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## **Buddhacarita: In Praise of Buddhas Acts (BDK English Tripitaka)**

*Asvaghosa*

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The Buddhacarita: In Praise of Buddhas Acts is a complete biography of Sakyamuni, from his birth until after his death (parinirvana), when his relics were distributed. Composed by Asvaghosa (early second century CE) the text was rendered into Chinese by Baoyun in 421 CE from the original Sanskrit, creating a simplified version that would be more easily understandable to a Chinese audience. The Buddhacarita reads like a play, describing the incidents and events of the Buddhas life story, from his miraculous birth and early life of wealth and privilege as Crown Prince Siddhartha, to his spiritual journeying and eventual attainment of enlightenment and the teaching and conversion of disciples and followers. Along the way key elements of the Buddhas teaching are revealed and the message of his life is an example of the possibility of awakening and liberation for all.

About the Author The BDK English Tripitaka Series was started by the late Dr. Rev. Yehan Numata, founder of the

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) [Society for the Promotion of Buddhism]. The goal of this series is to make available in the English language the Buddhist scriptures and commentaries of the Sino-Japanese edition of the Taisho Tripitaka; Scholars and specialists from throughout the world have been enlisted to translate the selected texts into English. When completed, the one-hundred eight volumes will comprise the First Series of the BDK English Trpitaka.