

**WHO WAS BUDDHA?**





Lord Buddha was born about 2550 years ago in Lumbini, India (now in Nepal).

His birth name was Prince Siddhattha Gotama.

Siddhattha means “One who has attained his goal” and Gotama was his family name. His clan was Sākya.

His father was named King Suddhodana and mother was named Māyadevi. His mother died when he was seven days old. He was raised by his maternal aunt Mahāpajāpati Gotamī.



It was prophesied at his birth that if he stayed in lay-life he would become a world-emperor but if he went-forth and became a monk, he will become a fully enlightened liberated one (a Buddha).

He was born as a prince in a privileged royal family and was next in the line of succession to rule the Sākyans. He grew up in extreme luxury with many different palaces, playmates, and facilities.



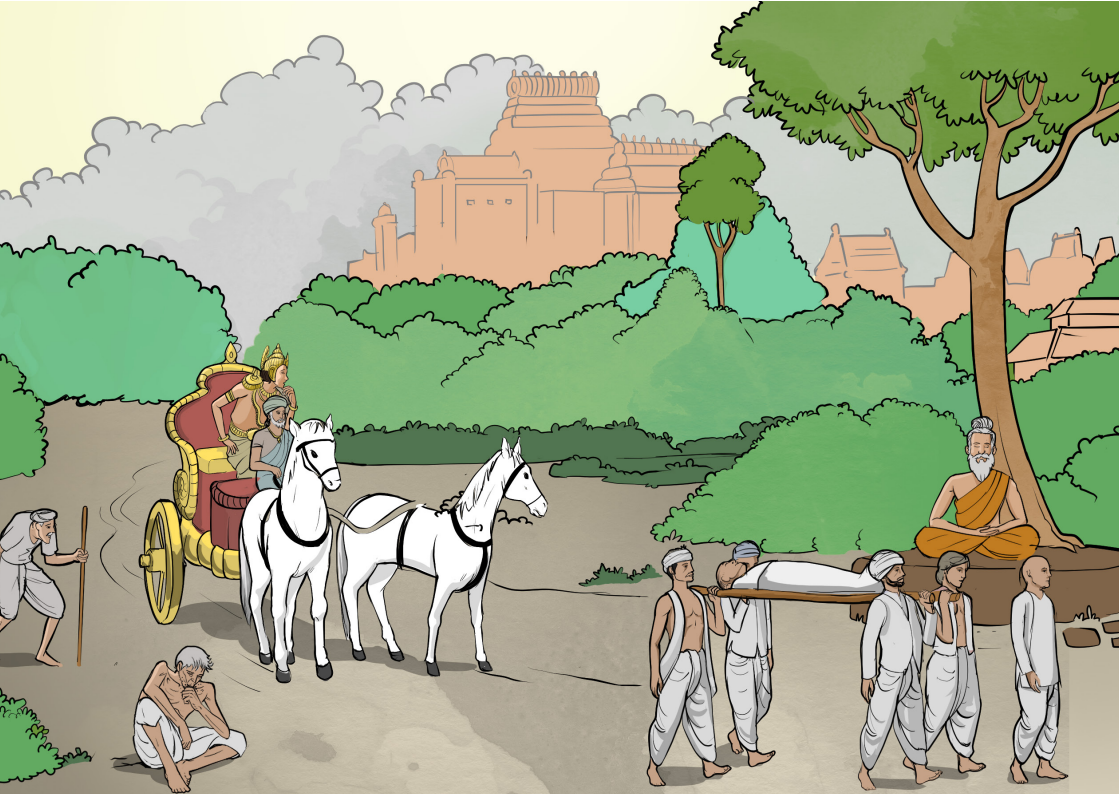
The first time the child Buddha-to-be (also called a Bodhisatta, a being destined for enlightenment) meditate was when he was young. His father, King Suddhodana, was engaged in the ritual plowing and the child Bodhisatta under the shade of a tree, meditated. It is said that as the Sun rose, the tree shadow didn't move, to protect the child Bodhisatta.

He learned all the Arts and Crafts including the then-popular Vedic Hinduism, craft of war and soldiering, and riding horses and elephants.



He was married to Princess Yasodharā and was provided all the facilities and luxuries of life.

Then in a very short period of time, he saw the four Divine Messengers: a sick man, an old decrepit man, a dead man, and a monk.



He realized that everyone becomes sick, becomes old, and sooner or later, everyone dies.

He renounced the world at age 29 to find a lasting solution, a lasting cure for the sufferings of life.



He studied under various teachers and mastered their teachings but realized that they all lead back to continuation of life in various spheres of the world.

Then he went out on his own and practiced various methods including extreme ascetic practices.



By trial and error, he eliminated what doesn't work and focused on what works and over time, slowly but surely, found the deathless, the ambrosia, the undying.

He became enlightened seven years after the renunciation, at the age of 36, and then for the next 44 years, he preached the Teachings [called Dhamma] all over River Ganga Valley of the North India.

Everything he taught was aimed at one and only one objective: how to end the suffering of life. All Dhamma he taught was provided gratis to everyone. Even on his deathbed, a few hours before his ultimate and final passing-away, he taught the Dhamma to the last direct disciple! Oh, the compassion!



The Teachings he preached  
are timeless and invite one to  
come and see, try and taste,  
for themselves.

His foster mother  
Mahāpajāpati Gotamī became  
an arahant, so did his wife  
Yasodharā (AKA Bhaddā  
Kaccānā). His son Rāhula  
became an arahant and his  
father King Siddhodana  
became a non-returner.

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**Veneration to the Blessed One,  
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**Book 2ENG**  
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