

M. B. BYLES

FOOTPRINTS OF
GAUTAMA
THE BUDDHA

*The Story of his Life
and Teaching*

FOREWORD BY SIR LALITA RAJAPAKSE Q.C.

Nobody could speak more eloquently and yet more simply than the authoress herself when she says of this book: 'I want the stories of the Buddha's ministerial life to tell of his teaching in the circumstances in which it was actually given—not as abstract philosophy to scholars but to suffering men and women.'

Often, when speaking or writing about any great religious figure, there is a danger of removing the discourse to a remotely impersonal level. The dogmas of Christianity might sometimes be said to obscure the central figure of Christ himself. Similarly the stylized statues of the Buddha give the impression of an intensely solemn man, together with those long discourses on the Dhamma between the Master and his pupils.

But in this book there emerges a vivid picture of a man with a very lively sense of humour; a man whose salient feature was a sun-like compassion which few could resist. Everything about the narrative, told through the lips of the disciple Yasa, has the unexpectedness and at the same time the inevitability of life.

By making her own pilgrimage to the principal places of his ministry, Miss Byles has proved herself to be as true a disciple as the men and women who followed directly in the steps of Gautama the Buddha across the hot plains of India and up into the pure air of the loftly Himalayas.

Footprints of Gautama the Buddha

BEING THE STORY OF PORTIONS
OF HIS MINISTERIAL LIFE

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