

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Maṇipūjaka

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[469. {472.}¹ Maṇipūjaka²]

The Victor, Padumuttara,
was a Master of Everything,
Seclusion-Lover, the Sambuddha
was flying³ through the sky [back then]. (1) [4943]

In the Himalayan region,
there was a large natural lake.
My palace was [located] there,
bound up with [my] good⁴ karma. (2) [4944]

Having gone out from the palace,
I saw the Leader of the World,
bright like a blue water lily,⁵
blazing up like a fire-altar. (3) [4945]

[Thinking,] “I’ll worship⁶ the Leader,”
[though] I searched⁷ I saw no flower.
Bringing pleasure to [my] own heart,
I worshipped [him], the Teacher, [then]. (4) [4946]

With the gem [I had] on my head,⁸
I worshipped⁹ [him], the World-Leader:
“Let there be a lucky result
of this offering¹⁰ of a gem.” (5) [4947]

Padumuttara, World-Knower,
Sacrificial Recipient,
the Teacher, standing in the sky,
spoke this verse [about me then]: (6) [4948]

“Let your thought have a good result;
let you receive huge happiness.

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“Gem-Offerer”

³lit., “going”

⁴lit., “meritorious”

⁵*indīvaraṇ, Cassia fistula*

⁶lit., “do pūjā”

⁷*vicchinaṇ, lit., “searching,” “investigating”*

⁸presumably a gem on a turban of some sort

⁹lit., “did pūjā”

¹⁰lit., “pūjā”

Because of offering¹¹ this gem,
let you experience great fame.” (7) [4949]

Having said this, the Blessed One,
the one whose name was “Best Lotus,”
the Best Buddha [then] flew away,¹²
to where [his] mind directed [him]. (8) [4950]

Sixty aeons the lord of gods,
I exercised divine rule.
And another hundred times I
was a monarch who turns the wheel. (9) [4951]

When I had become a god who
remembered [his] former karma,
a gemstone comes to be for me,
[which functioned as] my source of light.¹³ (10) [4952]

Eighty-six thousand women [then]
were [married to me as] my wives,
with varied clothes and jewelry
and wearing earrings made of gems,
with long eyelashes, lovely smiles¹⁴
and slim waists, pleasant to look at.¹⁵
[They’re] constantly waiting on me:
that’s the fruit of offering gems. (11-12) [4953-4954]

Well-made¹⁶ things to adorn [myself]
are [coming] to me as I wish,
made of gold and made of gemstones,
[and] likewise made out of rubies. (13) [4955]

Delightful gabled huts and caves,
and beds that are very costly,
discerning what I am thinking,
are produced according to wish. (14) [4956]

¹¹lit., “doing *pūjā*”

¹²lit., “went”

¹³*ālokākaraṇo mama* (BJTS reads *mamaṇ*, “providing me light”)

¹⁴hasulā = ?

¹⁵RD gives “good hips,” referring to this text. I don’t see the warrant, and take the term *susaññā* from *saññā*, sense, perception, as does BJTS

¹⁶reading *sukatā* with BJTS for *katākatā* (“man-made and natural”)

The gain for them is well-received
who get to listen [to Buddha,]
the Merit-Field for humankind,
the Medicine for all that breathe. (15) [4957]

My karma too was [so] well done,
which is that I saw the Leader.
I am freed from [all] suffering;¹⁷
[I've] attained the unshaking state. (16) [4958]

In whichever womb I'm reborn,
[whether] it's human or divine,
on all sides are the seven gems;
there is light for me all the time. (17) [4959]

Because of that gem-offering,¹⁸
having enjoyed [great] good fortune,¹⁹
the knowledge-light is seen by me;
I've attained the unshaking state. (18) [4960]

In the hundred thousand aeons
since I offered²⁰ that gem [to him],
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of offering gems.²¹ (19) [4961]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (20) [4962]

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! (21) [4963]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (22) [4964]

¹⁷*vinīpātā*

¹⁸lit., "gem-pūjā"

¹⁹*sampadā*, [good] achievements, etc.

²⁰lit., "did pūjā"

²¹lit., "of gem-pūjā"

Thus indeed Venerable Maṇipūjaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Maṇipūjaka Thera is finished.