

INDIA AND SRI LANKA

In the 3rd century BCE, Sanghamitra, daughter of Emperor Ashoka, carried to Sri Lanka a sapling of the revered Bodhi Tree at Bodhgaya, under which Prince Siddhartha attained enlightenment to become Gautama Buddha. With this act, preceded by the mission of Emperor Ashoka's son Arhat Mahinda, to Sri Lanka, Buddhism took root on the island of Sri Lanka. Both the faith and the venerated Bodhi Tree continue to flourish in Sri Lanka even today.

The Bodhi Tree marks a unique and wonderful interaction between two countries. In fact, when the tree at the original site in India was no more, it was grown again from a sapling of the tree in Sri Lanka. The two countries have jointly kept the tree and its tradition alive over thousands of years.

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