

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Udakadāyaka

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

[494. {497.}¹ Udakadāyaka²]

Happy, with pleasure in [my] heart,
I filled the drinking-water jug
for the superb monks' Assembly
of Padumuttara Buddha. (1) [5298]

On a mountain top or bad road³
or in [any] space on the earth,
if I wish for drinking water,
quickly it is produced for me. (2) [5299]

In the hundred thousand aeons
since I gave that donation then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of giving water. (3) [5300]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (4) [5301]

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) [5302]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [5303]

Thus indeed Venerable Udakadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Udakadāyaka Thera is finished.

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"Water Donor." See #206, above, for a (different) *apadāna* ascribed to a monk with this same name.

³*dumagge*, could also be "top of a tree" (as in many *apadānas* about rag-robe), but here "bad road" seems more likely to me.