

The Birth of the Buddha

from "The Light of Asia" by Sir Edwin Arnold



* Be | low the highest sphere four Regents sit who | rule our world; :
And under them are zones nearer, but high, | where saintliest spirits dead wait thrice
ten thousand | years, then live again. ||
And on Lord Buddha, waiting | in that sky, :
Came for our sakes the five sure signs of birth, | so that the Devas knew the signs
and said | "Buddha will go a|gain to help the World." ||
"Yea!" spake He, | "now I go to | help the World :
This last of many times; | for birth and death end hence for Me and | those who
learn My Law. ||
I will go down among the Shakyas, | under the southward snows of | Himalay, :
Where pious people live | and a just King." ||
That night the wife of King Shud|dhodana, :
Maya the Queen, | asleep beside her Lord, | dreamed a strānge dream; ||
She dreamed that a star from heaven — splendid, six-rayed, | in colour rosy-pearl, |
whereof the token was an Elephant six-tusked, and white as milk
of | Kamadhuk — :
Shot through the void; and, | shining into her, | entered her | womb upon
the right. ||
Awaked, | bliss beyond mortal mother's | filled her breast, :
And over half the earth a lovely | light forewent the morn. ||