

wheel (chakra) with 24 spokes. These four symbolical animals probably represent the four principal events of the Buddha's life. The elephant stands for the conception of the Great One, as in a dream, just before her conception, his mother Māyādevī, saw a white elephant entering her womb. The next symbol is the bull, which represents the Zodiac sign Taurus, in which the nativity of the Buddha occurred. The third symbol of the galloping horse depicts the Buddha's Great Renunciation. It was on the renowned horse

Kanthak, that he left the imperial city in the dead of night and went far away in search of Truth. And lastly, the fourth symbol, the lion, represents probably the Great Master himself, Lion of the Śākya race, Śākyasiṃha, the Buddha, the Enlightened One.

"The four wheels with twenty-four spokes represent the Dharma-chakra (Wheel of the Law) that the Buddha set rolling to the four quarters of the globe. The twenty-four spokes that sustain the Wheel stand for the twenty-four (later reduced to four) modes of principal causal relations held in the Buddhist philosophy.



The Lion Capital of Aśoka

"Next, the top of the capital. It is surmounted by four lions set back to back with gaping mouth, as if in the very act of roaring. They may, therefore, be taken as representing monks proclaiming the glories of the Buddha and his teachings to the four cardinal points.

"The Wheel which originally adorned the (pinnacle of)

capital as a crowning feature consisted of thirty-two spokes, symbolizing the Great Buddha himself, the very embodiment of his own dharmaśarīra, having thirty-two chief signs of the Great Superman." Ω

*From *A Guide to Sāmāth* (1947)

What a tangled Web we weave

Sites where Eastern and Western threads in the Web meet.

●The Jiva Institute will soon sponsor the web site for Shantidoot, a multi-lingual Indian news magazine. The bi-monthly magazine, known for its intriguing articles on Indian topics, has subscribers in over 150 countries!

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●The National Taiwan University in Taipei is developing interactive teaching of several languages. Sanskrit is one of the languages being offered. The project is just in its beginning stage.

<http://ccbs.ntu.edu.tw/e-cbs.htm>

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<ftp://jaguar.cs.utah.edu/private/sanskrit/sanskrit.html>

For information, e-mail: sai@cs.utah.edu

●If Sanskrit is your interest, this web page is a directory to Sanskrit sites.

<http://www.lehigh.edu/~ksn2/sanskrit.html>

●This world wide web site lists network resources of interest to Indologists. New additions include "An invitation to Upanisadic philosophy" by Sreedhar Chintalapaty and J.D. Smith's Cambridge files. Also, a South Asia Gopher which includes a directory of active scholars, lists of teaching materials for South Asian languages, documentation of computer fonts and text-processing programs for South Asian languages, job advertisements and more.

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/~ucgadkw/indnet-general.html>