

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Ajelaphaladāyaka

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

[504. {507.}¹ Ajelaphaladāyaka²]

The Sambuddha named Ajjuna³
lived in the Himalayas then,
he Endowed with Good Behavior,
Skilled in Meditation,⁴ the Sage. (1) [5431]

Taking a water-jug's worth⁵ of
ajela,⁶ *jīvajīvaka*,
[and] taking umbrella-leaves [too],⁷
I gave [them] to the Teacher [then]. (2) [5432]

In the ninety-four aeons since
I gave [him] that fruit at that time,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that is the fruit of giving fruit. (3) [5433]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (4) [5434]

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) [5435]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,

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 "Ajela-Fruit Donor." BJTS reads *ageliphala*°.

³ Arjuna

⁴ lit., "skilled in *samādhis*"

⁵ or "as large as an elephant's frontal lobe:" *kumbhamattaṇ*

⁶ BJTS reads *ajeliṃ*

⁷ or, "umbrella-leaf" (plant). Both BJTS and PTS place *ajela* or *ajeli* in apposition to *jīvajīvakaṇ*, which elsewhere in the text refers to a type of jak fruit, and to a type of pheasant, as well as to *chattapaṇṇaṇ* ("leaves [lit., "leaf"] for an umbrella"). BJTS Sinh gloss treats these as three separate items and infers "ands" connecting them; I follow its lead here. However, as all three terms are ambiguous (Cone cites only this passage for the term, with a question mark that it is some sort of plant or fruit), the translation must remain so as well, pending better identification of the three terms; the meaning may be "*ajela* [type of] *jīvajīvaka* [jak?] fruit [and] leaves for an umbrella" or "*ajela* fruit and *jīvajīvaka* leaves for an umbrella," and so forth.

six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [5436]

Thus indeed Venerable Ajelaphaladāyaka⁸ Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ajelaphaladāyaka⁹ Thera is finished.

⁸BJTS reads *ageliphala*°.

⁹BJTS reads *ageliphala*°.