

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK



LIFE OF BUDDHA
SHAKYAMUNI





- 1 While residing in the Tushita Heaven, the future Buddha Shakyamuni decides to be born on Earth.
- 2 In the form of a great white elephant, he descends to Earth, entering the womb of his mother, Queen Mayadevi.
- 3a At Lumbini Grove the future Buddha is born as Prince Siddhartha.
- 3b He takes his first steps.
- 3c The astrologer Asita predicts two possible destinies: to become a universal ruler or a great spiritual teacher.
- 4 The prince becomes proficient in princely games and arts, although he never goes beyond the city walls.
- 5 As a young adult he assumes a retinue and marries, living a worldly life.
- 6a He realizes that worldly affairs are insubstantial. Outside the city walls he has four encounters: with an older person, a person who is sick, a dying person, and an ascetic.
- 6b After the four encounters he decides to abandon his royal life.
- 6c He renounces the world and cuts his hair.
- 7 He practices austerities for six years.
- 8a Under the bodhi tree he attains perfect and complete enlightenment.
- 8b The demon Mara's army attacks the Buddha.
- 9a The Buddha teaches his first disciples (known as Turning the Wheel of Dharma at Sarnath Deer Park).
- 9b He teaches at Vulture Peak near Rajgir to an assembly of bodhisattvas, gods, and other beings.
- 10 He prevents the division of his followers and tames a mad elephant at Rajgir.
- 11a The Buddha performs various miracles. He descends from the Heaven of the Thirty-three Gods after teaching his mother.
- 11b He performs the multiplication of miracles at Shravasti and converts the non-believers.
- 11c He is offered a gift of honey from a monkey at Vaishali and predicts his own impending death.
- 12a The Buddha manifests the Great Passing at Kushinagara. First, he leaves his physical body.
- 12b Then, he is cremated, and his ashes are placed in a stupa and wondrous lights illuminate the sky and flowers rain down.