

ASHOKA TREE

無憂樹



Botanical Name:

Saraca asoca

Family | Genus:

Fabaceae | *Saraca*

Location in TSM:

Contentment Garden

“Yet these plants do not intend to expel sorrow from me, nor do flowers mean to bring me lasting joy.”

「草無忘憂之意，
花無長樂之心。」

Yu Xin, “Rhapsody on Small Garden”
庾信《小園賦》

Also known as the “Ashoka fig,” is said to be where the Buddha was born, symbolizing the joy of his birth. Its Sanskrit name “Ashoka,” means “free from sorrow and worry,” representing a state of no suffering or distress, and symbolizing liberation and tranquility. This tree is often regarded as a spiritual refuge for practitioners, reminding people to pursue inner peace and wisdom. Thus, the Ashoka tree is one of the three sacred trees in Buddhism and is widely planted in many Buddhist temples.