

TALES OF BUDDHA

Gautama is one of the greatest religious leaders the world has known. Born a prince, he turned his back on worldly pleasures which he realised, hid the sources of human misery. He was convinced that penance and meditation as mere rituals without the accompanying sincerity and contemplation were futile. After years of search he became the Buddha, the Enlightened One. He realised that fear and misery spring from attachment and desire and liberation lay in freeing oneself from the bonds of desire and attachment. A supreme compassion for his fellow beings prompted him to propagate his view.

Amrapali and Vasavadatta were two women-disciples of Buddha who gave up a life of pleasure and took to asceticism.

The compassionate benevolence of Buddha was potent enough to bring about a change of heart even among the condemned and the fallen. Angulimala, the dreaded highway robber who plundered and killed travelling traders, was one such sinner who was transformed into a saint.

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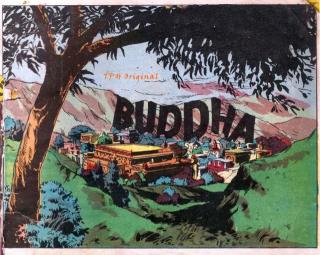
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Buddha
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Angulimala
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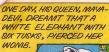
Amrapali

Script : Subba Rao Artworks : H.S. Chavan and Ranjana





IN THE HIMALAYAN FOOTHILLS, KAPILAVASTU WAS A SMALL BUT PROSPEROUS KINGDOM. THE SAKYAS RULED OVER IT. SUDDHODANA WAS THEIR KING.





TEN MONTHS LATER THE QUEEN WAS ON HER WAY TO HER FATHER'S HOUSE. AS SHE WAS PASSING THROUGH A BEAUTIFUL GROVE ON THE WAY TO LUMBINI STOP! I WOULD LIKE TO SPEND SOME TIME HERE.





THERE A 8A84 WAS BORN TO HER. IT WAS THE FULL MOON NIGHT OF VAISAKHA. THERE WAS SILENCE ALL AROUND.







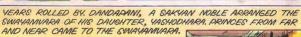


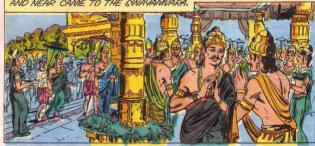












YASHODHARA CHOSE SIDDHARTHA AS HER HUSBAND.



































OF TRUTH,



SIDDHARTHA MOUNTED HIS HORSE AND RODE OUT, ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY CHANNA.









SOON HE REACHED RAUAGRIHA, THE CAPITAL OF MAGADHA, HE WENT FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE SILENTLY WAITING TILL THE PEOPLE OFFERED HIM FOOD, KING BIMBISARA OBSERVED HIM FROM HIS PALACE.



AS SOON AS THE MESSENGERS BROUGHT NEWS ABOUT SIDDHARTHA, KING BINBISARA WENT TO MEET HIM.







FROM RAJAGRIHA, SIDDHARTHA WENT IN SEARCH OF THE GREAT SAGES OF THOSE DAYS. NOT SATISFIED WITH THEIR TEACHINGS, HE ENTERED THE THICK JUNGLES OF URUBILVA, NEAR GAYA OF TODAY.



THERE WERE FIVE HERMITS IN THE JUNGLES OF URUBILVA.



SIDDHARTHA DRANK ONLY WATER AND ATE ONLY FRUITS AND HERBS. HE SLEPT ON THE HARD GROUND. AFTER SOME TIME HE STARTED EATING ONLY ONE HEMP GRAIN EVERY DAY. THIS MADE HIM VERY WEAK, ONE DAY, WHEN HE HAD GONE TO BATHE IN THE RIVER.



HE CAUGHT HOLD OF A LOW BRANCH OF A TREE AND RAISED HIMSELF WITH ITS SUPPORT.



BUT AS HE BEGAN TO WALK AWAY FROM THE BANK, HE FEIT INFAK AND FELL DOWN















SIDDHARTHA NOW LIVED A IONFIY LIFF



HE MOVED TOWARDS A BODAL TREE AND SAT BENEATH IT.



HEAT AND COLD, HUNGER AND THIRST TROUBLED HIM RAIN I ASHED ON HIM

COME WHAT MAY, I SHALL NOT MOVE FROM THIS SEAT TILL I FIND A WAY TO END SORROW.

VISIONS OF THE LIFE OF PLEASURE FLOATED BEFORE HIS EYES, BUT NOTHING COULD TEMPT HIM.





SIDDHARTHA BECAME THE BUDDHA, THE ENLIGHTENED ONE.



HE SPENT SEVEN WEEKS UNDER THE TREE ENJOYING HIS STATE OF PERFECT HAPPINESS, THEN HE WENT OUT INTO THE WORLD TO TEACH OTHERS, FIRST, HE WENT TO BANARAS, INSERVEN OF THE FIVE ASCETICS, WHO WERE WITH HIM IN URUBIUVA HE FOUND THEM IN DEFR PARK.



BUT AS SOON AS HE CAME NEAR, THEY GOT UP AND RECEIVED HIM WITH RESPECT.



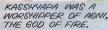
AFTER THAT, HE RETURNED TO URUBILVA AND WENT TO THE HOUSE OF KASSHYAPA, A GREAT RRAHMAN, WHEN THEY MEARD THE BUDDHA,
THEY BECAME HIS DISCIPLES, THE
SANGHA THUS CAME INTO BEING.

THERE IS GREAT SORROW IN THIS WORLD. THIS SORROW IS BECAUSE OF DESIRE, IF YOU CAN FREE YOUR-SELF FROM DESIRE, YOU WILL BE FREE FROM SORROW, I WILL SHOW









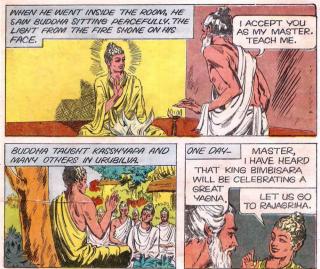




AT LAST KASSHYAPA AGREED, BUDDHA SAT SILENTLY BEFORE THE FIRE. KASSHYAPA WENT TO SLEEP OUTSIDE.

























LORD, I HAVE GIVEN UP THE IDEA OF PERFORMING YAGNA. I TAKE REFUGE IN BUDDHA.

NEXT DAY, THE KING INVITED BUDDHA AND HIS DISCIPLES FOR A MEAL AT HIS PALACE, AFTER THE MEAL WAS OVER_





















SHE HAS BEEN VERY UN-HAPPY EVER SINCE YOU LEFT SHE HAS CUT HER HAIR, WEARS SIMPLE CLOTHES AND EATS SPARINGLY JUST AS YOU DID.

WITH TWO OF HIS DISCIPLES, BUDDHA WENT TO YASHODHARA'S CHAMBER. MUST TRY TO HEAL THE SORROW IN HER HEART.



THEN REMEMBERING THAT OTHERS WERE PRESENT. SHE GOT UP AND SAT AT A LITTLE DISTANCE.



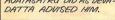
BUDDHA SPOKE WORDS OF COMFORT.











IT IS NICE TO BE A KING. THANK YOU, DEVADATTA! IF YOU WANT MY HELP IN ANYTHING, ASK FOR IT. I NEED
YOUR HELP,
KING
AJATASATRU.
HELP ME
KILL BUDDHA.
I HATE
HIM.



TO KILL BUDDHA.









































BUDDIA LIVED TO A RIPE OLD AGE. INILLIONS TOOK REFUGE IN HIM AND IN HIS TEACHINGS. PEOPLE, WHO SPOKE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AND BELONGED TO DISTANT LANDS BECAME HIS FOLLOWERS.