

# Basic Detail Report

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## Palm leaf book

### Date

before 1900

### Primary Maker

Unknown artist, Sri Lankan

### Medium

Wood and palm-leaf paper with ink

### Description

Written in twined Sinhala (Sri Lankan) script. Palm leaf books such as this originated in India as early as the 9th century C.E. and

were still in production and use throughout South Asia as late as the 19th century, when the printing press took over. These books were used to record important Theravada Buddhist scripture and teachings as well as indigenous knowledge of medicine, literature, agriculture, astrology and the arts. This book contains Jataka tales, Buddhist moral fables detailing the previous lives of the Buddha as a Bodhisattva.

### Dimensions

Overall: 27 1/2 x 2 1/4 x 1 1/2 in. (69.9 x 5.7 x 3.8 cm)