

The Prince, Sakyamuni Buddha

(Volume 1)

Chapter 1

Birth of the Prince

Once upon a time, there was a kingdom called Sakya in India. The King was gentle and brave, and the people of the kingdom loved him very much. The Queen was very beautiful and kind. Of course, the people loved her as much as their king.

The King's name was Shuddhodana and the Queen's name was Maya. They did not have any children. For a very long time, the couple and their people wished to have a prince. Every day they prayed to their highest God, Brahmadeva: "Please Brahmadeva, may we be blessed with a child!" The King wished to have a wise and brave son, while the Queen wished to have a graceful and meek child.

One night, the Queen had a strange dream in which she saw a white elephant entering into her womb through the right side of her chest. Queen Maya was going to have a baby! As the delivery day approached, she tried to return to her parents' home for the baby's birth.

It was April 8. After a long rainy season, flowers were blooming everywhere. Queen Maya and her servants took a rest in the beautiful Lumibini Garden on their way to her hometown. Suddenly, she felt the baby coming! Everyone was in a panic because the Queen hadn't reached



her parents' home. She did not worry, but smiled instead. Sweet nectar rained upon them. Queen Maya reached out her right arm to try to pick one of the beautiful sweet tea flowers. At that moment, a baby like a shining jewel was born from her right underarm. Her attendants were surprised with the wondrous sight and fixed their eyes on the baby.



Surprise! The cute and solemn baby stood up, raising his right hand to point towards Heaven and lowering his left hand to point at the Earth. He walked seven steps and declared with a clear voice, “From heaven to the earth I am alone the most honored one.”

Of course, everyone was surprised because babies were supposed to be born with a cry. However, this baby of the King and Queen had said “From heaven to the earth I am alone the most honored one!” Actually, there was another phrase after that. I will tell you secretly. “The triple worlds (*the worlds of those who have feeling, those who do not have feeling, and those in the spiritual realm*) are full of suffering, but I am alone able to be free from these sufferings.” This means that the Buddha is the most respectable person from the heaven to the earth. It is true because the people on this earth are full of worries, and only the Buddha saves us all from agony.

The falling nectar of raindrops changed to red and white lotus flower petals. The rain clouds disappeared, and a ray of sun shone down on the infant. It looked like the baby had come from the Buddha's Pure Land. Everybody was so impressed with these mysteries. All the people of the kingdom rejoiced at the birth of the prince. The King and the Queen were so happy with the birth of their princely heir.