Jayavarmin VII: Achieving Kingship

By Mckay Whitacre, Ross Seeman and David Oppenheim
- 12th century
- Time of Monarchy
- Divine Kingship
Buddha’s Story

- Royal at Birth
- Found Enlightenment
- Cared for everyone

Kamakura Big Buddha, 1252 AD, Kotokuin Temple
Jayavarman VII

- Son of Prince but not first in line
- Spiritually grew at Champa
- Took throne at age 60
Jayavarman VII’s Perspective

- Integrated Buddhism and kingship
- Ta Prohm Temple dedicated to Jayavarman VII’s mother
- Jayavarman VII was not self-absorbed leader

*Ta Prohm Temple, end of 12th century, stone, Cambodia*
Ta Prohm Hospital

- One of 102 hospitals
- Shows his caring spirit
- Traces his journey to kingship

Ta Prohm Kel Hospital, 12th Century, Jayavarmin VII
Rebirth of a New King

- Buddha meditating on serpent “naga”
- “naga” symbolizes rebirth in Buddhism
- Represents rebirth of a new king
Bayon Temple

Bayon Temple, 12th Century
Kingship Achieved

Jayavarman VII

Buddha

Faces at Bayon
A New Cambodia

- Different from other kings
- Integrated Buddhism and kingship
- Created a better Cambodia