

Important people from after the time the Buddha lived:

King Asoka (Ashoka): Ruled India over 200 years after the Buddha passed away. He sent missionaries around Asia and protected the monastic saṅgha.

Mahinda, Ven. Arahant: Son of King Asoka who was the first missionary to Sri Lanka. He first established the royal family as disciples of the Buddha and then went on to convert the population.

Sanghamittā, Ven. Arahant: Daughter of King Asoka. She was sent by the king to establish the order of nuns on the island and to bring a cutting of the sacred Bodhi Tree.



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P People & Places

The Buddha was a real person who lived in real places and associated with real people. When we are familiar with these people and places, it becomes easier to learn the teachings.

Ajātasattu, King: Son of king Bimbisāra. Murdered his father to usurp the throne at the encouragement of Devadatta.

Ānanda, Ven. Arahant: Cousin and chief attendant to the Buddha. He had an exceptional memory and could recall all of the sermons that the Buddha preached.

Anāthapiṇḍika: Chief male lay donor to the Buddha. He built and offered Jetavana monastery in the city of Sāvattī.

Angīrasa: Another name for our Buddha Gotama.

Anuruddha, Ven. Arahant: Monk with the greatest development of the divine-eye.

Avīci Hell: The worst hell realm.

Bamboo Grove (Veluvanaya): A monastery in Rājagaha donated by King Bimbisara.

Bhāradvāja: A common Brahmin clan name. Used for various people.

Bimbisāra, King: Ruler of Magadha, in the city of Rājagaha. Attained stream-entry the first time he heard the Buddha preach.

Bodhgaya: The place where the Buddha attained enlightenment.

Channa, Ven. Arahant: The Bodhisatta's charioteer who later became a difficult monk, but eventually attained enlightenment.

Devadatta: Cousin of the Buddha who became a monk. Later he tried to take over the Sangha. When unsuccessful, he tried to kill the Buddha. When that was unsuccessful, he tried to split the Sangha.

Gijikūta Mountain (Vulture's Peak): A mountain outside of Rājagaha where the Buddha liked to live.

Isigili Mountain: Located outside of Rājagaha.

Isipatana Migadāya: The Deer Park where the Buddha preached his first sermon.

Jambudīpa: The ancient name for India.

Jetavana (Jeta's Grove): The monastery donated by Anāthapiṇḍika in the city of Sāvattī.

Kanthaka: The horse that the Bodhisatta rode when left home to become a monk.

Kapilavatthu: (current name: Kapilavastu) The Buddha's home town.

Khemā, Ven. Arahant: Chief female monastic disciple skilled in wisdom.

Koṇḍañña, Ven. Arahant: The first monk to attain stream-entry under the Buddha.

Kosala, King: Another name for King Pasenadi.

Kusinara: (current name: Kushināra) Town where the Buddha passed away (attained Parinibbāna).

Liccavis: People that made up one of the clans in the Vajjian republic.

Lumbinī: Town where the Buddha was born.

Magadha: Kingdom to the south of the Ganges River. Capital: Rājagaha. King: Bimbisāra.

Mahā Kassapa, Ven. Arahant: The monk most skilled in the ascetic practices.

Mahā Māyā, Queen: The Buddha's mother.

Mahā Pajāpati Gotami: The Buddha's aunt who raised him after his mother died.

Mahāmoggallāna, Ven. Arahant: Chief male monastic disciple skilled in psychic powers. Was close friends in lay-life with Ven. Arahant Sāriputta.

Māra: A non-human being who is dedicated to making sure people don't attain enlightenment. When one Māra dies, another being is reborn as a Māra to take his place.

Nigantha Nātaputta: A teacher of naked ascetics that often tried to cause trouble for the Buddha.

Pasenadi, King: Ruler of Kosala, in the city of Sāvattī.

Pubbārama (the Eastern Park): Monastery in Sāvattī, donated by Visākha.

Rājagaha: (current name: Rajgir) Capital of Magadha. The Bamboo forest monastery (Veluvana) was located just outside the city.

Sakka, lord of gods: A deva who rules over the Tāvātimsa and Chatumahārajika heavenly worlds. When one Sakka reaches the end of his life span and passes away, another one is reborn to take his place.

Sāriputta, Ven. Arahant: Chief male monastic disciple skilled in wisdom. Was close friends in lay-life with Ven. Arahant Mahāmoggallāna.

Sāvattī: (current name: Shrāvasti) Capital of Kosala. Home of Jetavana and Pubbārama monasteries.

Suddhodana, King: The Buddha's father.

Uppalavannā, Ven. Arahant: Chief female monastic disciple skilled in psychic powers.

Vajjians: The people of a country made up of smaller clans.

Vesāli: (current name: Vaishālī) Capital of the Licchavis.

Visākhā: Chief female lay donor to the Buddha. She built and offered Pubbārama in the city of Sāvattī.

Yama: King of hell.