



Fig. 7 Upper panel K: Siddhārtha's marriage.



Fig. 8 Lower panel K: Siddhārtha & Yaśodharā.

From we find stories from *Lalitavistara* chapters 8 to 15, including Māyā's death seven days after the birth. The old ladies of the palace chose her sister Gautami to look after the prince, who became a virtuous and intelligent prince sharing a luxurious palace life with his wife Yaśodharā.

The panels of K tell the episode of prince Siddhārtha's marriage. The upper panel shows Śuddhodana sitting with erect torso but 'in royal ease' and his left arm put on his hip and right arm resting on his knee. The lower panel has Siddhārtha also seated on a throne but in a more modest posture with his right arm folded up under his chest. His wife Yaśodharā sits next to

him in a lower position. Their facial expressions show care and obedience. (Figs. 7, 8)¹²

Three registers of reliefs on the wing L (Fig. 9), perpendicular to the double panel K, illustrate the wedding. The lowest register shows nobles being received; the middle register depicts the wedding ceremony with dignitaries of the two families sitting and talking together, with a large offering urn probably containing presents. On the top register ladies with a variety of ornaments or flowers are to be seen for the ceremony.¹³



Fig. 9 Wing L of stairway M: Siddhārtha's marriage.

- 12 Nandana Chutiwongs (2011): 'The events in section K conform to the early episodes of the *Mahājanaka Jātaka*, one of the most distinguished past lives of the Buddha – another tale of love and marriage that ended in Renunciation. In the lower panel, the exiled Mahājanaka met the Princess Sivali, who offered him love, respect and her kingdom. The upper panel depicts Mahājanaka enthroned in the palace and ruling as a king.'
- 13 Nandana Chutiwongs (2011) interprets the lower and middle registers as the scenes related to the marriage of Yaśodharā and Siddhārtha, but the top register as the scenes of Mahājanaka leaving his wife and palace.