

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Pānadhidāyaka

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

[476. {479.}¹ Pānadhidāyaka²]

Anomadassi, Blessed One,
the World's Best One, the Bull of Men,
gone out during the siesta,
got on the road, the Eyeful One. (1) [5006]

Taking a well-made pair of shoes,
I [also] went along the road.
There I saw [him], the Sambuddha,
Carrying a Bowl,³ Good-Looking.⁴ (2) [5007]

Bringing pleasure to [my] own heart,
taking out⁵ those shoes [that I had],
placing them at the [Buddha's] feet,
I spoke these words [to him back then]: (3) [5008]

"Put on⁶ [these shoes], O Sage So Great,
O Well-Gone-One, O Lord, O Guide.
I will receive the fruit from this;
let the purpose succeed for me!" (4) [5009]

Anomadassi, Blessed One,
the World's Best One, the Bull of Men,
after having put on [those] shoes,
spoke these words [about me back then]: (5) [5010]

"This one who gave [these] shoes to me,
[feeling well-] pleased by [his] own hands,
I shall relate details of him;
[all of] you listen to my words:" (6) [5011]

Knowing that Buddha would speak,⁷ the
gods all came together [there then],

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"Sandal Donor," taking *panidha* as *pavahanak* following BJTS Sinhala gloss. See above, #212, for a different *apadāna* of a monk with the same name.

³*pattikañ*

⁴*ccharudassanaṇ*

⁵*nīharitvā*, taking out, throw away, driving out; "taking off?" Should we imagine that he is wearing, rather than carrying, the shoes?

⁶lit., "ascend onto" "get into"

⁷lit., "recognizing [that there would be] speech of the Buddha"

happy, stirred up with emotion,
thrilled, with their hands together. (7) [5012]

“Due to [this] offering of shoes,
this one is going to be happy,
and fifty-five [different] times,
he will exercise divine rule. (8) [5013]

A thousand times he’ll be a king,
a king who turns the wheel [of law],
[And there will be] much local rule,
innumerable by counting. (9) [5014]

Aeons beyond measure from now,
arising in Okkāka’s clan,
the one whose name is Gotama
will be the Teacher in the world. (10) [5015]

Worthy heir to that one’s *Dhamma*,
Dhamma’s legitimate offspring,
knowing well all the defilements,
he’ll reach nirvana, undefiled. (11) [5016]

Merit-filled, he’ll be reborn in
the world of the gods or of men;
he will receive vehicles, which
resemble divine vehicles.” (12) [5017]

My palaces and palanquins,
ornamented elephants and
chariots yoked with thoroughbreds
are always appearing for me. (13) [5018]

[When] I’m departing from the house,
I depart on⁸ a chariot.
When my hair was being cut off,
I attained [my] arahantship. (14) [5019]

The gain for me was well-received,
that [carefully] hiring merchants,
[then] giving [just] one [pair of] shoes,
I’ve attained the unshaking state. (15) [5020]

⁸lit., “with,” “by”

During aeons beyond measure
since I gave [those] shoes [at that time],
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of [a pair of] shoes. (16) [5021]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (17) [5022]

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! (18) [5023]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (19) [5024]

Thus indeed Venerable Pānadhidāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Pānadhidāyaka Thera is finished.