

# Prince Siddhartha's Birth

Metta Class: Sep 30, 2018

By – Sureka Hapuarachchi



Buddhists believe that when Prince Siddhartha was born, he was able to walk and that lotus flowers appeared beneath his feet.

A long time ago in **India**, there lived a **king named Suddhodana** and **queen named Maha Maya**. They were both good and kind people.

One full moon night, the Queen had a beautiful dream. A white elephant carrying a lotus flower went around her three times and entered her body through the right hand side. Wise men, who explained the strange dream said that the Queen was going to give birth to a great son.

When the time came for the baby to be born, Queen Maha Maya left the palace to visit her parents. On her way, she decided to take a rest in a beautiful place called **Lumbini Park**, which had a lot of Sal trees.

While she was standing up and holding a branch of a tree, she gave birth to a baby. A beautiful baby boy was born. Soon after, the baby

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walked seven steps. At each step he walked, a lotus flower rose from the earth.

**Queen Maha Maya** cancelled her trip and returned to the palace with the new born prince. **King Suddhodana** was very happy and arranged a festival to celebrate the birth of the prince.

Prince was born on a full moon day in the fifth month 2600 years ago. We call it **Vesak full moon** day. We celebrate **Vesak** on the full moon day of the **fifth month (May) each year**.

King Suddhodana's teacher, sage Asitha came to visit the Prince. After seeing the Prince he smiled and then cried. He said the baby is not an ordinary child; he will be the greatest teacher in the world. He was happy about the Prince's future but sad about not being able to live that long.

Five days after the birth of the Prince, many wise men came to the palace for the naming ceremony. The wise men said the Prince will either become a great King or the Buddha. The youngest wise man said the Prince will become the Buddha.

The prince was given the name '**Siddhartha**'. The meaning of his name was '**Wish-fulfilled**' (the person who will do good things to himself and others). His **family name was Gautama**.

The Queen passed away **on the seventh day** after giving birth to her child. Her younger sister **Queen Maha Pajapathi** agreed to care of the baby. Queen Maha Prajapathi's son **Prince Nanda** was the younger half-brother of the Prince. He was his childhood best friend.

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