BUDDHIST CIRCUIT

A Book of 72 Pictures with Map

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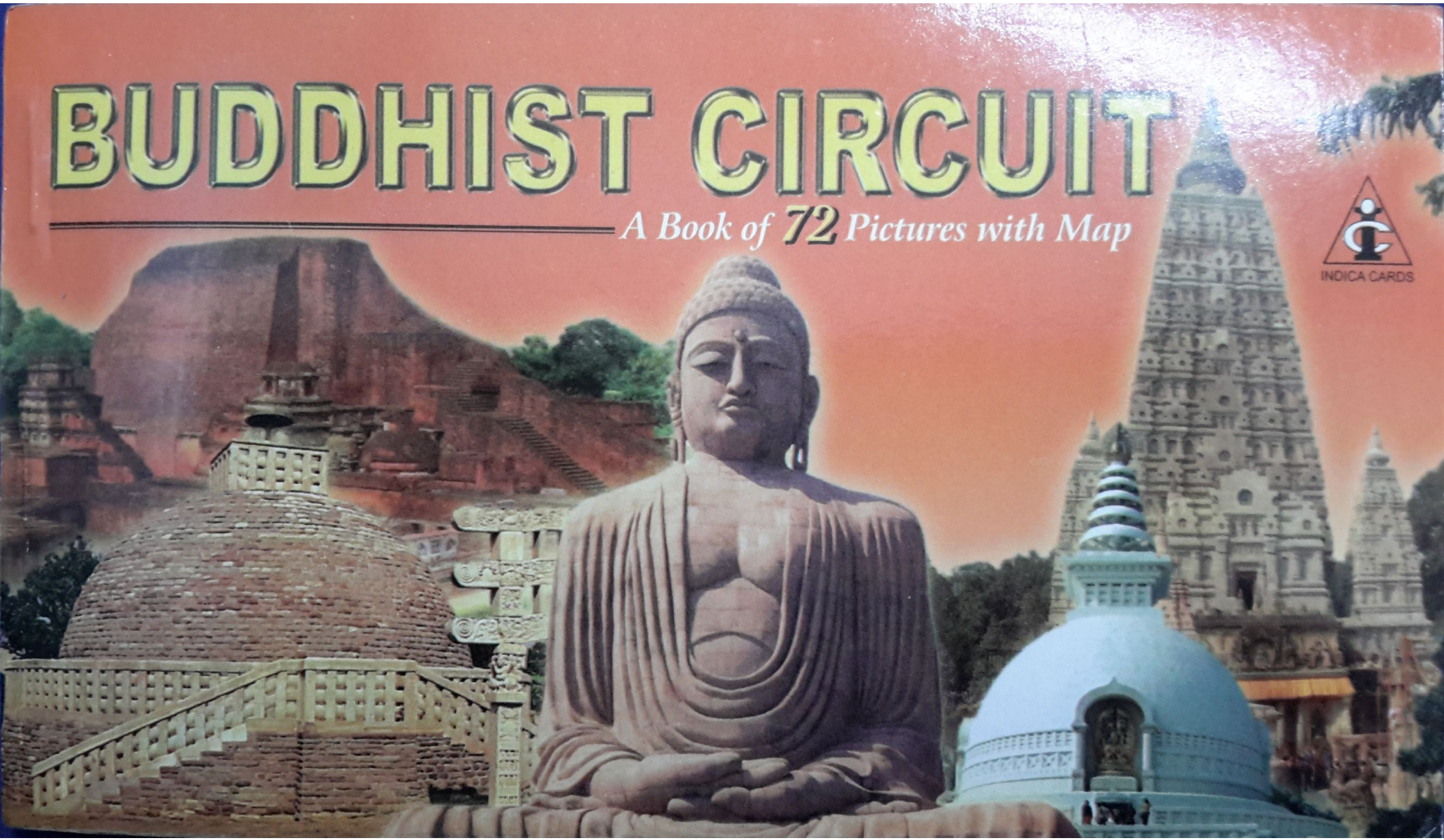

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The Buddha : Birth to Nirvana

Lumbini: In Nepal, the birthplace of the Buddha, born to Queen Maya, who is said to have delivered, standing and supporting herself by a sal tree (following her dream of a white elephant entering her womb.)

Kapilavastu: The modern Piprahawa, was the fortified town of Suddhodana, the father of Siddharatha (the Buddha's personal name) where the latter spent his youth before setting out on the way to 'Enlightenment'.

Vaishali: (located in Bihar) was the first halt for Gautama, the ascetic, once he had shed the mantle of Prince Siddharatha. He met the Yoga teacher, Alara Kalana here. Several Ashokan pillars are still extant here.

Rajgir: In Bihar, the capital of King Bimbisara, where Gautama met Rudraka Ramputra, a yoga master. He had to return here as the Buddha and Bimbisara to become his disciple and patron. The king's conversion took place at the present location of the 'Hill of Vultures'.

Bodh Gaya: A village of Bihar is the site of 'Enlightenment' with the great Bodhi Tree under which Gautama was supposed to have meditated and been transformed into the 'Buddha'. This spot is today marked with a red sandstone slab.

Sarnath: Near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh was where the Buddha gave his 'First Sermon'. It is said the Wheel of Law was turned here. The Dhamek Stupa, an imposing monument existing to date, was the site of the first sermon.

Nalanda: In Bihar, where the Buddha preached and the monastic movement gained ground after the teacher's death. It emerged as a great university around the 4th-5th century A.D. There remain parts of around 11 monasteries even today.

Kushinagara: (Also Kushinara) in Nepal, is the region where the Buddha died (in a sal grove) - and is said to have attained *Mahaparinibbana*, salvational bliss upon death/cessation of being. The Nirvana stupa here dates from Ashoka's time.

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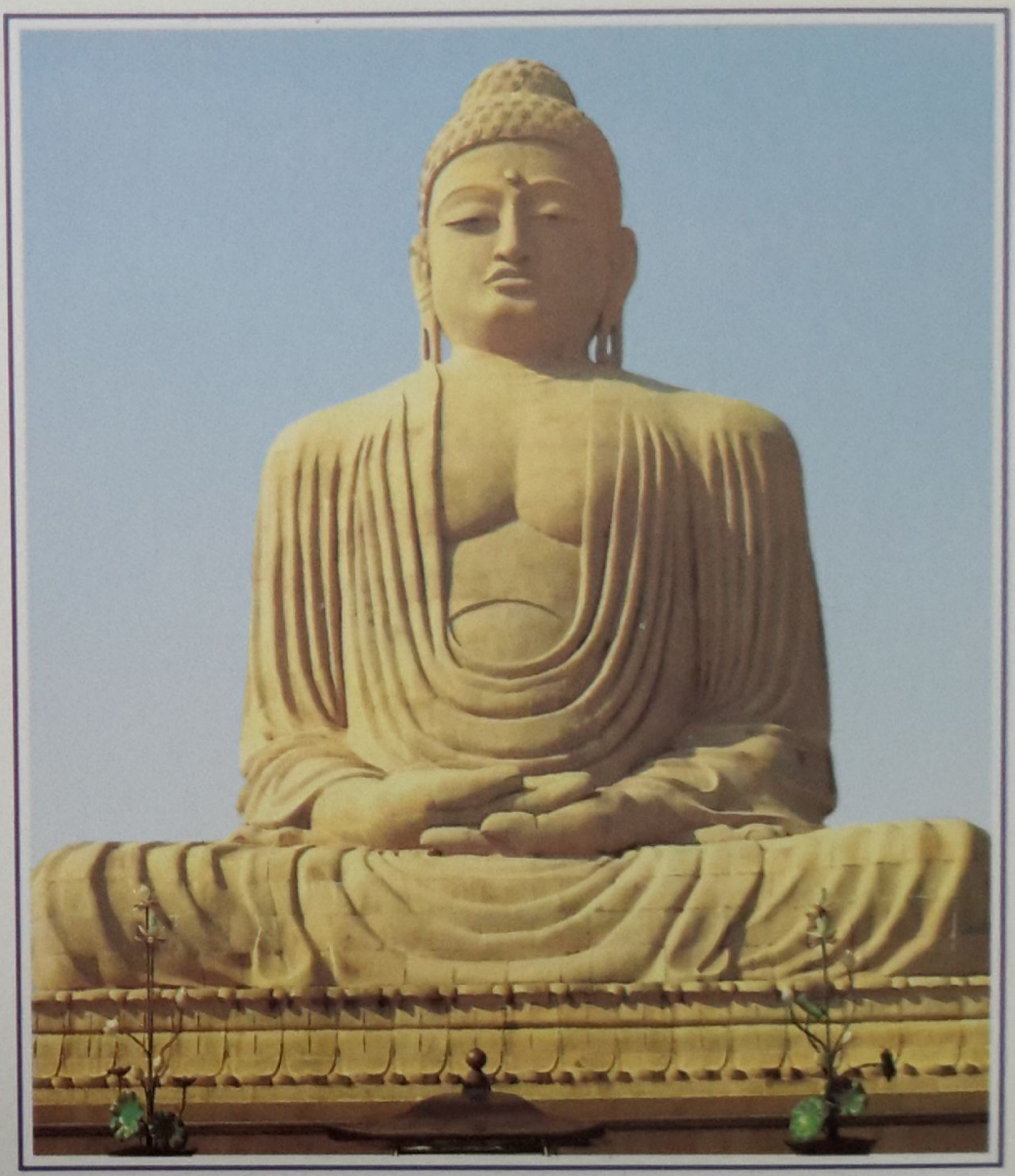

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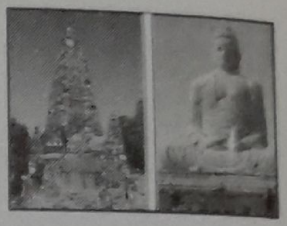
KUSHINAGAR



Left: Maha Bodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya
Right: A giant statue 20m tall on a 5m base, of the Buddha meditating, from Bodh Gaya.

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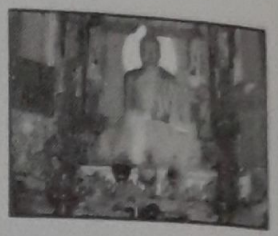
BODH GAYA



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Colossal Statue of Maha Bodhi Temple: In the sanctum sanatorium, a colossal golden Buddha, his hand touching the ground, hails mother, Earth to witness his Awakening Holiest of Holies for the Buddhists

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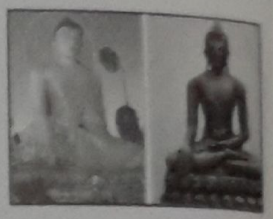
BUDDHA



Statue of Buddha, Maha Bodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya
Statue of Black Buddha, Bodh Gaya

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KUSHINAGAR

The Reclining Image of Buddha, Kushinagar: The famous colossal image of Lord Buddha in the Attitude of Passing into the death less state of Nirvana.

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NALANDA

Sari Putra Chaitya and Temple site no. 12, Nalanda

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RAJGIRI

Statue of Lord Buddha at Shanti Stupa, Rajgiri.

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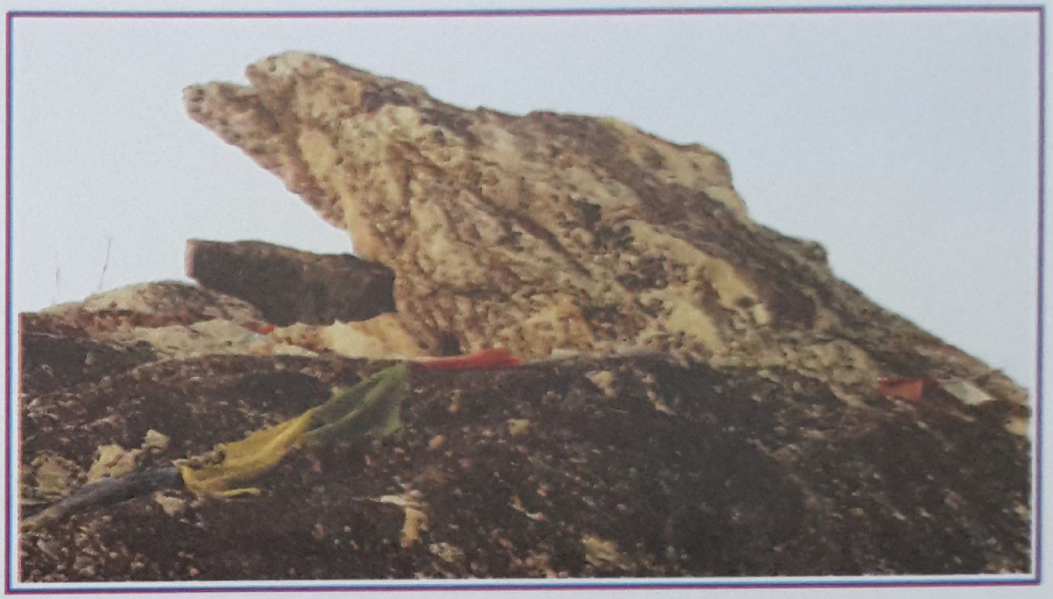

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RAJGIRI

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Top (L): Sone Bhandar Rajgiri **Top (R):** Gridh Koot Rajgiri
Bottom (L): Bimbisar Jail Rajgiri **Bottom (R):** Venuvan Karanda Tank Rajgiri

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RAJGIRI

Left (T & B): Gridh Koot, Rajgiri. **Right:** Ariel Ropeway, Rajgiri.

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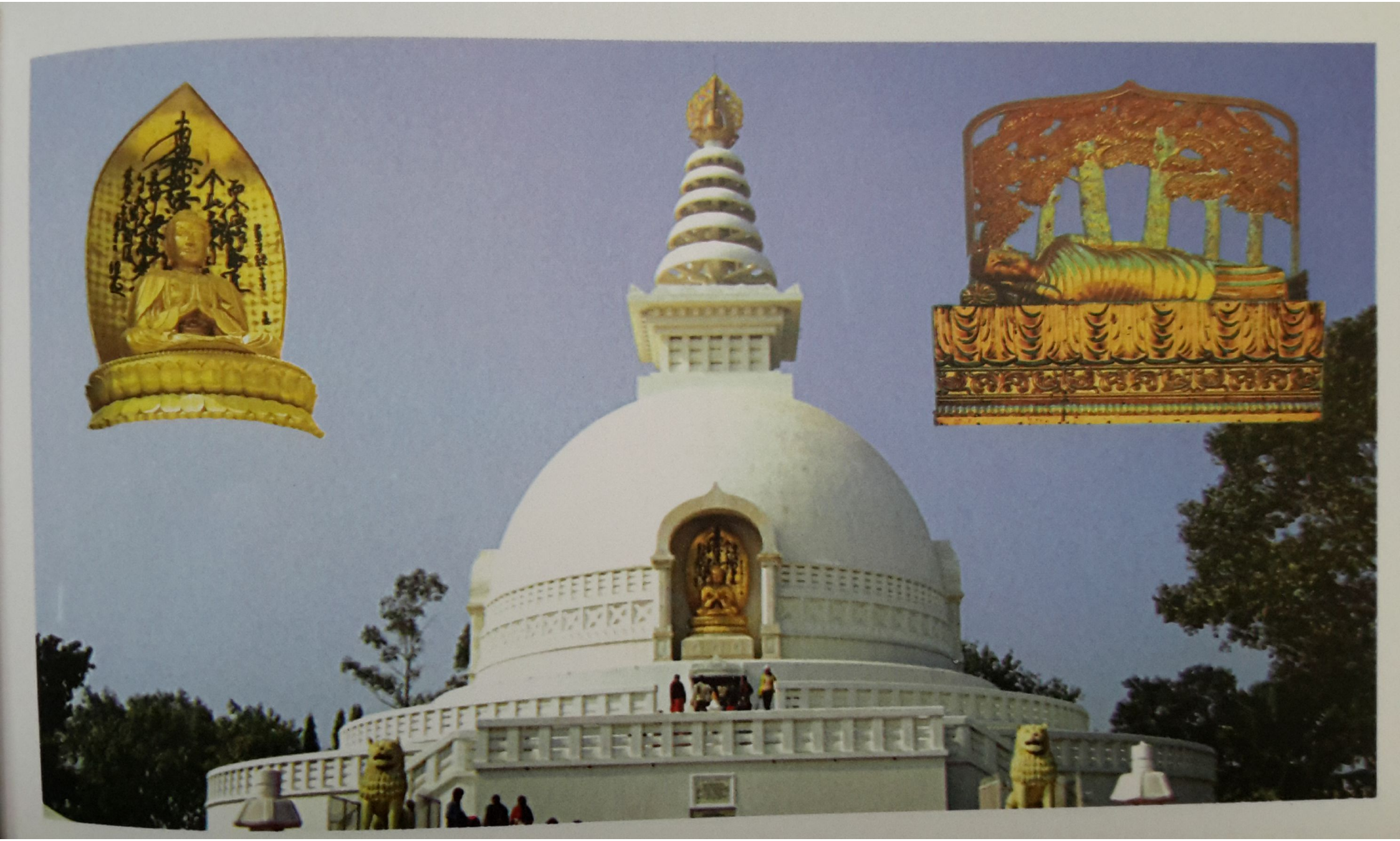

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RAJGIRI

Vishwa Shanti Stupa, Rajgiri

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SARNATH

Mulgandh Kuti Vihar Sarnath (Golden Buddha Inside Sarnath).

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SARNATH

The scene of the worship of a modern image of the Buddha in Sarnath: The significance being that it represents the Buddha giving his first sermon which was delivered to five Sanghas.

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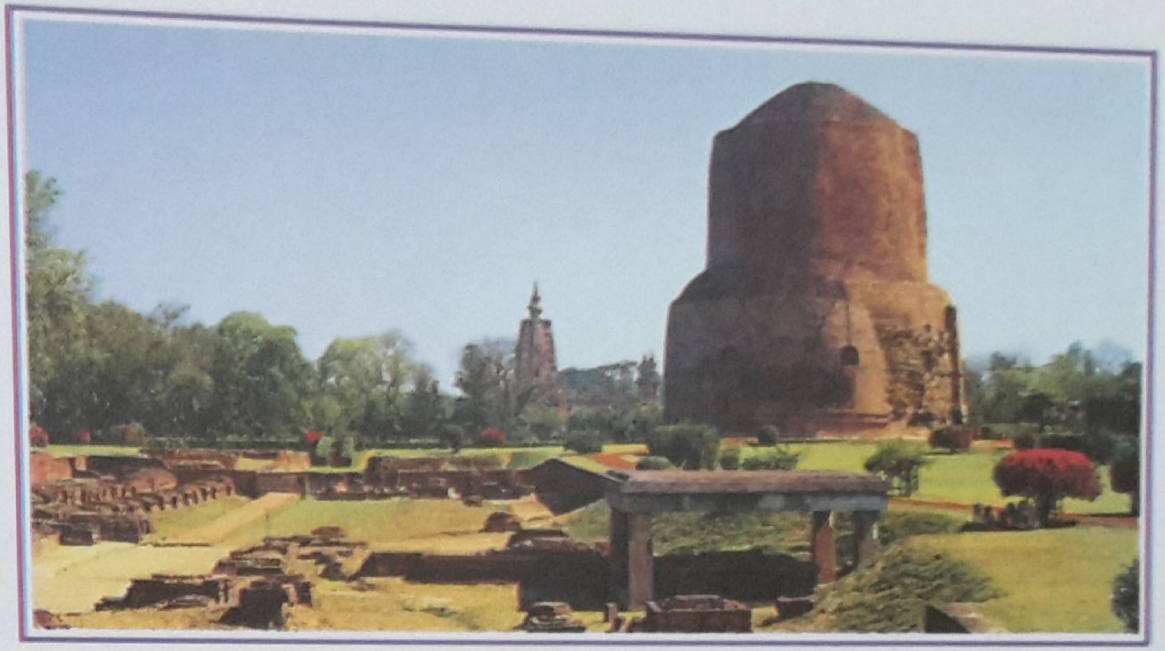

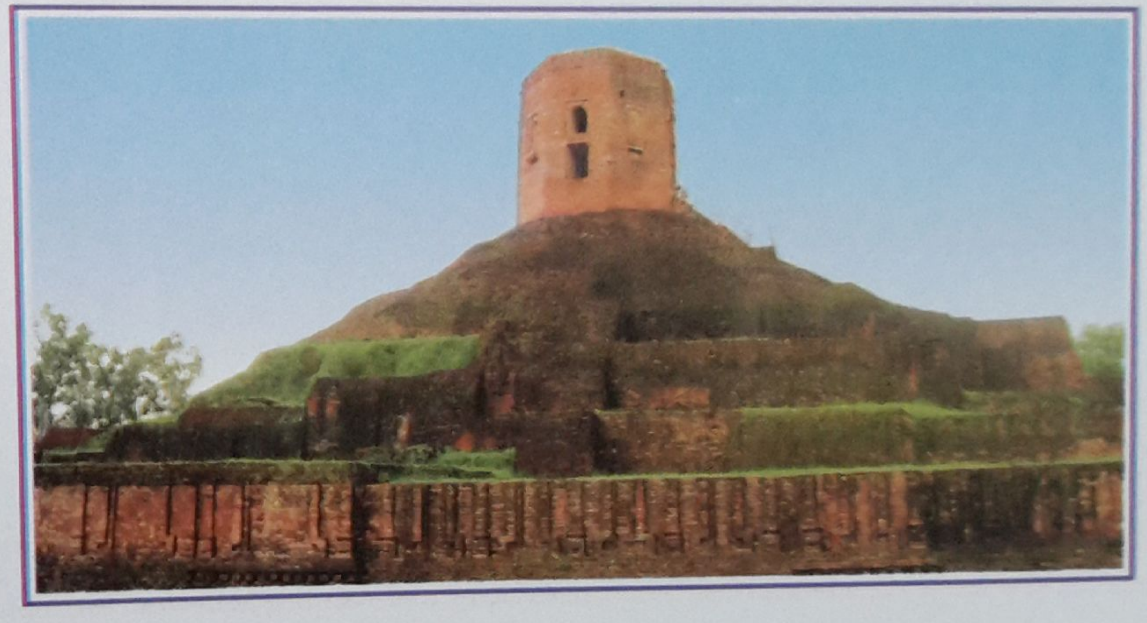

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SARNATH

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Left: Lion capital of Ashoka, Sarnath. **Top (R):** Dhamek Stupa, Sarnath.
Top (L): Choukhandi Stupa, Sarnath.

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Top (L): Gedige Temple Nalanda **Top (R):** Nalanda University
Bottom (L): Stupa & University Remnants Nalanda **Bottom (R):** Stupa & University Remnants Nalanda

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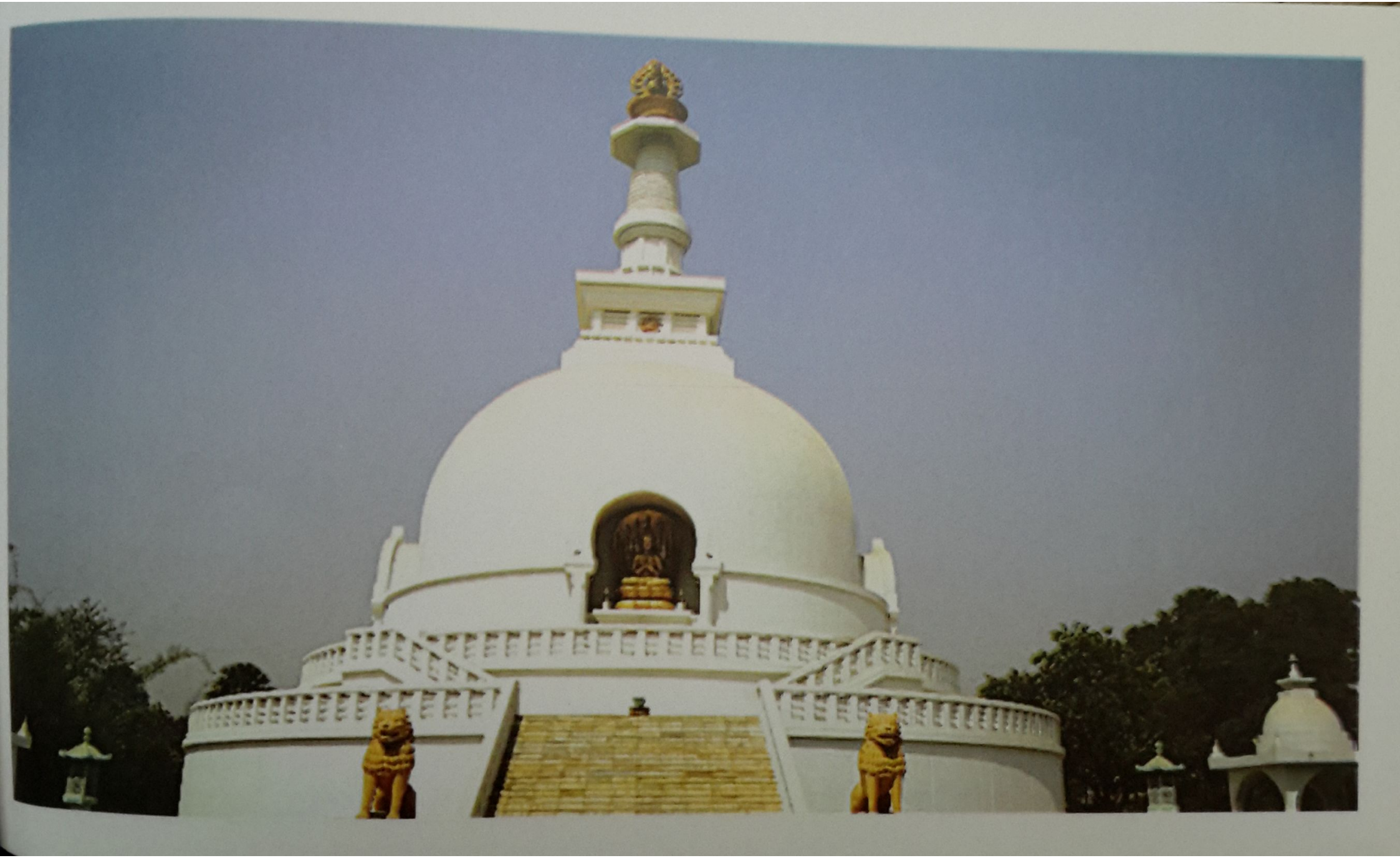

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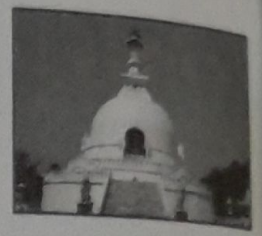
VAISHALI



The Stupa Vaishali : Buddha visited here Frequently. A Hundred years after the Mahaparinivana. Vaishali was the venue of the second Buddhist council.

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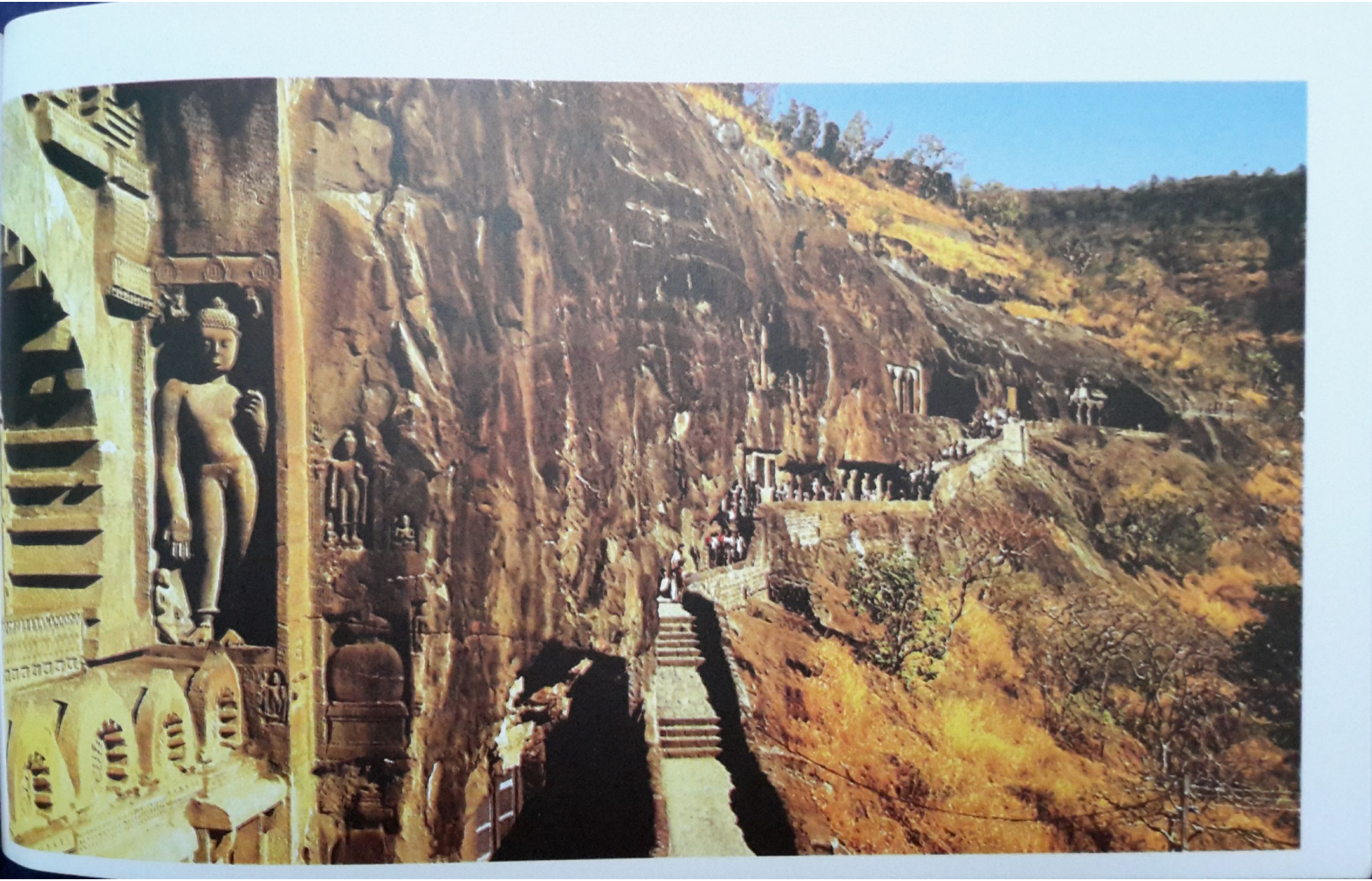

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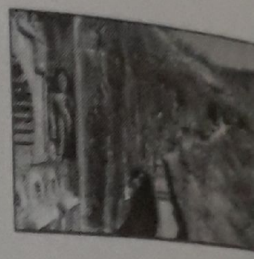
AJANTA



Ajanta: General view of caves from outside of cave no. 21.

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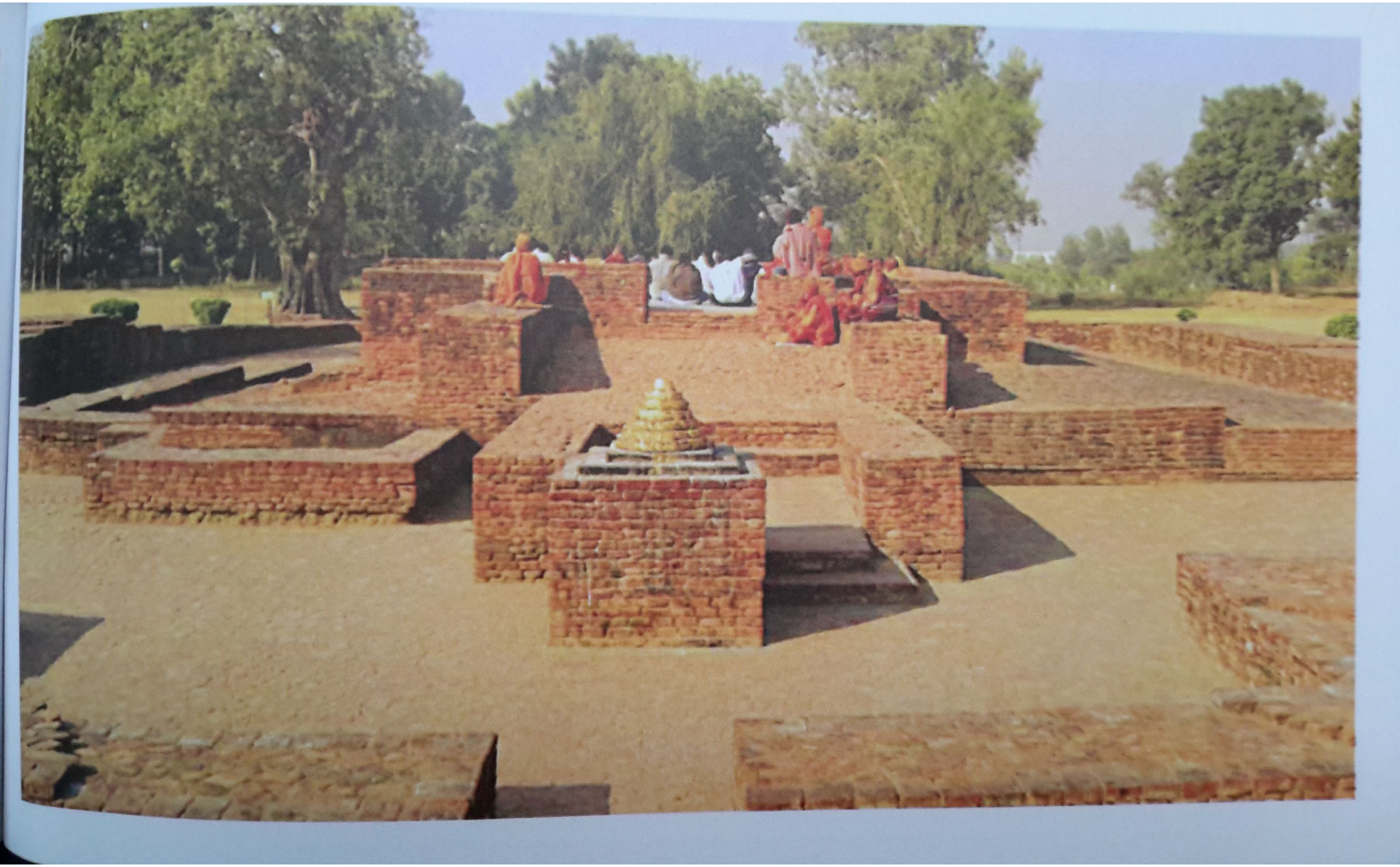

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SARAVASTI

Ruins of Excavation, Saravasti : In the third season after his enlightenment Buddha visited Jetvana. Jetvana Vihara was a pious work of Suddata, a wealthy merchant of Saravasti.

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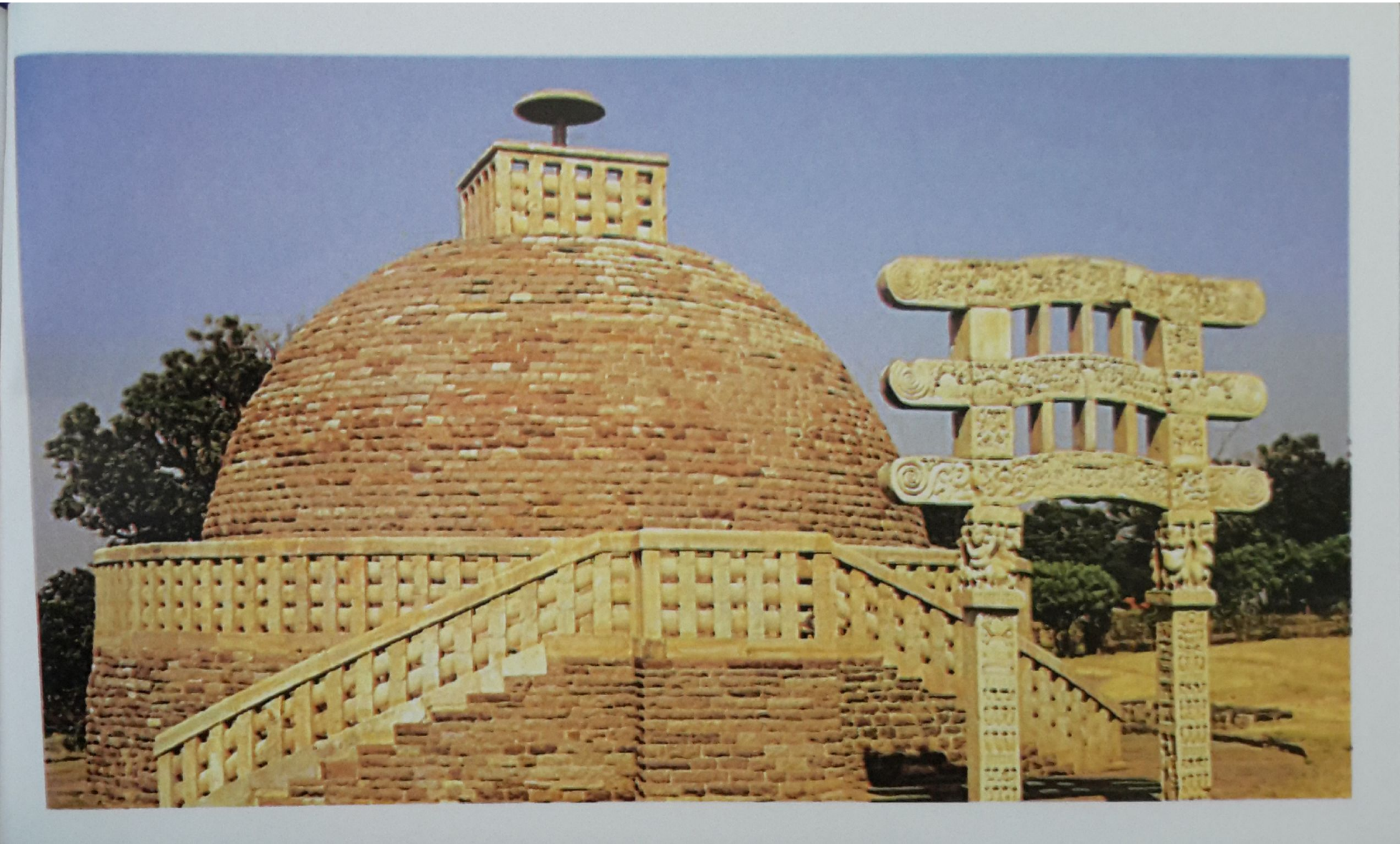

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LUMBINI

Sculpture Showing, Birth of Buddha-Lumbini : Queen Maya was returning to her Parental Home for child birth. On the way prince Siddhartha (Buddha) was born in Lumbini.

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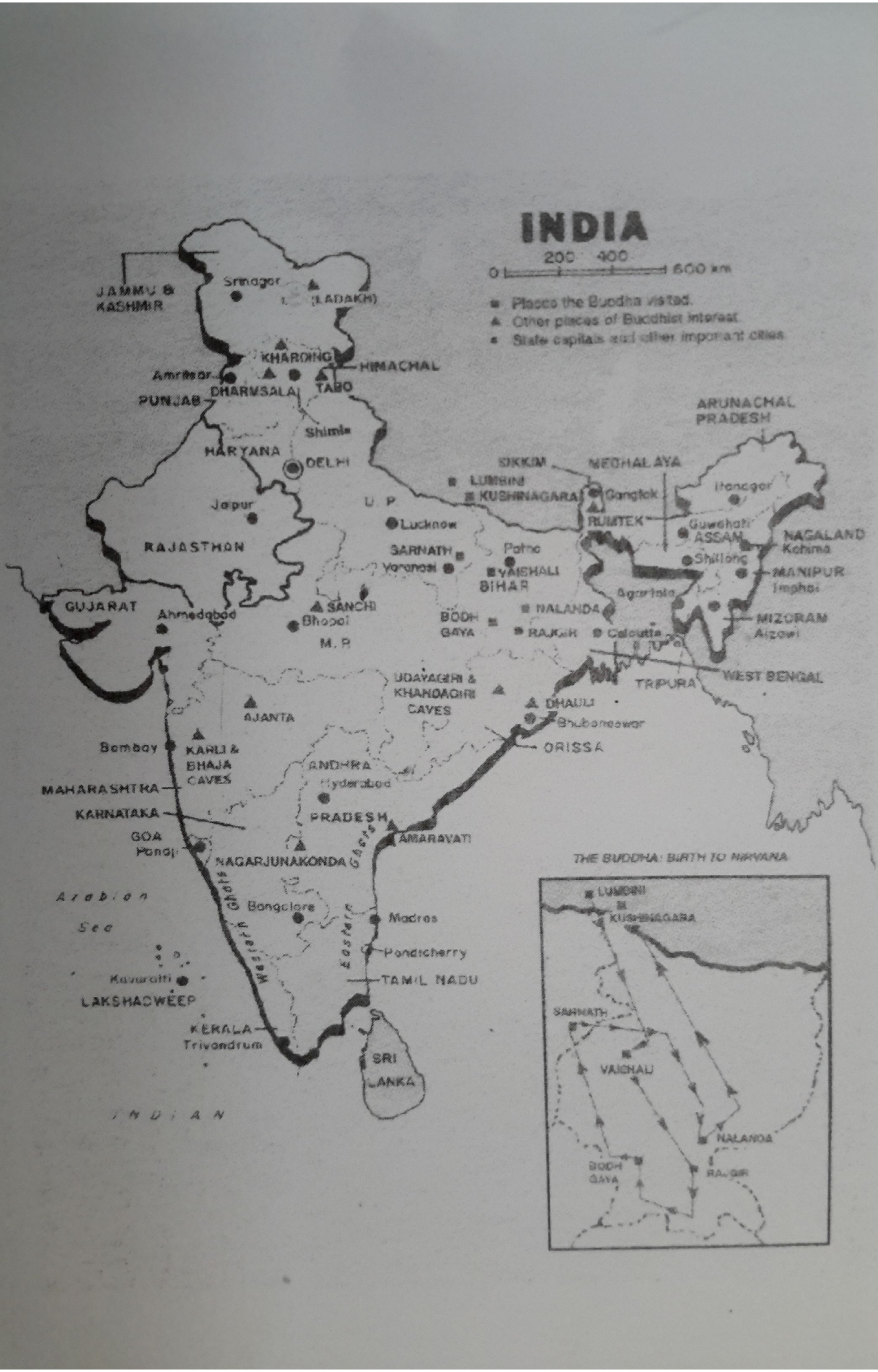

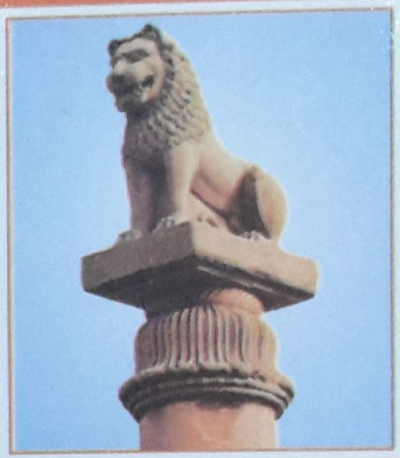
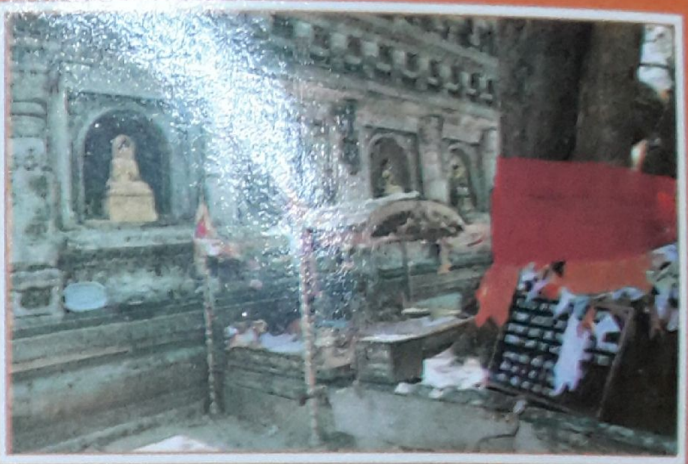

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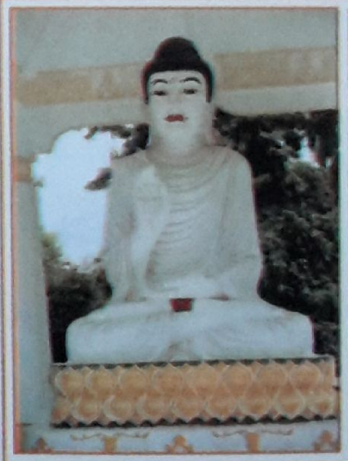

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