

## Chapter 2

### A Great Prediction of Hermit Ashita

A hermit named Ashita, who lived in the mountains not far away from the kingdom, noticed a radiance about the heaven and earth. He mumbled to himself, “Something very important has happened! A Prince must have been born in the kingdom. I will go there immediately and see him.” He descended from the mountains in a hurry to visit the King and Queen at Kapilavastu Castle.

“Congratulations, King Shuddhodana and Queen Maya for the birth of a princely heir!” The hermit saw the baby and predicted, “This prince will be a mighty King who will rule the entire country. He will be the number one King in the world. However, if he denounces princedom and becomes a monk, he will become a Buddha to save people around the world.”

The King and the people of the kingdom were pleased to hear this prophecy. Queen Maya, however, seemed worried. Her eyes filled with tears while watching the newborn baby. Why didn't she rejoice in the famous hermit Ashita's prediction that the Prince will be a great King and rule the world? Why could she not stop the tears? It was very strange.

