THE TWELVE MIRACULOUS DEEDS

of Buddha Shakyamuni

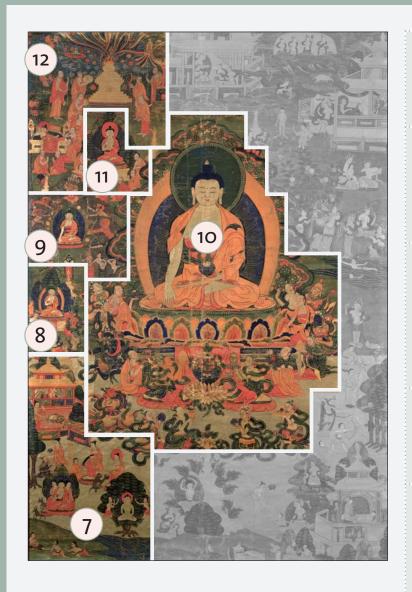


Deeds 1–6 (See side two for 7–12)

- 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).

Tibet; 19th century; Pigment on cloth; Rubin Museum of Art; C2006.66.164 (HAR 157)