

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
JONATHAN S. WALTERS,
WHITMAN COLLEGE, 2017

Daṇḍadāyaka

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

[523. {526.}¹ Daṇḍadāyaka²]

Plunged into the forest, the woods,
I cut down [some] bamboo back then.
Having taken a walking stick,³
I gave it to the Assembly.⁴ (1) [5573]

Due to the pleasure in [my] heart,
honored with, “happiness to you!,”
having given that walking stick,
I departed, facing the north. (2) [5574]

In the ninety-four aeons since
I gave [the monks] that stick back then,
I’ve come to know no bad rebirth:
that’s the fruit of giving a stick. (3) [5575]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (4) [5576]

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) [5577]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [5578]

Thus indeed Venerable Daṇḍadāyaka Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Daṇḍadāyaka 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“Stick Donor.” This same *apadāna* (save for the elision of the first two verses of the standard three-verse concluding refrain, which are included here) is presented above, with the same title, as #352 {355}

³*ālambana* or *ālamba*, lit., “hang onto,” is anything to hang onto or which provides support. I understand it as a cane for walking, a typical accoutrement of peripatetic Buddhist monks.

⁴*saṅghassa*, i.e., the Assembly of monks