that was very clear,
having given Buddha that fruit,
productive of delight for me,
bringing happiness in this world,
I then came to possess great joy
and vast, ultimate happiness.
A gem was truly produced for
[me,] being reborn here and there.⁵ (2-3) [4896-4898]⁶

In the ninety-one aeons since
I gave [the Buddha] fruit back then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that is the fruit of giving fruit. (4) [4899]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (5) [4900]

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"Breadfruit Donor." This same *apadāna* (with the slight difference that the fifth and sixth verses are inverted there) appears above, with the same title in BJTS (PTS gives Labujaphaladāyaka), as #379 [382], above. It also appears below, titled *Nāḷikeradāyaka*^o, with the slight change of the first foot of the second verse to read "coconut" rather than "breadfruit"

³*ārāmika*, lit., "hermitage attendant" or "hermitage dweller"

⁴*Artocarpus lacucha* or *incisa*; Sinh. *del*. The fruit of the tree is cooked and eaten as a starchy vegetable.

⁵lit., "from where to there" (*yahiṇ tahiṇ*, PTS) or "from there to there" (*tahiṇ tahiṇ*, BJTS and PTS alt.)

⁶PTS treats these as two verses of six feet each; BJTS treats them as three typical four-footed verses. BJTS is presumably correct, since the parallel *apadāna*,

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! (6) [4901]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (7) [4902]

Thus indeed Venerable Labujadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Labujadāyaka Thera is finished.