

# ASHOKA.

- Ashoka was an Indian emperor of the Mauryan Dynasty, who ruled almost all the Indian subcontinent from c. 268 to 232 B.C.
- King ~~Asoka~~ Asoka, the third monarch of the Indian Mauryan dynasty, has come to be regarded as one of the most exemplary rulers in world history.
- He was born in about 304 B.C. and became the third king of the Mauryan dynasty after the death of his father Bindusara.
- His given name was Ashoka but he assumed the title Devanampiya Piyadasi which means "Beloved-of-the-Gods". He who looks on with affection.
- In 262 B.C. eight years after his coronation Asoka's armies attacked and conquered Kalinga, a country that roughly corresponds to the modern state of Orissa.
- The loss of life caused by battle, reprisals, deportations and

the turmoil that also exists in the aftermath of war so horrified Ashoka that it brought about a complete change in his personality.

- After the war Ashoka dedicated the rest of his life, trying to apply Buddhist principles of the vast empire. He received help from Upagupta in his conversion to Buddhism.

- He visited Bodhi Gaya in his 10<sup>th</sup> year of coronation and Lumbini in his 20<sup>th</sup> year of coronation.

- Ashoka's edicts (medium used by kings to converse with his people) were of different type like major rock, minor rock, pillar rock, cave rock.

- Languages used were Prakrit, Greek and Aramaic and the scripts used were Brahmi, Kharoshthi, Greek and Aramaic.