THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA
113 East 30th Street New York, NY 10016 212-686-2520 www.firstzen.org
會協禪一第國美

Film Series

Sudhana at Borobudur

November 8, 2026
1:00 PM at 113 East 30th Street

Part 3: Sudhana Visits one of 52 "Good Spiritual Guides"

Part 4: Journey to Maitreya's Palace

In the *Gandhavyuha Sutra* (Chapter 39 of the *Avatamsaka Sutra*), Sudhana the Youth travels extensively in his search for *anuttara-samyak-sambodhi*, supreme perfect enlightenment, and he meets with 52 dharma teachers. The ancient Indonesian monument of Borobudur includes 460 reliefs depicting the entire sequence of his travels. While many of these have been badly eroded over time, they nevertheless constitute an artistic tour-de-force – some of the finest carvings available from ancient Indonesia.

If you are a tourist visiting Borobudur today, you would be given roughly one hour to view the entire monument. These documentary videos by Walid Haddad give you a much more relaxed tour – it's somewhat of a meditative experience. The videos are each approximately one hour in length, and "are a remarkable feat of dedicated story-telling" – per the summary on dharmadocumentaries.net. There is one notable difference between the *Gandahavyuha Sutra* and the reliefs at Borobudur: at Borobudur, Sudhana the Youth is depicted as having a "retinue" of servants who travel with him – something he is missing in the Sutra itself. This was probably poetic license on the part of the aristocrats who commissioned the friezes.

These YouTube videos are available through dharmadocumentaries.net. On September 13, we will be screening videos 3 and 4 out of 9.

To be screened at 1:00 PM on Sunday, September 13. Take the #6 train to 28th Street. 113 East 30th St. is between Park and Lexington.

Admission is free.