

Mahāpajāpatī Gotamī Narratives

Shobha Rani Dash

Otani University, Kyoto, Japan

MAHĀPAJĀPATĪ AS A MOTHER

NAME

P. Mahāpajāpatī Gotamī

Skt. Mahāprajāpatī Gautamī

Ch. Jp 摩訶波闍波提

<Jp. *Makahajahadai*, Ch. *Mo-he-bo-she-bo-ti*>

A number of other names are there based on the sound (音写) literal rendering (直訳) of the Pāli or Sanskrit name.

Names based on the sound (音写)



瞿曇彌 Jp. *Gudonmi*; Ch. *Qu-tan-mi*

literal rendering (直訳)



大世主 Jp. *Daiseshu* Ch. *Dai-shi-zhu*

A Dictionary of Buddhist Proper Names (Akanuma Chizen, Sri Satguru Publications, Delhi, 1994, reprint). (『インド仏教固有名詞辞典』赤沼智善、法蔵館、京都、1967).

FAMILY RELATIONS, BIRTH AND MARRIAGE

Sources vary . May be summarized as :

parents' names not conclusive, sister of Māyā or Mahāmāyā (strictly speaking the younger sister), place of birth Devadaha, both the sisters married to king Suddhodana of Kapilavatthu and became the mother and maternal aunt of Sakyamuni Buddha respectively.

Family relations, name and place at a glance

Text	Father	Mother	Brother	Sister	Husband	Name	Clan	Place of Birth
Therī-apadāna	Añjanasakka	Sulakkhaṇā			Suddhodana		Sākya	Devadaha
Therīgāthā Aṭṭhakathā	Mahāsuppabuddha			Mahāmāyā	Suddhodana	Gotamī	Gotamī	Devadaha
Manoratha- pūraṇī	Mahāsuppabuddha			Mahāmāyā	Suddhodana	Gotamī		Devadaha
Papañcasūdanī					Suddhodana		Koliya	Devadaha
Dīpavaṃsa				Māyā		Mahāpajāpatī Gotamī		
Mahāvāṃsa	Añjana	Yasodharā	Daṇḍapāṇi, Suppabuddha	Māyā	Suddhodana	Pajāpatī		Devadaha
Jīnakālamālī	Añjana	Yasodharā	Daṇḍapāṇi, Suppabuddha	Māyā	Suddhodana	Pajāpatī		Devadaha
Mahāvastu	Subhūti	Koliyakanyā (a daughter of Koliya clan)		Māyā, Mahāmāyā, Atimāyā, Anantamāyā, Cūliyā, Kolisovā	Śuddhodana		Śākya	Devadaha
根本有部律	善悟王 Suprabuddha	妙勝 Lumbinī		大幻化 Mahāmāyā	淨飯王 白飯王 Śuddhodana	幻化 Māyā		天示城 Devadaha
仏本行集經	善覺 Suprabuddha						Sakya	天 臂 城 Devadaha
衆許摩訶帝經	酥鉢囉沒駄 Suprabuddha	龍弭禰 Lumbinī		摩賀摩耶 Mahāmāyā	淨飯王 Śuddhodana	摩耶 Māyā		天指城 Devadaha

SAKYAMUNI'S MOTHER

NURSING MOTHER OF SIDDHATTHA GOTAMA

Seven days after the birth of Siddhattha Gotama, queen Mahāmāyā passed away. After that, Mahā- pajāpatī became his nursing mother and raised him with much care feeding her milk. At that time, she had her own son Nanda who was born just 2~3 days after Siddhattha. But we are told that she gave her own son Nanda to a wet nurse and herself took care of prince Siddhattha.

MOTHER OF THE BODHISATTVA IN HIS PAST LIVES

Cūlanandiya Jātaka (no. 222)

→ as a mother monkey

Culladhammapāla Jātaka (no. 358)

→ as queen Candā

These Jātaka stories go a step further and depict her as the natural mother of Sakyamuni Buddha in his previous births as a bodhisatta.

LAST MOMENTS

* The Pāli Source :

< The *Therī-apadāna*, No. 17, pp. 529-543, PTS,
Lilley, Mary E. (ed.), Oxford, 2000 ; The
Therīgāthā-aṭṭhakathā (Paramatthadīpanī VI),
pp. 135-155, Pruitt, William (ed.), PTS, Oxford,
1998.

* The Chinese Sources :

『大愛道般泥洹經』 *Tā-ai-tao-pan-ni-yuan-ching* , T2, No. 144

『大莊嚴論經』 *Ta-chuang-yen-lun-ching* , T4, No. 201

『增一阿含經』 *Tseng-i-a-han-ching*, T2, No. 125

『仏母般泥洹經』 *Fo-mu-pan-ni-yuan-ching* , T2, No. 145

『根本說一切有部毘奈耶雜事』 *Ken-pen-shuo-i-chie-hyu-pu-pi-na-yeh-tsu-shih* , T24, No. 1451

Mahāpajāpatī decides to die willingly before the Buddha, after obtaining his permission showed supernormal powers, went through different stages of meditation and entered into *nibbāna*, the five hundred bhikkhunīs accompanying her entered into *nibbāna* too in the same process and in the same time, then they were cremated in the presence of the Lord himself along with eminent bhikkhus, gods, *nāgas*, *asuras*, *kinnaras*, *yakṣas* etc.

Pali Source: 1. Decided to enter into the *nibbāna* being not capable to see the final passing of the Lord and his disciples such as venerable Sāriputta, Mahāmoggallāna, Mahākassapa, Ānanda, Rāhula and Nanda etc.

2. Wished to enter into the *nibbāna* before any split occurred in the saṅgha

Chinese source: She wished to die willingly before the Buddha.