

Land of Buddhas Lumbini, Nepal

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Generally many people know that Lord Sakyamuni Gautama Buddha was born in Lumbini, Nepal. However, there are found Buddhist literatures that mention about many Buddhas born in the holy land of Nepal.

Buddhist literatures mention about many Buddhas. According to Morris (1882: 66-7), in Buddhist tradition, Vipassi is the twenty-second of twenty-eight Buddhas described in Chapter 27 of the Buddhavamsa. The Buddhavamsa is a Buddhist text, which describes the life of Gautama Buddha and the twenty-seven Buddhas who preceded him.

According to Buddhist Text Translation Society (2007), the third to the last Buddha of the Alamkarakalpa, Vipassi was preceded by Phussa Buddha and succeeded by Sikhi Buddha. Though found mentioned about many Buddha in the Buddhist literatures, their archaeological evidences lack today. These are the subject matters of the further research regarding evidences to be proven.

However, the main focus of mine in this article is that there are archaeological evidences that prove that there were born many Buddhas in Nepal. The Asoka Pillars provide evidences about the more Buddhas born in the Holy Land of Nepal.

Regarding the found evidences, I try to establish the statement of that Lumbini Nepal is the land of Buddhas. Here, the term Lumbini refers not only the exact birth place of Sakyamuni Gautama Buddha, but also the Greater Lumbini Area, covering Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, etc.

Lumbini Sacred Garden, UNESCO World Heritage Site:



Mayadevi Vihara (Temple) is the main Vihara, situated at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Lumbini. The Vihara stands adjacent to a Sacred Pond (known as Puskarini) and a Sacred Garden. The archaeological remains at the site were previously dated to the 3rd century BC brick

structures.



The Sacred Garden of Lumbini is the birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Gautama Buddha. The Mayadevi Vihara (Temple) in the Sacred Garden of Lumbini is the proof of the Birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Gautama Buddha. Inside the Mayadevi Vihara lies the Marker Stone, which is the proof and evidence

that is the exact location where Lord Sakyamuni Gautama Buddha was born. The marker stone was discovered after meticulous excavation of the sanctum sanatorium in 1996. The exact size of the stone is 70cm x 40cm x 10 cm. It is now covered with bullet-proof glass.



Nativity Sculpture, Mayadevi Temple, Lumbini.

The image of Mayadevi, also known as the Nativity Sculpture, dates back to the 4th century AD and depicts the holding the branch of a tree with her right hand for support. Next to her, Gautami Prajapati (her sister) standing in supporting posture at the time of the delivery. The newly born Prince Siddhartha is standing upright on a Lotus

pedestal with two celestial figures receiving him



Ashokan Pillar, Lumbini, Nepal.

The another strong proof of the birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Gautama Buddha is the historical pillar at Lumbini, which was erected by Emperor Asoka in 249 BC bearing the first epigraphic evidence with

reference to the birthplace of Lord Buddha. It is the most noteworthy monument and an authentic historic document of birthplace of Lord Buddha in Lumbini. The inscription engraved by Emperor Asoka is still intact and testifies the authenticity of the birthplace. The text written in Brahmi script and Pali language is translated as follows:

"King Piyadasi (Asoka), the beloved of the Gods, in the twentieth year of reign, himself made a royal visit. Sakyamuni Buddha was born here, therefore, the (birth Spot) marker stone was worshipped and a stone pillar was erected. The lord having been born here, the tax of the Lumbini village was reduced to the eighth part (only)."

Gotihawa, Kapilavastu:



Gotihawa –Krakuchhanda Buddha

Kapilavastu Gotihawa, where the Krakuchhanda Buddha attained nirvana. Is about 5 km southwest of capital city of an Ancient Kingdom Kapilavastu. It is the site for Asoka Pillar where Krakuchhanda Buddha attained nirvana. Gotihawa is one of the major pilgrimage sites for Buddhists from all over the world. This holy

site, sanctified by the birth of the Buddha has been marked by the construction of a Stupa. An Asoka pillar erected here by Emperor Asoka in 249 B.C. ascertains it as the birth spot of Krakuchhanda Buddha. However, the upper part of the pillar is missing.

Niglihawa, Kapilvastu:

The birthplace of Konakmuni Buddha, the early Buddha of Bhadrakalpa.



Niglihawa –Konakmuni Buddha

Emperor Asoka erected a pillar here in 249 BCE. The pillar is broken into two pieces, the lower part bearing inscription submerged in the ground and the upper part lying on the surface. The Asoka inscription engraved in Brahmi script and Pali language testifies the site as the birth spot of the Konakmuni Buddha. It is

said that the shower of gold rained in Jambudwipa on the day he was born of father, Yajyadutta, and mother Uttara here.

As mentioned above, the Buddhist texts and the archaeological evidences describe and explain about the many Buddhas born in the Holy Land of Nepal. These are the good enough reasons dealing with the statement of "Lumbini Nepal as the Holy Land of Buddhas." My article proposes and focuses on the proposition of "The Land of Buddhas Lumbini, Nepal."

Reference:

Morris, R, ed. (1882). "XXVII: List of the Buddhas". *The Buddhavamsa*. London:Pali Text Society. Pp. 66-7.

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