

# The Jataka Sama Story

## Bodhisatta Suvannasama

### The Devoted Son



Buddha Relates his Past Lives to his Disciples

**O**nce there were two Brahamas from the Brahma-loka (higher divine world) born as boy and girl in our human world. They were called *Dukulaka* and *Parika*, respectively. Their parents were bosom friends. When the two children attained maturity their parents married them. As the two were the beings of higher world they did not indulge in any physical relationship. Detached from the earthly life they lived in a hermitage as ascetics.

As they got older Sakya, the King of the celestial spirits, worried about who would care for them. Sakka persuaded Dukulaka and Dukulaka touched the navel of Parika at a proper time, then Sakka sent them a son which made the latter conceive a baby, The boy was so gentle that animals of the forest followed him wherever he went. Nonetheless, The baby was born with golden color. So, he was given the name of *Suvannasama*; but was often called *Sama*.





One day, Sama's parents took shelter under a tree when there was heavy rain pour. The water, which dripped from their body fell on a snake living in the ant-hill on which they were standing. This made the snake furious and snake exhale the venomous breath, which made them blind. The parents could not return back to their home that evening and that made the son Sama worried. Sama then went out in search of his parents. Sama finally found his parents and brought them safely home. Since then he has to look after them.

At that time, there was a King named *Piliyakkha*, the king of *Varanasi*. One day the king was out on a hunting expedition in the forest around the hermitage. There, he heard the sound of water, coming from the water drawn by Sama for his parents. Mistaking Sama as a goblin, he shot him with a poisoned arrow.

Now, a *yakkhini* (an Ogress) *Bahusodari*, who happened to be the mother of Sama seven births before, saw Sama being killed, descended and stood in the mid air. She then frightened the king and ordered him to go and inform the blind parents of his misdeed.



Despite the news of the son's death the blind parents remained calm and did not show any resentment. They instead requested the king to escort them to their dead son.



After reaching near the body of Sama, Parika performed the *Sacchakiriya* (*Act of Truth*) which eradicated the poison from sama and restores back his health. Then the yakkhini performed the similar *kiriya* for the blind parents. And the parents, too, were cured and regained their eyesight.

(Bodhisatta is identified with Sama; Dukuluka with Kassapa; Parika with Bhadda Kapilani; Piliyaka with Ananda; and the yakkhini Bahusodari with Uppalavanna). Jataka Pali - 540

(pictures are from spirit world South East Asia Craft.