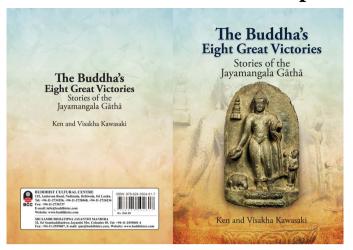
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The Buddha's Eight Great **Victories** Stories of the Jayamangala Gatha

By Ken and Visakha Kawasaki

First Edition 2024

48 pages

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In these stories, which inspired the popular Pali chant, the Buddha uses skillful means and non-violence to overcome the evil Mara, the vicious Angulimala, the ferocious Alavaka, and more. The Buddha's triumphs result from the marvelous, wholesome qualities which he exemplified and extolled, and which we should try to perfect in ourselves, namely, loving-kindness, compassion, generosity, courage, critical thinking, patience, and wisdom.







Conquering Māra

After Prince Siddhattha, the Bodhisatta, left the

palace, he practiced asceticism in Uruvela for six years as the ascetic Gotama. Having gained no satisfaction and seeing no benefit from such practice, on the Vesak full moon day, when he was thirty-five years old, he accepted a nourishing meal of rice cooked in milk from a woman named Sujata. After his meal, he accepted a gift of Kusag gars from a grass cutter named Sotthiya. As he spread the grass under a Bodhi tree, a Diamond throse awneeds.

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He sat down on the Diamond Throne, facing east. He sat down on the Diamond Throne, facing east, and made a strong determination: "Even though my blood dries up, and my bones and skin waste away, I will not get up from this seat until I have attained perfect Bollghtenment" He began meditating and soon attained the tranquility of the jādras. Many devas gathered around him to pay homage and to praise him for his determination.

gathered around him to pay homage and to praise him for his determination.

At that time, Māra, the Evil One, seated in his abode in the highest heaven of the Sensuous World, 'heard this determination and became both worried and angry. This mighty deva, the personification of death, realized that, if Gotama succeeded, he would free not only himself but also countless others from suffering. This would greatly weaken Māra's power over humanelite.

suffering. This would greatly weaken Māra's power over humankind.

Assuming the form of a fierce yaktha' with one assuming the form of a fierce yaktha' with one Māra mounted his elephant, Girimekhala. Accompanied by his ten armies,' Māra roared loudly and stormed forward. All the other devas fled in terror.

Māra's soldiers assumed frightening forms and surrounded Gotama. They attacked him on all sides, but they could not break his concentration. All of

their dangerous weapons turned to flowers and fell at Gotama's feet. Then Mara plunged the world into absolute darkness. He created a thunderstorm and split the darkness with boilts of lightning. He first showered the meditating Gotama with ice and then with boiling water, followed by flery hot sand and stones. He created a cyclene with a wind strong enough to uproot trees. He made the wind both four smelling and poisonous, but Gotama remained calm and undisturbed. Failing at all of this, Mara sent his three daughters, Discontent (Aratij, Passion, (Ragai), and Craving (Ranhā), to distract Gotama. They danced seductively, but he never looked at them. Unable to break the Bodhisatta's concentration, these beautiful young maidens changed into ugly old hags and disappeared.

Mara realized that he could neither frighten nor distract Gotama, so he decided to tempt him with a seemingly irresistible offer. "Cotama" He shouted. "I will make you king of the entire world. You will have unlimited power, and you will enjoy unlimited pleasures. All you have to do is abandon your quest."

Gotama replied that his attainments were already greater than anything Mara could offer. In desperation, Mara asked what right Gotama had to sit on the Diamond Throne. All of Māra's soldiers again rushed forward to push Gotama from his seat. Ostama calmb touched the earth with the middle finger of his right hand. "The devo of the earth appeared and testified 4. In Buddhist art, this hand gesture is called *Earth Winness."

4. In Buddhist art, this hand gesture is called "Earth Witness."

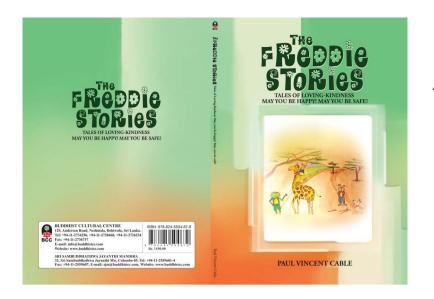
that the Bodhisatta had fulfilled the Ten Perfections'

that the Bodhisatta had fulfilled the Ten Perfections during his previous lives.

As proof of the Bodhisatta's virtue, this deva, who is sometimes called Mother Earth, wrung out her hair, releasing a great flood. From her hair flowed all the water which Prince Vessantara had poured in his innumerable acts of generosity. There was so much water that it washed away Mara's armies. This perfect generosity was too much for Mara. He surendered and paid homage to the Bodhisatta. As the sun was setting, all the devas joyfully returned and gathered around the Bodhisatta to celebrate his victory.

As the full moon arose, the Bodhisatta continued meditating and made even greater attainments. During the right, he recalled all his past lives. Then he saw the kamma' and rebirth of all living beings in samsdra, the round of existence. Finally, at dawn, having destroyed all his mental defilements, he attained perfect Enlightenment and became the Buddha.





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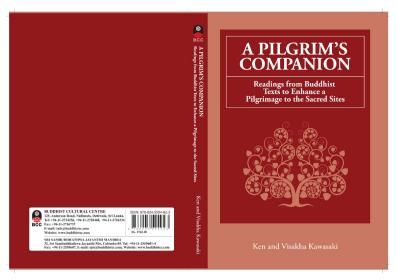






THE END





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The Sacred Sites

Daily Meditation

Lumbini Asita Meets the Bodhisatta

Asita Meets the Bodhisatta

One afternoon, the accomplished sage, Asita, used his supernatural yowers to go to Tavatimss. There he found the eclestial city beautifully decorated and the thirty-three goods gathered in happy celebration, with hanners flying and music playing. Seeing the godé excirement, Asita respectfully asked why they were so joyful.

"In a village called Lumbini, in the Sakyan kingdom," answered one of the dewas," as Bodhisatta has been bourt A being intent on Buddhabood has been born, a being without comparison, a precious pear of goodness in the human world. That's why we're so glad. Of all beings, this one is the hero! This is the one who will set in motion the Wheel of the Dhamma!"

When he heard this news, Asita left Tavatimsa and went directly to the palace of the Sakyans, where, long before, he had been spiritual advisor to the present king's father. As soon as he met King Suddhodana, he saked to see the prince.

The baby was beautiful; his body glowed like motten gold just pouted from a crucible. To see they free true and on the sage was thrilled. The king lifted his son to have him pay respects to the sage, but, as he did so, the baby feet turned up and touched the sage's head. Asita understood that that meant that there was no one deserving the infant's reverence. Recognizing all the signs of greatness in the baby, Asita proclaimed, "There is nothing to compare with his Here is the ultimate! This is the prince in the appet."

Suddenly, he began weeping. This so alarmed the king and queen that they asked. It is the prince in danger?"

"No," Asita reassured them, with a smile. "There is no threat to the prince's life. In fact, for him, there won't be any obstacles at all.

There cannot be any danger to him; he is not an ordinary being. This prince will reach the fulfilment of perfect Enlightenment."

"Then why did you shed tears just now, great sage?" the king

paine. Nalaka did as his uncle advised, and, helped by the merit he Nalaka did as his uncle advised, and, helped by the merit he had accumulated by performing wholesome decks, he remained alert and restrained, waiting to hear of the appearance of a Buddha in the world. In time, the news did come, and Nalaka set out to find the Enlightened One He arrived in Isipatana seven days after the Buddha had delivered the First Sermon in the deer park. After taking refuge in the Buddha, Nalaka was ordained and returned to the Himavat, where he stayed alone in the forest and, in no long time, artained araltastip, After his death, the Buddha visited that place with a group of bhikdhus, cremated Nalaka's body, and had a stupa built over the remains.

Day Five

A Pilgrim's Compa

Reading Friendship

Priendship

Once, in the Sakyan country, Venerable Ananda said to the Buddha,
"Venerable Sir, good friendship is half of the holy life."

"Not so, Anandat" the Buddha replied. "Good friendship is the
entire holy life.

"When one has a good friend, it is to be expected that he will
develop and cultivate the Noble Eightfold Path–Right view, Right
intention, Right speech, Right action, Right livellood, Right effort,
Right mindfulness, and Right concentration—each stage is based upon
schusion, dispassion, and cessation, maturing in release.

"By relying upon me as a good friend, Ananda, beings are freed
from birth, from aging, from illness, from death, and from sorrow,
lamentation, pain, displeasure, and depair. Thus, Ananda, it may be
understood how the entire holy life is good friendship.

"Therefore, you should train yourself thus: "I will be one who
has good friends."

"When you have good friends, you should dwell with one thing
for support: diligence in wholesome
states—avoiding unwholesome

"When you have good friends, you should dwell with one thing for support: diligence in wholesome states-avoiding unwholesome states not yet arisen, abandoning unwholesome states not yet arisen, abandoning unwholesome states, developing wholesome states.

"When you are thus dwelling diligently, those around you will think, 'Let us also well diligently, with diligence for support."

"In this way, you will be guarded and protected."

-Samvutta Nikava 3, 18

Reflection

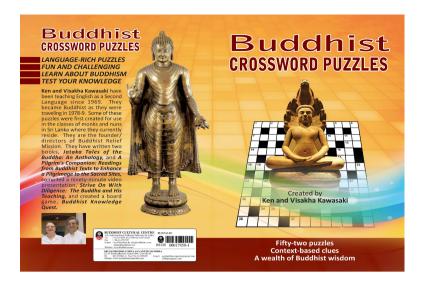
One Person There is one person whose birth into the world is for the welfare of the many, for the happiness of the many, for the good, the welfare, and the happiness of devas and humans, out of compassion for the world.

There is one person whose presence is hard to encounter in the world, whose teaching is seldom heard, and whose face is rarely gazed upon.

world, whose teaching is seldom heard, and whose face is rarely gazed upon.

There is one person whose appearance in the world is unique, unequaled, incomparable, unparalleled, without counterpart, matchless, unrivaled, and who lifts up the hearts of devas and humans. The passing away of one person from the world is regerted by the many and causes sorrow. Even though he admonished, "After I have passed away, let the Dhamma be your teacher," still his passing away is regerted.

Who is that person? It is the Tathagata, the Arahat, the fully Enlightened Buddha.



Buddhist Crossword Puzzles

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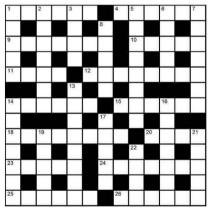
- King Pasenadi's ____, Ven. Sumana, attained arahatship, and the king built a nunnery for her and other bhikkhunis in front of Jetavana. [sbling]
- Ciñca-Manavika tried to _____ the Buddha by claiming that he had made her pregnant. [slander]
- 9. For the arahat, there is no more _____. [new life
- Virtuous acts can help to weaken the effect of past kamma, but cannot ______ it. [wipe out]
- 11. The six senses are the five ordinary senses _____ consciousness. [in addition to]
- 12. One should establish oneself in _____ before beginning meditation. [virtue]
- 14. In the Sujata Jataka, the grieving landowner rushed to his son and cried, "What are you doing? The ox _____ It cannot eat! It cannot drink!" (2 words) [2, 4]
- 15. "Even though you have good intentions, if you ______ of delusion, you may end up causing harm." (Ajaan Lee Dhammadharo) (2 words) [3,3]
- Every (kalapa) of matter is composed of the four primary elements of earth, water, air and fire, and of the secondary elements of color, odor, taste, and nutriment. (Abhitadhamma) [minute piece]
- 20. "Wherever that flayed cow stands, the creatures living there will nibble _____." (Puttamansa Sutta, Samyutta Nikaya 12, 63) (2 words) [2, 2]
- 23. Upatissa (Venerable Sariputta) waited until Venerable Assaji had _____ his meal to approach him.[consumed]
- 24. "As from a great heap of _____ many garlands can be made, even so should many good deeds be done by one born a mortal." (*Dhammapada 53*) [blossoms]
- 25. Right speech is ____ at the right time, in truth, affectionately, beneficially, and with a mind of good-will.
- 26. The expression on the face of an image of the Buddha is always ______. [calm]

Down

- A bhikkhu often carries his bowl in an almsbowl holder with a _____ slung over his shoulder. [band of leather or cloth]
- Ven. Moggallana _____ the mighty serpent Nandopananda by using extraordinary powers. (Jayamangala Gatha)

 [tamped]

 [tamped]
- After the Buddha had accepted Brahma Sahampati's request that he teach the Dhamma, he replied, "Open are the doors to the Deathless for those with _____. Let then show their faith." (Ariyapariyesana Sutta, Majjhima Nikaya 26) [auditor organs]
- The Sukhothai Buddha has been described as having a boneless, weightless _____. (See photo) [refined grace]
- Alavaka's mansion and banyan tree were near the city of
 ______. [place name]
- 7. The Buddha said, "This man, in five hundred successive states of existence, was reborn as a snake and fell asleep; not is he sated with sleep." (Dhammapada Commentary on Verse 251) (2 words) [4, 3]
- Rare, indeed, is human birth. Don't _____ away this chance. [cast]



- "_____ leads to Nibbana" is an old Burmese saying [forbearance]
- 14. The Buddha did not permit bhikkhus to use their extraordinary powers simply to _____ other people [produce a widd effect on]
- 16. When asked why he lives in the forest, far from the town, a bhikkhu might reply, "I came ______ so that I could meditate in silence." (2 words) [this far]
- Before bowing at the Buddha's feet, Angulimala hurled his weapons over a ______. [precipice]
- I wonder what the _____ of sangha to laypeople is in an ideal society. [proportion]
- 21. "A fool, even though he is associated with a wise man all his life, does not understand the Dhamma, just as a ladle does not know the _____ of soup." (Dhammapada 64). [flavor]
- 22. It is customary to offer a _____ to the Sangha in the Kathina ceremony at the end of the rains retreat. [gament]







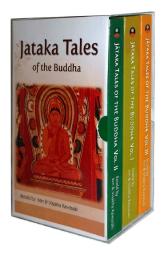














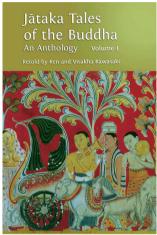
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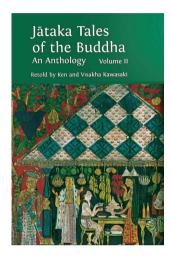
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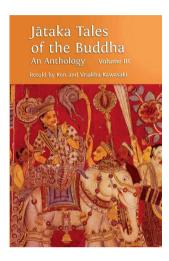
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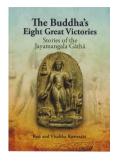
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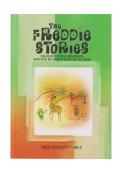
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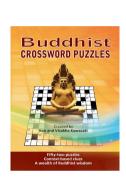
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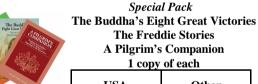
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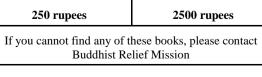
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