

Legends of the Buddhist Saints

Apadānapāli

TRANSLATED BY
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Aḍḍhakāsikā

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[37. Addhakāsikā¹]

In this [present] lucky aeon,
Brahma's Kinsman, Greatly Famed One,
[the Buddha] known as Kassapa²
was born, the Best of Debaters. (1) [1271]

At that time, having been ordained
in that Buddha's dispensation,
I'm restrained in the five senses,
and in monastic discipline.³ (2) [1272]

Moderate⁴ in eating, I was
committed to being watchful,⁵
dwelling fixed on practice. One time
[however,] with a filthy mind,
I slandered an undefiled⁶ nun
[by saying,] "[She's] a prostitute."
Because of that evil karma,
I roasted in a [fearful] hell. (3-4) [1273-1274]

Due to the rest of that karma,
I was born in a clan of whores,
repeatedly committing sins;
and [then] in [my] final rebirth, (5) [1275]

I'm born among the Kāsians,⁷
in a millionaire's clan. Due to⁸
[former] celibacy I was
gorgeous,⁹ like a nymph among gods. (6) [1276]

Seeing my extreme beauty, in
Rajgir, best city, they made [me]

¹"Half a Benares Thousand [Whore]," "She [Whose Daytime Price] is Half a Benares Thousand," as historical nun, remembered as the precedent for the giving of ordination by messenger. See DPPN I:50. Here the ordination is specifically called *upasampadā*, "higher ordination"

²BJTS reads "Named Kassapa according to his Lineage (*gottena*)"

³*patimokkhamhi*, lit "in [read "through"] the fortnightly recitation/227 rules

⁴reading *mataññū* (lit., "one who knows the limit") *ccha asane* ("in eating"), with BJTS for PTS *mataññū niccha-āsane* ("moderate on a high seat"?)

⁵reading *jāgariye pi* with BJTS for PTS *jāgariyesu*

⁶*vigatāsavaṇ*

⁷i.e., the people of Benares and the countryside surrounding it

⁸lit., "as the fruit of" "as the result of"

⁹*rūpasampadā* (lit., "endowed with beauty")

enter prostitution due to¹⁰
[my] formerly having slandered. (7) [1277]

After hearing the good Teaching
which was preached by the Best Buddha,
endowed with former impressions,
I went forth into homelessness. (8) [1278]

Seeking¹¹ ordination¹² having
gone into the Victor's presence,
hearing¹³ that rogues were on¹⁴ the road,
I got ordained by messenger.¹⁵ (9) [1279]

All [my] karma has been burnt up,
merit and likewise evil too;
birth and rebirth¹⁶ crossed beyond,
and prostitution's thrown away. (10) [1280]

I've mastered the superpowers
[like] the "divine ear" element.
I'm also a master, Great Sage,
of the knowledge in others' hearts. (11) [1281]

I remember [my] former lives;
[my] "divine eye" is purified.
All the defilements are destroyed;
[I] will not be reborn again. (12) [1282]

In meaning and in the Teaching,
etymology and preaching,
[this] knowledge of mine was produced
in your presence, O Great Hero. (13) [1283]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;
all [new] existence is destroyed.

¹⁰lit., "as the fruit of" "as the result of"

¹¹*tadā...°atthāya*, lit., "then...for the sake of"

¹²PTS reads *tadā 'pasampadatthāya*, with incorrect *sandhi*; BJTS reads, correctly, *tatopasampadatthāya*, cf. PTS alt. (also correct) *tad'upa°*

¹³reading *sutvā* with BJTS for PTS *disvā* ("seeing"). Neither edition indicates variance in its reading of the verb.

¹⁴*thite*, lit., "were standing on" "remained on"

¹⁵lit., "a messenger [gave me] ordination"

¹⁶or "transmigration," *°saṃsāra*

Like elephants with broken chains,
I am living without constraint. (14) [1284]

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! (15) [1285]

The four analytical modes,
and these eight deliverances,
six special knowledges mastered,
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (16) [1286]

Thus indeed the bhikkhunī Aḍḍhakāsikā spoke these verses.

The legend of Aḍḍhakāsikā Therī¹⁷ is finished

¹⁷the BJTS reading for PTS *bhikkhunī Aḍḍhakāsikā*