

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Ghosasañña

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[515. {518.}¹ Ghosasañña²]

I was a deer-hunter back then,
within a grove in the forest.
I saw the Buddha, Stainless One,
honored by the gods' assembly.³ (1) [5500]

Explaining the Four Noble Truths,
he was preaching the deathless state.
I heard the honey[-sweet] Teaching
of Sikhi, Kinsman of the World. (2) [5501]

I pleased [my] heart in the sound of
the Unequaled, the Peerless One.⁴
After having pleased [my] heart there,
I crossed existence, hard to cross. (3) [5502]

In the thirty-one aeons since
I obtained that perception then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of perceiving sound. (4) [5503]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (5) [5504]

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! (6) [5505]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (7) [5504 (5506)]⁵

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"Sound-Perceiver"

³*devasaṅghapurakkhataṃ*

⁴reading *asamappaṭipuggale* with BJTS for PTS *asamappaṭipuggalaṃ* (in which case the epithet stands in apposition to "heart" or "difficult to cross")

⁵Here a piece of broken type make the "6" in "5506" appear as a "4", which unfortunately seems to have affected the subsequent numbering, beginning the next *apadāna* with 5505 (actually, 5555) rather than 5507. I have stuck with the BJTS numbering

Thus indeed Venerable Ghosasaññaaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ghosasaññaaka Thera is finished.

despite this error, which leaves us with two verses numbers 5504 and two verses number 5505.