कान्थक्य Kānthakya

कान्थक्य **m.** a descendant of `kanthaka` - *gaRa* **gargādi**

http://sanskritdictionary.com/?q=tha&iencoding=deva&lang=sans

Kanthaka

The Buddha's white horse. This animal was said to have appeared at the moment of Buddha's birth.

http://www.mythologydictionary.com/buddhist-mythology.html

كنثكة

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كنثكةسيدهارتا الذي أصبح فيما بعد غوتاما بوذا. ركب سدهارتا ...

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كانتاكا

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آنان را ترک می کند و زمانی که به. دروازه شهر می رسد لباس اشرافی و اسبش را به جانا می (Kanthaka) كانتاكا
دهد. و به سمت جنوب راه می افتد جایی که مرکز تعلیمات او در ...

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कान्थक्य   کانتھکیہ

कान्थक्य   ਕਾਂਥਕਿਆ

ਕਾਂਥਕਿਆ ਫ਼ਰਿਸ਼ਤਾ   کانتھکء فرشتہ

Kanthaka

Siddhartha parting from Kanthaka, Gandhara, British Museum

Kanthaka (in Pali and Sanskrit) (6th century BC, in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, India) was a favourite white horse of length eighteen cubits that was a royal servant of Prince Siddhartha, who later became Gautama Buddha. Siddhartha used Kanthaka in all major events described in Buddhist texts prior to his renunciation of the world. Following the departure of Siddhartha, Kanthaka died of a broken heart.[1]

In the court of King Suddhodarna, Kanthaka was the most skillful and able horse, and the favourite of Crown Prince Siddhartha, whenever Siddhartha needed to go outside the palace. Siddhartha had been lavished and pampered in a series of purpose-built palaces by Suddhodarna in order to shield him from thoughts of pain and suffering. This was done due to a prophecy by the ascetic Asita, who predicted that Siddhartha would renounce the throne to become a spiritual leader were he to contemplate human suffering. Kanthaka is first described in relation to the events leading up to the marriage of Siddhartha to Yasodhara, another Sakyan princess. By the customs of the kshatriya Sakyan clan, a prince must prove his worthiness in warrior related skills such as horse-riding, mounted archery and swordplay by defeating other royals in such contests. Mounted on Kanthaka, Siddhartha defeated his cousin Devadatta in archery, another cousin Anuruddha in a horse-riding competition and then half-brother Nanda in swordplay.

After Siddhartha's marriage, Kanthaka was the horse pulling the chariot when Channa, the head royal servant accompanied Siddhartha around Kapilavastu to see the Four sights whilst meeting his subjects, which prompted his decision to renounce the world. During these expedi-tions aboard Kanthaka, Channa explained to Siddhartha the sights of an elderly man, a sick person, a dead person whose funeral was being conducted and finally, an ascetic who had renounced worldly life for a spiritual one, as Siddhartha who had been secluded from such sights within the palace was taken aback.

Later, Kanthaka was the horse used by Siddhartha to escape from the palace to become an ascetic, whilst the remainder of the palace guards were asleep. After initially protesting and refusing to accept that Siddhartha would leave him, Channa saddled Kanthaka,[2] guiding him out of the town aboard the horse to a forest by the edge of the Anoma River.[3] According to the texts, Kanthaka was able to jump across the river. Riding Kanthaka, Channa returned Siddhartha's accoutrements, weapons and hair to Suddhodarnha upon his return to the palace, after Siddhartha compelled him to return after Channa had refused to leave him.[1]

According to Buddhist texts, Kanthaka was reborn as a brahmin and went on to attend dharma talks by Gautama Buddha and achieve enlightenment. The death is variously described as occurring either at the banks of the Anoma or upon returning to Kapilavastu.[1]

The description of Kanthaka is also widely observed in Buddhist art, such as carvings on stupas. The depiction of Siddhartha leaving Kapilavastu aboard Kanthaka found at the main stupa in Amaravathi is the oldest depiction currently existing. Such depictions are also displayed in museums in London and Calcutta.

1 References

[1] Malasekera, G. P. (1996). *Encyclopaedia of Buddhism*. Government of Sri Lanka.

[2] http://www.rootinstitute.com/buddhism_shakyamuni_sorrow.html

[3] http://www.watlaori.org/who%20is%20buddha.pdf

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