

Chapter 3 A SAD SEPARATION

No wonder! Even though she loved him very much, Queen Maya had to be separated from her newborn baby. She could devote her affection on her lovely son for only one week. The Queen suddenly died on April 15, a week after the birth of the prince. How sad she had to be separated from the newborn baby!

The infant was named Siddhartha, which means “every wish fulfilled.” Queen Maya’s younger sister, Mahaprajapati, became the child’s foster mother and brought him up with loving care.

Siddhartha’s father and foster mother raised the princely heir with lots of affection. He grew into a healthy boy. The Prince began his lessons in reading, writing and military arts. There was no one that could exceed him. He was wise and kind to everyone, so his friends and servants loved and adored him. He seemed to be happy and free to do anything. Actually, Prince Siddhartha had a spiritual wound. Once in a while, he felt lonesome and his eyes were suddenly wet.

