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| Midwife  I was called out to Lumbini grove where I had heard that a woman had given birth. To my surprise the Queen, who was holding her child, exclaimed that everything was fine. The baby had come out of her side and she was fine. The baby, named Siddhartha Gautama, could already walk and had taken seven steps. He was also able to talk. I checked Queen Maya over and could see no sign of blood or any wound that needed looking at so I went on my way and advised that I would send a health visitor round to the palace where they were living to see how they were getting on. | Queen Maya (Buddha’s mother)  I was extremely tired after spending the day at a midsummer festival. I went for a rest and during my sleep I dreamt 4 angels carried me to some white mountains and clothed me in flowers. A magnificent white bull elephant bearing a white lotus in its trunk approached me and walked around me three times. Then the elephant struck me on the right hand side and vanished inside me. I wanted to go home to give birth On the way to Devadaha, the procession passed Lumbini Grove, which was full of blossoming trees. Entranced, I asked my courtiers to stop, and I entered the grove. As she reached up to touch the blossoms, my son was born.  Then we were both showered with perfumed blossoms, and two streams of sparkling water poured from the sky to bathe us. |
| Health Visitor  My next visit was to the King’s palace. I was to check his new born son. I was completely surprised to find that the baby was already walking and talking and was to be a wise leader or a Buddha. The King himself was not content that the boy had such great expectations and I was advised that he was under no circumstances able to leave the palace. Unfortunately the baby’s mother had recently died and her sister was now taking care of the baby. I felt that everything was in order at the palace and the baby was well cared for so I left my number in case they needed anything and was very happy to discharge them. | Buddha  When I was born I remember the event most vividly. My mother had dreamt that she would have a wise man or a Buddha. As soon as I entered earth I immediately took seven steps quite easily. I then proclaimed “I alone am the World-Honoured One!”  I then returned with my mother to Kapilavatthu, the place I lived with my mother and my father, who was King of a Hindu clan. Sadly my mother, The Queen, died seven days later, and I was nursed and raised by the Queen’s sister Pajapati, also married to my father, King Suddhodana. |