

Our Supreme Teacher

The 9 Great Qualities of the Buddha



The Supreme Buddha possessed extraordinary qualities beyond our understanding. However, out of compassion, the Buddha introduced nine remarkable qualities for his disciples to comprehend. As Buddhists, it's important to familiarize ourselves with these qualities, fostering an appreciative state of mind known as Saddhā or faith. This faith guides us to live in accordance with the Dhamma, seeking happiness across lifetimes until attaining Nibbana. Let's explore and cherish these nine sublime qualities of the Buddha.



1 Araham'

Upon attaining Supreme Enlightenment beneath the Bodhi tree, the Buddha eradicated all roots of craving—lust, hatred, and delusion—purifying his mind from these defilements. No being in the entire universe, be it Devās, Brahmās, or Marās, could defile the mind of the Buddha. This remarkable quality designates the Buddha as “**the Arahant**”.

2 Sammā Sambuddho

The Buddha traversed countless eons within Saṃsara, making extraordinary sacrifices and fulfilling the ten Perfections. In his final birth, he attained Full Enlightenment by independently comprehending the Four Noble Truths without external assistance. He had no teacher for his enlightenment. This remarkable quality designates the Buddha as “**the Supremely Enlightened One**”.

3 Vijjācaranasampanno

Upon enlightenment, the Buddha attained the three great knowledges :

- The knowledge to perceive the past lives of all beings.
- The divine eye to see how all beings pass away and are reborn.
- The knowledge of having eradicated all taints from his mind.

These profound insights are collectively known as **Vijjā**. The Buddha's bodily, verbal, and mental conduct, known as **Carana**, harmoniously aligned with his great knowledge. This remarkable quality designates the Buddha as “**the One Accomplished in Knowledge and Conduct**”.

4 Sugato

The Buddha traversed the Great River of Saṃsara, navigating its currents of Craving. Departing from the nearshore of Suffering, he finally arrived at the far shore of Nibbana. Journeying along the Noble Eightfold Path and ultimately attaining Nibbana, he liberated himself permanently from suffering, ensuring a departure that would not lead him back to it. This remarkable quality designates the Buddha as “**the Well-Gone One**”.

5 Lokavidū

Through his unsurpassed knowledge, the Buddha perceived the true nature of all the worlds, where beings would take birth based on their past Karma. With his divine eye, he witnessed the diverse hells and heavens across the entire Universe. Avoiding being born again in any of these realms, he escaped from all the worlds. This extraordinary quality designates the Buddha as “**the Knower of the Worlds**”.

6 Anuttaro Purisadammasārathī

The Buddha possessed a marvelous skill in taming stubborn beings through teaching the Dhamma. Employing his psychic and mind-reading abilities, along with his skill of offering guidance, he compassionately transformed both gods and humans from unwholesome states to wholesome ones. Remarkably, he achieved this without resorting to weapons or punishments. This extraordinary quality designates the Buddha as “**the Supreme Tamer of Persons**”.

7 Satthā Dēvamanussānam

The teachings of the Buddha extended beyond the human realm. A great number of Deities and Brahmas also sought refuge in the triple gem. The Buddha stood as the unparalleled teacher, capable of guiding both Humans and Devās to break free from suffering and attain Nibbana. This extraordinary quality designates the Buddha as “**the Teacher of Gods and Humans**”.

8 Buddho

The Buddha realized the four noble truths by himself and helped his disciples realize them too. He had an incredible ability to see the strengths and weaknesses of the inner spiritual states of all beings, observing how their past actions, both good and bad, influenced their realization of the four noble truths. He taught the Dhamma he realized to his disciples according to their spiritual capacities. This extraordinary quality designates the Buddha as “**the Enlightened One**”.

9 Bhagavā

“**Bhagavā**” signifies the Blessed One or the Fortunate One. The Buddha had remarkable qualities that surpassed the understanding of all beings. He embodied pure virtue, deep concentration, and profound wisdom, yet he remained humble without any pride. His possession of these extraordinary qualities marked him as truly fortunate, earning him the designation of “**the Blessed One**”.