

THE TWELVE MIRACULOUS DEEDS *of Buddha Shakyamuni*



Deeds 1–6

(See side two for 7–12)

1 Buddha Shakyamuni passes his crown to Maitreya as he prepares to fulfill prophecy and come into this world.

2 He descends from Tushita Pure Land as a white elephant and enters the womb of his mother, Queen Mayadevi.

3 Buddha Shakyamuni is born as Prince Siddhartha and takes his first steps into the world, seven in each direction, as lotuses bloom in his wake.

4 He is trained as a child in the worldly arts, reading poetry, playing with friends, hunting animals, and learning archery.

5 Prince Siddhartha indulges in worldly pleasures.

6 After witnessing the suffering of humanity, Prince Siddhartha cuts his hair and takes up a life of renunciation.

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Deeds 7–12

(See side one for 1–6)

7 He engages in intensive spiritual practice.

8 He sits in meditation under a sacred tree, vowing not to rise until he attains enlightenment.

9 He is challenged by and defeats the tempting armies of Mara, turning their weapons into flowers.

10 He attains full enlightenment as Buddha Shakyamuni.

11 Buddha Shakyamuni teaches the way of enlightenment (turns the Wheel of the Dharma).

12 Buddha Shakyamuni enters into Parinirvana, leaving this world. He is then cremated and the relics from his funeral pyre are entombed in a stupa (reliquary mound).