

# Ekadhammasavanīya

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[424. {427.}<sup>1</sup> Ekadhammasavaniya<sup>2</sup>]

The Victor, Padumuttara,  
was the Master of Everything.  
[While] preaching the Four Noble Truths,  
he ferried many folks across. (1) [4548]

A matted-haired ascetic<sup>3</sup> then,  
I practiced fierce austerities.<sup>4</sup>  
Throwing off [my] clothes made of bark,  
I traveled in the sky back then. (2) [4549]

I am not [then] able<sup>5</sup> to go  
over [him,] the Best of Buddhas.  
Like a bird that has struck a rock,  
I am unable to proceed.<sup>6</sup> (3) [4550]

Having walked<sup>7</sup> upon the water,  
so I am flying through the sky.  
Previously my behavior  
never had been interrupted. (4) [4551]

“Well now I’ll investigate that.  
I might get some small benefit.”  
Descending from the sky I then  
heard the [sweet] sound of the Teacher,  
who was preaching impermanence  
with a voice that was enticing,  
good to listen to, beautiful.  
I took up that [Teaching] back then. (5-6) [4552-4553]

Having perceived impermanence,<sup>8</sup>  
I went [back] to my hermitage.  
Remaining as long as I lived,  
I [later] passed away [right] there. (7) [4554]

In subsequent existences,

<sup>1</sup>*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.

<sup>2</sup>“One-Teaching-Hearer.” BJTS spells the name *Ekadammasavaṇīya*

<sup>3</sup>*jaṭila*, an ascetic who wears his hair in a matted braid (*jaṭā*)

<sup>4</sup>lit., “I was one who practices fierce austerities,” reading *ugga-tāpano* with BJTS (and PTS alternative) for PTS *uggata-āpaṇa*, “rising over the bazaar”

<sup>5</sup>*na gantuṃ viśahāma’ ahaṃ*

<sup>6</sup>lit., “I do not receive going”

<sup>7</sup>reading ‘*vokammitvāna* (“set out”) with BJTS for PTS *vomisitvāna* (?).

<sup>8</sup>lit., “taking the perception of impermanence”

I recalled hearing the Teaching,<sup>9</sup>  
 Due to that karma done very well,  
 with intention and [firm] resolve,  
 discarding [my] human body,  
 I went to Tāvātimsa [then]. (8) [4555]<sup>10</sup>

For thirty thousand aeons I  
 delighted in the world of gods,  
 and fifty-one times [while there], I  
 exercised rule over the gods. (9) [4556]

And twenty-one times I was [then]  
 a king who turns the wheel [of law].  
 [And I enjoyed] much local rule,  
 innumerable by counting. (10) [4557]

I enjoyed [my] own good karma,<sup>11</sup>  
 being happy from birth to birth.  
 Recalling that perception, I  
 transmigrated from birth to birth.  
 I do not comprehend the end,<sup>12</sup>  
 nirvana, the eternal state. (11) [4558]<sup>13</sup>

Sitting down in my father's house,  
 a monk with senses [well-]controlled  
 was [then] explaining this sermon,<sup>14</sup>  
 spoken about impermanence:<sup>15</sup> (12) [4559]

“In flux indeed is all that is;  
 things that arise and [then] decline  
 are being born [and then] dying;  
 happy is the relief from them.” (13) [4560]

Right after having heard [that] verse,  
 I recalled my past perception.  
 Sitting down on a single seat,  
 I attained [my] arahantship. (14) [4561]

When [only] seven years of age,  
 I attained [my] arahantship.

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<sup>9</sup>lit., “the Good Teaching,” *saddhamma*<sup>o</sup>

<sup>10</sup>PTS and BJTS agree in presenting this as a six-footed verse.

<sup>11</sup>lit., “merit,” *sakaṇ puññaṇ*

<sup>12</sup>*na koṭi paṭivijjhāmi*

<sup>13</sup>PTS and BJTS agree in presenting this as a six-footed verse.

<sup>14</sup>*kathāyaṇ* (BJTS reads *kath' ayam*)

<sup>15</sup>reading *aniccatam udāhari*

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The Buddha [himself] ordained me:  
the fruit of hearing the Teaching. (15) [4562]

In the hundred thousand aeons  
since I heard the Teaching back then,  
I've come to know no bad rebirth:  
the fruit of hearing the Teaching. (16) [4563]

My defilements are [now] burnt up;  
all [new] existence is destroyed.  
Like elephants with broken chains,  
I am living without constraint. (17) [4564]

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! (18) [4565]

The four analytical modes,  
and these eight deliverances,  
six special knowledges mastered,  
[I have] done what the Buddha taught! (19) [4566]

Thus indeed Venerable Ekadhammasavanīya Thera spoke these verses.

The legend of Ekadhammasavanīya Thera is finished.