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English
Language



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Ja·ta·ka  (jä tā-kə)

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n.
Any of a genre of Buddhist texts containing stories about a former birth of Gautama Buddha.

[Sanskrit *Jātakam*, from neut. of *jātaka-*, engendered (by), born (under), from *jāta-*, past participle of *janate*, he is born; see **genə-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

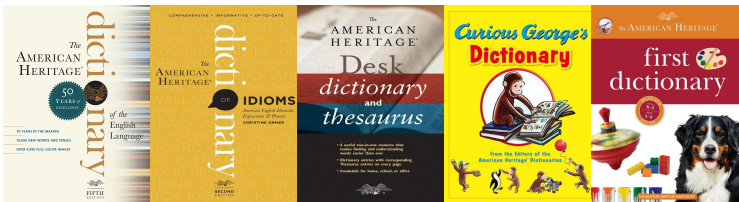
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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