

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Nalakuṭikadāyaka

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[496. {499.}]¹ Naḷakuṭīkadāyaka²

In the Himalayan region,
there's a mountain named Bhārika.³
The Self-Become One, Nārada,
dwelt at the roots of a tree then. (1) [5341]

Having fashioned a house of reeds,
I covered it with grass [as thatch],
[and] clearing a walkway I [then]
gave [them] to the Self-Become One. (2) [5342]

Due to that karma done very well,
with intention and [firm] resolve,
discarding [my] human body,
I went to Tāvatiṃsa [then]. (3) [5343]

There my well-constructed mansion,
fashioned as a little reed hut,
[measured] sixty leagues in length, [and]
[it measured] thirty leagues in width. (4) [5344]

I delighted in the gods' world
throughout fourteen aeons [back then],
and [later] seventy-one times,
I exercised divine rule [there]. (5) [5345]

And thirty-four times [after that],
I was a king who turns the wheel.
[There was also] much local rule,
innumerable by counting. (6) [5346]

Ascending the Teaching-palace,
in all ways a fine metaphor,⁴
I would live [there where I'm] wishing,

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"Little Reed Hut Donor"

³BJTS reads *bhārito*, Bhārita; PTS alts. are *Hāriko*, Hārika, and *Hiriko*, Hirika. DPPN II:1324 goes with Hārita. Cf. #342 {345}, above, for the parallel *apadāna* of Nalāgārika (BJTS Naḷāgārika), which shares the first two verses with this one.

⁴reading *sabbākāraṇavarūpamaṃ* with BJTS (and PTS alt.) for PTS *sabbāgarāvarūpamaṃ* ("excellent metaphor for all houses"); BJTS Sinhala gloss *siyalu ākārayen utum upamā āti dharma-nāmāti prasādayta nāgi*

in the Buddha's⁵ dispensation. (7) [5347]

In the thirty-one aeons since
I did that [good] karma back then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
the fruit of a little reed hut. (8) [5348]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (9) [5349]

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! (10) [5351]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (11) [5352]

Thus indeed Venerable Naḷakuṭikadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Naḷakuṭikadāyaka Thera is finished.

⁵lit., "in the Śākyas' Son's"