

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Ajjunapupphiya

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Printed September 2026

[513. {516.}¹ Ajjunapupphiya²]

On CChandabhāgā River's bank,

I was a *kinnara*³ back then.

I saw the Buddha, Stainless One,

the Self-Become, Unconquered One. (1) [5484]

Happy, with pleasure in [my] heart,

awe-struck,⁴ with hands pressed together,

taking an arjuna⁵ flower,

I worshipped⁶ the Self-Become One. (2) [5485]

Due to that karma done very well,

with intention and [firm] resolve,

leaving my *kinnara* body,

I went to Tāvatisa [then]. (3) [5486]

Thirty-four times the lord of gods,

I exercised divine rule [there].

And ten times a wheel-turning king,

I exercised overlordship.⁷ (4) [5487]

[There was also] much local rule,

innumerable by counting.

[Like] a seed sown⁸ in a good field

is mine in the Self-Become One. (5) [5488]

Wholesome [karma] exists for me;

I went forth into homelessness.

Today I'm worthy of homage

in the Buddha's⁹ dispensation. (6) [5489]

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"Arjuna Flower-er"

³reading BJTS for the correct spelling for *kiṇṇara* (PTS). The *kinnara* (Sinh. *kandura*) has a human head and a horse's body; "centaur".

⁴*vedaajāto*

⁵*ajjuna* (a.k.a. *kakudha*, Sinhala *kumbuk gasa*, *kubuk*, *Terminalia arjuna*) is an impressively large, shade-giving tree that thrives on the edges of tanks and lakes.

⁶lit., "did *pūjā*"

⁷*mahārajjam*, lit., "great sovereignty" or "maharajah-ship"

⁸reading *vapitaṃ* with BJTS for PTS *va phītaṃ* ("like opulent")

⁹lit., "in the Śākyas' Son's"

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (7) [5490]

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! (8) [5491]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (9) [5492]

Thus indeed Venerable Ajjunapupphiya Thera spoke these verses.
The legend of Ajjunapupphiya Thera is finished.