

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Eighteen Thousand Kṣatriyan Maiden Buddhist
Nuns Headed Up by Yasavatī

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Khattiyā Chapter,¹ the Fourth

[31. Eighteen Thousand Kṣatriyan Maiden Buddhist Nuns Headed Up by Yasavatī²]

O Great Sage, we are announcing
“all existence has been destroyed;”
[we’re] freed from ties to existence
all outflows³ don’t exist for us.⁴ (1) [1104]

Doing previous good⁵ karma,
whatever may have been wished for,⁶
all of this stuff⁷ has been given
for the sake of you, O Great Sage.⁸ (2) [1105]

The wishes of Buddhas, Lonely
Buddhas and of the followers,
[all of] this stuff⁹ has been given
for the sake of you, O Great Sage.¹⁰ (3) [1106]

This karma, [both] big [and] little,
excellent wish of Buddhist monks,
[and] service to high-status clans
has been done by us,¹¹ O Great Sage.¹² (4) [1107]

Incited by that wholesome root,
reaping¹³ [the fruit] of that karma,
surpassing [all other] humans,¹⁴
we were born in kṣatriyan clan[s]. (5) [1108]

¹this name is supplied only by BJTS

²BJTS reads “The Apadāna of Buddhist Nuns Headed Up By Yasavatī”

³or “defilements” *sabbāsavā*

⁴reading *ccha no n’atthi* with BJTS for PTS *sabbāsavāmano n’atthi* (“there is no mind with all outflows”)

⁵or “wholesome”

⁶*yaṇ kiñcchi sabbam patthitaṇ*

⁷*sabbaṇ...paribhogaṇ*; BJTS reads *yaṇ kiñcchi sādhu patthitaṇ* (“whatever excellently wished”)

⁸reading *mahāmune* with BJTS (and PTS alt.) for PTS *mahāmuni*

⁹*paribhogaṇ*

¹⁰reading *mahāmune* with BJTS (and PTS alt.) for PTS *mahāmuni*

¹¹*kat’ amhehi*. BJTS (and PTS alt.) reads *katam etaṇ*

¹²reading *mahāmune* with BJTS (and PTS alt.) for PTS *mahāmuni*

¹³*sampadā*

¹⁴reading BJTS (and, partly, PTS alt.) *mānusikam atikkantā* for PTS *mānussikam anikkantā*

[Always] together when [we're] born,
when karma is done, and by caste,¹⁵
born together in this last [birth,]
[we're] kṣatriyans,¹⁶ born in the clans. (6) [1109]

In the harem, O Great Hero,
as though in the gods' [garden] "Joy,"
[we're] beautiful, very wealthy,
receiving honor [and] worship.¹⁷ (7) [1110]

Becoming wearied we went forth,
from the home into homelessness.
Remaining attached a few days,
we all attained [our] nirvana. (8) [1111]

[People] are bringing many [gifts,]
monastic robes and alms to eat,
requisites [as well as] lodgings;
we're always honored [and] worshipped.¹⁸ (9) [1112]

Our defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.
Like elephants with broken chains,
we are living without constraint. (10) [1113]

Being in Best Buddha's presence
was a very good thing for us.
The three knowledges are attained;
[we have] done what the Buddha taught! (11) [1114]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[we have] done what the Buddha taught! (11) [1115]

Thus indeed Eighteen Thousand Kṣatriyan Maiden Buddhist Nuns
Headed Up by Famous (Yasavatī) spoke these verses.

The legend of Eighteen Thousand Kṣatriyan Maiden Buddhist Nuns
Headed Up by Famous (Yasavatī) is finished

¹⁵jātiyā, lit., "by birth," the clear theme of this verse

¹⁶lit., "born in the clan"

¹⁷lābhasakkārapūjitā

¹⁸lit., "given pūjā"