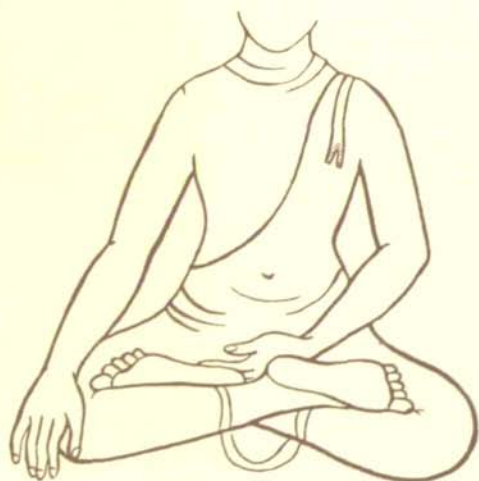


JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION



December 1982

ISSN: 0002-7189

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The four gestures represented on the cover are, from top left to bottom right:

Abhaya mudra. A gesture of assurance or protection, intended to impart fearlessness. The right hand is held with palm facing outwards and the fingers extended upwards.

Dhyana mudra. A gesture of meditation. The hands lie in the lap, the right over left with all fingers extended, and the palms turned inwards.

Bhumisparsa mudra. A gesture calling the earth to witness. This gesture was used by the Buddha to invoke the Earth-Goddess as witness of his having resisted the temptation of Mara.

Dharmacakra mudra. A gesture of teaching wherein the right hand is held at the breast, with the united tips of the index and thumb touching one of the fingers of the left hand, the palm being turned inwards.

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From *The Life of the Buddha Retold from Ancient Sources*

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Printed in the United States of America

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JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION

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JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION

The *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* is published quarterly, in March, June, September, and December, by the American Academy of Religion. Second class postage paid at Chico, California and at additional mailing offices. Annual subscription, \$35 00, payment may be made by UNESCO coupons. Address all correspondence regarding subscription fulfillment, change of address, and sample copies to Scholars Press, 101 Salem Street, P O Box 2268, Chico, CA 95927. Correspondence regarding manuscripts, permissions, and journal exchanges should be directed to the Editor.

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