

# Sacred Buddhist Jewels for Sale in Hong Kong

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India is very upset about a planned event in Hong Kong where a company wants to sell old jewels that were once buried with the remains of the Buddha. These jewels are very important to India and many Buddhists because they were found next to what is believed to be part of the Buddha's body over 100 years ago.

The jewels were found in 1898 by an Englishman named William Claxton Peppé.

He was working in what is now northern India, near the birthplace of the Buddha. Inside an ancient brick structure, he discovered more than 1,800 beautiful jewels. Most of what he found was given to museums or to Buddhist leaders. But he kept some of the items, which later stayed in his family.

Now, over 100 years later, his great-grandson and his cousins are trying to sell some of the items their family kept. They say only a small part of the discovery stayed with the family and that they believe an auction is a fair way to give these jewels to people who care about Buddhism.

India says the sale is against Indian law and breaks international rules about protecting important cultural items. India believes these jewels are sacred and should be treated with deep respect, not sold for money. India also doesn't think the family has the right to sell the jewels. They say the family didn't take proper care of them, especially because a past report showed they were once left forgotten in a shoebox. If they don't stop the auction, India says it might take legal action in both India and Hong Kong.



## Comprehension Questions:

1. Many Buddhists around the world believe these jewels are sacred. What does "sacred" mean?

- a) Very old and broken
- b) Owned by a museum
- c) Deeply respected
- d) Stolen for profit

2. The family believes an auction is a fair way to give these jewels to people who care about Buddhism. What does "auction" mean?

- a) A public sale where people offer money to buy stuff
- b) A place where people borrow things
- c) A gift-giving ceremony
- d) A meeting to discuss religion

3. What is the main idea of the article?
- a) A man found treasure in India and gave it to a museum.
  - b) India wants to buy jewels from a family in Hong Kong.
  - c) A family found jewels and wants to give them to charity.
  - d) A planned auction of sacred jewels is causing conflict.
4. Why does India believe the jewels should not be sold?
- a) The jewels are not real.
  - b) They are sacred and part of cultural history.
  - c) The jewels were stolen from a museum.
  - d) The jewels are too expensive.
5. What can we guess about how India feels about the family's actions?
- a) India is angry and feels disrespected.
  - b) India is happy that the jewels are being shared.
  - c) India does not care what happens to the jewels.
  - d) India is confused about the auction.
6. What message might selling the jewels send to Buddhists around the world?
- a) That Buddhist leaders support auctions.
  - b) That sacred objects can be treated like regular items.
  - c) That museums do not want the jewels.
  - d) That Buddhism is growing in Hong Kong.
7. Why might the family believe they have a right to sell the jewels?
- a) They made the jewels themselves.
  - b) The items were passed down to them.
  - c) India asked them to sell the jewels.
  - d) The Buddha gave the jewels to them.
8. Which of these statements is false?
- a) The jewels were found in 1898.
  - b) The jewels were found near the birthplace of the Buddha.
  - c) The family gave all the jewels to museums.
  - d) India believes selling the jewels breaks the law.
9. What is India most likely to do if the auction happens?
- a) Ask the family for more jewels.
  - b) Apologize to the auction company.
  - c) Start a war with Hong Kong.
  - d) Take legal action in two countries.
10. What is the main difference between the family's actions and India's response?
- a) One group values money, the other values culture and respect.
  - b) Both want to sell the jewels quickly.
  - c) They agree the jewels are not important.
  - d) Both sides believe the jewels are fake.

### **Speaking and Writing Activities:**

- Discuss these questions with a partner or a small group.
  - Choose one topic and write a response to it. Show your writing to a classmate or teacher.
1. Do you think it's okay for the family to sell the jewels? Why or why not?
  2. Have you ever visited a museum? What was the most interesting thing you saw?
  3. Have you ever inherited something from a family member? Was it special to you?