

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Mekhalādāyikā

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[2. Mekhalādāyikā¹]

I had a stupa constructed²
for Siddhattha, the Blessed One.
I gifted [my] waist ornament³
so the Teacher could be repaired.⁴ (1) [20]

When that great stupa was finished,
I gave another ornament⁵
for the Sage, the Guide of the World,
[feeling well-]pleased by [my] own hands. (2) [21]

In the ninety-four aeons since
I gave that waist-ornament then,
I've come to know no bad rebirth:
that's the fruit of building stupas. (3) [22]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (4) [23]

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) [24]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (6) [25]

Thus indeed Bhikkhunī Mekhalādāyikā Therī⁶ spoke these verses.

The legend of Mekhalādāyikā Therī is finished.

¹"Waist-Ornament-Giver". *Mekhala* or *mekhalikā* was an ornament worn by women on the waist, often made of precious metals and gems.

²reading *kārāpikā* (BJTS, PTS alt) for *kārāpitā* ("was built," PTS)

³presumably a valuable *mekhala* which was then sold in order to pay for the repairs.

⁴lit., "for the sake of repairing of the Teacher." Here the stupa is the Buddha.

⁵lit., "again I gave a waist-ornament".

⁶BJTS, PTS alt omit *therī*.