



# The Story of Prince Siddhartha

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Ananda Kuti Vihar Trust

# **The Story of Prince Siddhartha**

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Co-founder  
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## **Publisher's Note**

In the pursuit of one of its objectives, the dissemination of the Teachings of the Buddha, the Ananda Kuti Vihar Trust has published a number of books in different languages. It is hoped that the present book, the 79th publication of the Trust, will fulfill a long-felt need for a supplementary textbook for school children on the life of the Great Teacher born at Lumbini, Nepal. It is further hoped that both teachers and students would find it interesting and informative.

The Trust thanks the members of the textbook sub-committee, Venerable Kumar Kashyap, Mr. Nhuchhe Bahadur Bajracharya and Mr. Kesar Lall Shrestha for their efforts in bringing out this book.



**Bhikkhu Pragya Murti**  
Member-Secretary  
Ananda Kuti Vihar Trust

October 22, 1993  
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# Introduction

The publication of "The Story of Prince Siddhartha" as a supplementary reader by the Ananda Kuti Vihar Trust fulfils a great and long-felt need for reading material based on the noble teachings of the Buddha for children in and out of school.

The children should know about Siddhartha Gautam, a great and noble son of Nepal, who, after his enlightenment, came to be known as the Buddha, and whose lofty teachings about the urgent need and value of peace, love, wisdom and compassion have world-wide appeal.

To know about Buddhism which teaches people how to lead life practically, morally, peacefully and usefully, it is imperative to read about the life of the Teacher who propounded it. "The Story of Prince Siddhartha" is written in a very simple way as it is intended for children of primary school level. The children will learn not only about the life of the Buddha in this book but also about the ideals and morality for all human beings.

This book is therefore highly recommended for use as a supplementary text-book in all schools in Nepal, whose citizens always claim with justifiable pride the fact that the Buddha was born at Lumbini. "The very name of Lumbini," King Tribhuvan, the Father of our nation, had said, "reminds me of the inestimable and eternal Treasure of the universal love and brotherhood propounded by Lord Buddha."

**Ratna Bahadur Bajracharya**  
**Principal**  
**Ananda Kuti Vidyapeeth**  
**Boarding High School**

**October 22, 1993**  
**Swayambhu,**  
**Kathmandu.**

## Preface

This is a commonplace of educational psychology that the influences to which a child is subject in early stages of his or her development generally leave upon the character an effect which persists for the whole course of life. Both the greatest good and the greatest harm can be done before the child reaches the age of discretion. What better influence could be brought to bear upon the developing personality than the life and Teachings of the Lord Buddha? The Ananda Kuti Vihar Trust is therefore bringing out a series of Buddhist textbooks of which 'The Story of Prince Siddhartha' is the first one. We hope that it will give our young students inspiration and guidance throughout their lives.

This short introduction to the life of Prince Siddhartha was compiled and completed by the three-member sub-committee of Ananda Kuti Vihar Trust for the preparation of Buddhist textbooks. We are thankful to the Buddhist text book sub-committee members Ven. Kumar Kashyap, Mr. Nuhche Bahadur Bajracharya and Mr. Kesar Lall Shrestha for their strenuous effort in compiling and completing this textbook which meets a long felt need for a suitable book that deals with the life of Siddhartha, the Great Son of Nepal, from his birth at Lumbini to his attainment of Buddhahood at Buddha Gaya in India.

Although this is a brief account of our Great Teacher's life we believe that it offers much material for study.

Teachers may elaborate on the lessons to the satisfaction of the students in the class when this book is used as a textbook.

Since the material dealt with concerns the basic knowledge desired of a junior student at the beginning of his/her study of the life of our Great Teacher, it is recommended that teachers make sure the student has also grasped the moral lesson involved in the topic by getting the class to do the exercises and answer the questions set down at the end of the lessons.

We would like to thank the authors and publishers of the publications that have served as a guide-line and as reference material in the preparation of this book, as follows:

Rev. Siridhamma, 1983, *Life of the Buddha*, Part. I, Kuala Lumpur, Buddhist Missionary Society; Landaw, Jonathan, 1978, Taipei, The Corporate Body of the Buddha Education Foundation (New Delhi, Hemkunt Press), and Ven. Balangoda Ananda Maitreya Maha Nayaka Thera, 1985, *Life of Buddha for Young People*, Los Angeles, Calif., Dharma Vijaya Buddhist Vihar.

**N.B. Bajracharya**  
**Vice-President**  
**Ananda Kuti Vihar Trust**

**Swayambhu,**  
**Kathmandu, Nepal**  
**October 22, 1993**



## Lesson I

# A HAPPY BIRTH

A

Once there was a king. His name was Suddhodana. His queen's name was Mahamaya. She was from Devadaha in the Koliya kingdom. The king ruled over the Shakya tribe living next to the land of the Koliya tribes in the south west of Nepal. The capital of the Shakya country was Kapilavastu in the district of Taulihawa in Lumbini zone in modern time.



One day Queen Mahamaya had a dream. She saw one white elephant with six large tusks. The white elephant went into her body. Queen Mahamaya awoke with happiness.

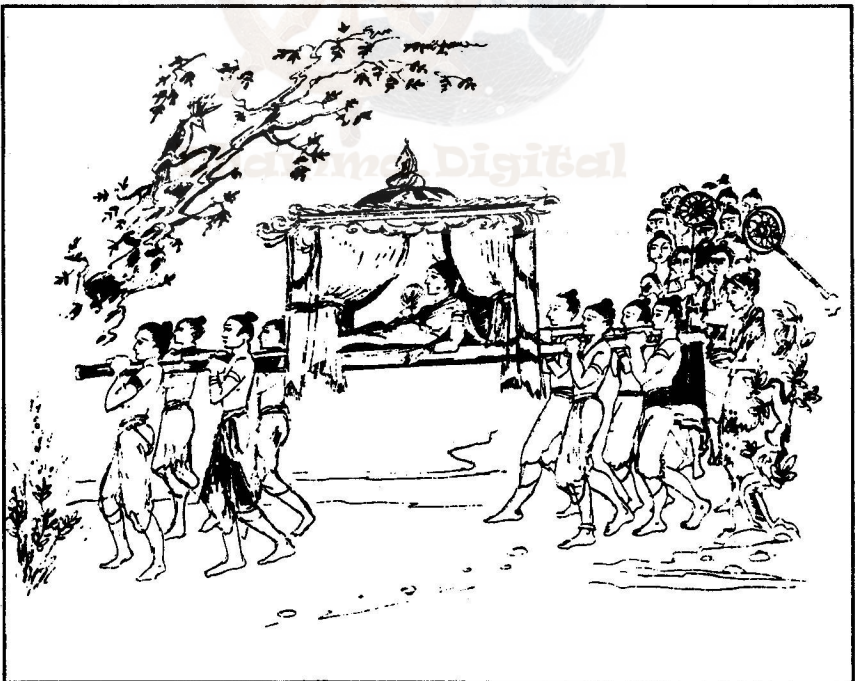
### B

Queen Mahamaya quickly went to King Suddhodana. She told the king that she saw a white elephant entering her body in her dream. Then the king and queen went together to a wise man. They told the wise man about her wonderful dream. They asked the wise man what this strange dream might mean.

The wise man answered: "O Your Majesties, this dream is a good one. It means that Queen Mahamaya has become pregnant. The queen will give birth to a son. This prince will become a great man some day. Not only Your Majesty but many other people will also be happy that Queen Mahamaya will have such a especial child."

### C

Hearing the good news, the king and queen became very happy. The king was especially happy because he had longed for a son who would some day rule his kingdom in his place. Now, it seemed that his wish was going to be fulfilled.



It was the custom in those days for a woman to go to her parents' home in order to give birth. And so, when the time came for the baby to be born, Queen Mahamaya and her attendants left for her childhood home.

D

They had not gone far when the queen asked her attendants to stop for a rest. She knew that the baby would be born very soon. They had reached the beautiful garden of Lumbini and the queen looked for a comfortable place where she could give birth.



Even the animals and plants knowing that a especial child was about to be born wanted to help the queen. A large Sal tree bent down one of its branches and Queen Mahamaya took hold of it with her right hand. Supporting herself in this way, she gave birth to a son. The attendants held the baby in their arms. They were very happy to see how handsome and peaceful was the baby.

## E

At that time, throughout the land, there was great peace and happiness. People forgot their troubles. They stopped their quarrels and felt very happy with one another. Some people saw rainbows suddenly in the sky, and many other beautiful and happy things were seen.

Wise men from all over the kingdom saw these signs of peace and joy and excitedly said to one another: "Something very good has happened. Look at all these wonderful signs! Today is the Vaisakh full moon." Queen Mahamaya feeling very happy over the joy of the people at her new born baby, took it in her arms and went back to Kapilavastu.

## NOTES AND EXERCISES

### HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

#### A

1. Who was Suddhodana?  
(a) a servant (b) the queen (c) the king.
2. What did the queen see in the dream?  
(a) an elephant (b) a dog (c) a monkey
3. The queen awoke with  
(a) sorrow (b) fear (c) happiness

#### B

4. The king went to a  
(a) businessman (b) foolish man (c) wise man.
5. What did the wise man say about the dream?  
(a) a bad one (b) a good one (c) a fearful one
6. What did the king and queen tell the wise man about  
(a) the story (b) the dream (c) the snake.
7. The prince will become  
(a) a bad man (b) a lazy man (c) a good man

#### C

8. The king longed for  
(a) a girl (b) a friend (c) a son
9. To give birth, it was the custom for a woman to go to her  
(a) friend's home (b) parents' home (c) neighbour's home

#### D

10. They had not gone far when the queen asked her attendants  
(a) to sleep (b) to stop and rest (c) to go round and dance
11. They had reached the beautiful garden of  
(a) Kathmandu (b) Godavari (c) Lumbini
12. Queen Mahamaya took hold of a branch of

(a) a peepal tree (b) a Sal tree (c) an apple tree

E

13. What did the people see in the sky?

(a) sunshine (b) stars (c) rainbows

14. It must be a special day of

(a) Kartik full moon day

(b) Vaisakh full moon day

(c) Holi fullmoon day

15. Answer these questions:

(a) Where did King Suddhodana rule?

(b) Who was Mahamaya? Where did she come from?

(c) What did the queen dream about?

(d) Where was the baby born?



## Lesson 2

### A HOLY MAN'S VISIT

#### A

King Suddhodana was very happy when he saw Queen Mahamaya back in the palace with her just born son. Many joyful festivals were held and the whole kingdom was covered with beautifully coloured flags. It was a time of great happiness and peace. Everyone was so glad. King Suddhodana and Queen Mahamaya named the child "Siddhartha" which means "One who fulfills the meaning of life."

#### B

Now the wise men made a forecast about the prince, "O King, the signs of the prince's birth show that your son will grow up to be even greater than you are now." This news made the king very proud. "If these wise men are right," the king thought, "My son, Prince Siddhartha, may one day be the ruler not only of my kingdom, Kapilavastu, but perhaps of the whole world! What a great name for me and my family!"

#### C

Within the first few days of his birth, many people came to the palace to see the new baby. One of these visitors was an old man whose name was Asita. Asita was a hermit and lived alone in a distant forest. He was known as a very holy man. Both the king and queen were very surprised to see Asita at the court. They said with great respect: "O Holy Teacher, Asita, we are very glad that you have kindly come to visit us. Please tell us what brought you here and we shall serve you in any way we can."

Asita answered: "I thank you for your warm welcome. I have come to visit you because of wonderful signs I have lately seen. They tell me that the son recently born to you will gain great knowledge for the sake of all



people. I have spent all my life trying to gain such holy wisdom and I have come here quickly to see him for myself.”

D

The king was very excited. He hurriedly went to where the baby lay asleep. He carefully picked up his son and brought him before Asita. The holy man looked at the baby for some time saying nothing. He then stepped back and looked sadly up at the sky. He heaved a sigh and began to cry.

Seeing Asita weep, the king and queen became very frightened. They were afraid that the holy man had seen something wrong with their child. With tears in his eyes, the king fell on his knees and said: “O Holy Teacher, what have you seen that makes you cry? Didn’t you and all the other wise

men say that my son was born to be a great man and gain the highest knowledge? But, now, looking at my baby you are crying. Does this mean that the prince will die soon? Will something else very bad happen to him? He is my child and I love him dearly. Please tell me quickly, my heart is trembling with sadness and fear.”

## E

Then with a kind look Asita calmed King Suddhodana and Queen Mahamaya and told them not to worry. He said: “Don’t be upset. I am not crying because of something bad I saw in the prince. In fact, now that I have seen your son, I know for certain that the prince will grow up to be more than just a great man. There are special signs on this child, such as a light that shines from his fingers, that tell me he will have a glorious future.”

The holy teacher said again to the king and queen, “If your son decides to stay with you and become a king he will be the greatest king in history. He will rule over a very big kingdom and bring peace and much happiness to the people. But if he decides not to become a king, his future will be even greater! He will be a great teacher showing all people the way to peace and happiness. Seeing the sadness and suffering of the people, he will leave your palace and discover a way to end all unhappiness and suffering. Then he will teach this way to whoever will listen to him.”

## F

The great teacher, Asita, further said: “No, dear King and Queen, I am not crying for the child. I am crying for myself. You see, I have spent my whole life trying to find a way to end all suffering for the sake of peace and happiness. And today I have seen a child who will some day teach everything I have wanted to learn. But by the time he is old enough to teach, I shall have died. Thus I shall not be able to learn from him in this life. That is why I am so sad. But you fortunate parents should not be sad. Be glad that you have such a wonderful child!”

## G

Then Asita had one last long look at the child and slowly left the palace. The king respectfully bade farewell to the holy man. The king was happy that there was no danger to the prince’s life. He thought: “Asita has said that Prince Siddhartha will become either a great king or a great teacher. It



would be better if he first became a king. How proud I would be to have such a famous and powerful son! Then, when he is an old man like Asita, he can become a holy man if he wants.”

With this thought, King Suddhodana stood happily with his baby in his arms, dreaming of the day when his son would become a great king.

### NOTES AND EXERCISES

1. Find words in the story which mean

A

(a) recently, lately

B

(a) tell the future

(b) fame, glory

C

(a) one who lives alone in the forest

(b) astonished, amazed

(c) one who teaches

D

(a) sorrowfully

(b) to weep

E

(a) to be disturbed

(b) unrest, trouble

F

(a) entire

(b) to stop

(c) king's wife

HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

2. Answer these questions:

(a) Why was King Suddhodana happy?

(b) What does Siddhartha mean?

(c) Who was Asita?

(d) Why did Asita go to the palace of King Suddhodana?

(e) Why did he cry?

(f) What forecast did he make about Prince Siddhartha?

(g) Why did the king and queen become happy?

## Lesson 3

### THE KIND PRINCE

#### A

While Siddhartha was still very young, his mother Mahamaya died. Shortly before she passed away the queen said to her sister Prajapati Gautami; "Soon I shall not be able to take care of my baby any more, Dear sister, Prajapati, after I have gone, please look after Siddhartha for me." Her sister, Prajapati, promised that she would. She loved the little prince very much and brought him up as if he were her own child.

The prince grew into a handsome and kind-hearted boy. The king arranged for him to be taught by the best teachers in the kingdom, and very soon he showed his remarkable intelligence. After the first few days of classes the teachers reported to the king: "Your Majesty, the prince does not need us any more. After a few lessons he has learnt everything we want to teach him. In fact he has taught us a few things we ourselves never knew before."

#### B

Hearing this the king was very proud of his son. He thought that his son would certainly grow up to be a wise, intelligent and powerful king. This made the king very happy.

But there was something else about this boy that was even more remarkable than intelligence. He had a very kind, gentle and loving nature. Many of his playmates used to enjoy the rough and tumble games of small children. They used to pretend that they were soldiers and fought with one another. Siddhartha spent most of his time alone quietly. He loved the small animals that lived in the palace gardens and became friendly with all of them. The animals knew that the prince would never hurt them. So they were never afraid of him. Even wild animals that ran away if any one else came near would come to the prince when he entered the garden. The animals came and ate the food which the prince always brought for them.



C

One day as the prince was sitting in the garden a flock of white swans flew overhead. Suddenly an arrow rose into the air striking one of the swans and it fell at the feet of the prince. The arrow was still stuck into its wing. "O, you poor swan," Siddhartha sighed as he gently picked up the wounded bird. He said to the bird: "Don't be afraid. I shall take care of you. Let me remove this arrow." Then with one hand he gently stroked the bird to make it calm. With his other hand he slowly pulled out the painful arrow. The prince then slowly and gently wrapped the bird around with his own silk shirt to keep it warm. He spoke in a low and lovely voice while treating the bird that it was not frightened.

D

After a short time a young boy came running into the garden. He was the prince's cousin, Devadatta. He was carrying a bow and arrow. He was very excited and shouted: "Siddhartha, Siddhartha, great news! I got a swan! You should have seen me, I hit it with my first shot! It fell down somewhere

near. Help me to look for it.”

Then Devadatta noticed his arrow with blood still on its tip lying on the ground near Siddhartha's feet. Looking closer, he saw that Prince Siddhartha was holding something in his arms. He found that it was the swan he was looking for. “Hey, you took my swan,” he yelled, “Give it to me. I shot it and it is mine!” Devadatta tried to grab the bird but Prince Siddhartha held it and prevented his angry cousin from touching it.

“I found this bird lying here bleeding,” Prince Siddhartha said firmly; “And I want to keep it with me. I don't want to give it to anyone. It is still bleeding.”

“But it is mine,” shouted Devadatta again, “I shot it down and you have stolen it from me. Give it to me.”

## E

The two boys stood arguing for some time. Devadatta was getting angrier and angrier, but Prince Siddhartha did not give the swan to him. Finally the prince said, “When two people have a quarrel like this, they go to a court to decide the case. Each tells the story of what happened to a group of wise men. Then the wise men decide who is right. I think you and I should do the same.”

Devadatta did not like the idea very much, but it was the only way he could ever get the swan back. He agreed to go to the court. So the two boys went to the king and his ministers in the palace. The old people smiled at one another when they heard what the two boys wanted. They thought that the boys wanted to take up their time over a mere bird. They said, “This is a waste of time.” But the king said: “Both Siddhartha and Devadatta are princes, and I am glad that they brought up their quarrel to us. I think it is very important that as future rulers, they should get used to the ways of the court. Let the trial begin!”

## F

So in turn each boy described what had happened. Then the ministers tried to decide which boy was right and therefore should have the swan. Some thought, Devadatta shot the bird; therefore it should belong to him! For a long time the ministers talked and argued about the case.

Finally a very old man, whom no one remembered ever seeing before came to the court. Because he looked so wise, the ministers told him the story of the boys and the swan. After listening to what they had to say he declared: “Every one values his or her life more than anything else in the world. Therefore the swan belongs to the person who saved its life, not to

him who tried to kill it. Give the swan to Siddhartha.”

## G

Every one agreed that the wise man was right. So the ministers decided to let Siddhartha keep the swan. Later, when the king wished to reward the wise old man, he was nowhere to be seen. “This is very strange,” the king thought, “I wonder where he came from and where he went. No one knew.” This as just one of the many unusual things that happened about Prince Siddhartha. So many people thought he must be a very especial child indeed!

### NOTES AND EXERCISES

1. Complete the sentences with the correct word or phrase for the right meaning in the story.

- (a) While the new baby was still very young his mother.....
  - (1) become sad (2) was glad (3) died
- (b) After the first few days of classes.....
  - (1) the teacher complained (2) the teacher became angry
  - (3) the teacher reported
- (c) His son would certainly grow up to be .....
  - (1) a bad man (2) a powerful king (3) a disobedient man
- (d) The swan hit by the arrow fell down.....
  - (1) over the head of the king (2) in the garden
  - (3) at the feet of the prince.
- (e) Then Devadatta noticed his arrow.....
  - (1) bent down (2) broken down on the ground
  - (3) with blood still on its tip
- (f) Finally the prince said, “When two people have a quarrel like this .....
  - (1) they stop quarreling quickly (2) they go to a court to decide
  - (3) they forget about it.
- (g) The swan belongs to the person .....
  - (1) who tried to kill it. (2) who tried to eat it
  - (3) who tried to save it.
- (h) Everyone agreed what the wise man said was.....
  - (1) right (2) nothing but a lie (3) quite unjust.
- (i) The king tried to find the wise man.....
  - (1) to punish (2) to reward (3) to talk

2. Words with opposite meaning are called 'Antonyms'.

DIRECTIONS: Column II gives antonyms for the words in Column I. Using the words in Column II, write antonym for each word in Column I.

I	II
new	after
before	cruel
right	ashamed
smart	large
kind	fearless
quickly	far
proud	false
wise	wrong
small	slowly
wild	foolish
afraid	always
ugly	tame
near	old
something	sad
never	dislike, unlike
like	glad
true	beautiful

### HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

3. Answer these questions:

- Who was Prajapati Gautami?
- What did the teacher report?
- Why were the animals never afraid of Prince Siddhartha?
- Who was Prince Devadatta and why did he quarrel with Prince Siddhartha?
- Why Did Siddhartha and Devadatta go to a court?
- Who decided the quarrel?
- How was the quarrel decided?

## Lesson 4

# THE MARRIAGE CONTEST

### A

As the prince grew older, his kindness made him well loved by every one who knew him. But his father, King Suddhodana, was worried. "Siddhartha is too gentle and sensitive," he thought, "I want him to grow up to be a great king, strong and powerful. But the prince is more interested in sitting by himself in the garden than he is in learning how to be the ruler of a kingdom. I am afraid that my son will soon want to leave the palace and follow the lonely life of a holy man like Asita. If he does this, he will never become a great king!"

### B

These thoughts bothered the king very much. He sent for his most trusted ministers and asked them what he could do. Finally one of them said: "O King, your son sits and dreams of other worlds only because he is not yet interested in anything in the world. Get him married and let him have children and soon he will stop dreaming and get interested in learning how to rule the kingdom."

### C

The king thought this was an excellent idea. So he arranged for a large dinner party at the palace. All the young women from noble and royal families were invited. At the end of the dinner the prince was asked to give presents to each of the guests while several ministers watched closely to see which of the young women the prince seemed to like.

The young women felt shy to go near the prince, who was standing at the back of the table on which many costly gifts were kept. One by one the young women shyly went up to the prince looking downwards. They silently took the gifts of jewellery and quickly went back to their seats.

## D

Finally only one young woman was left. She was Princess Yasodhara, the daughter of King Suprabuddha of Koliya. Unlike the others, she went to Prince Siddhartha without any shyness. For the first time the young prince looked openly at the woman standing before him to get the gift. She was very beautiful and the prince fell in love with her.

They stood in silence for a while, looking at each other's eyes. Then Yasodhara said, "O Prince, where is the gift for me?" The prince was startled, as if he was roused from sleep. He looked at the table and saw no gift left. All the gifts had already been given away to other guests. "Here, take this," said the prince, taking his own ring from his finger, "This is for you." Yasodhara gladly took the ring and walked slowly back to her seat.

## E

The ministers saw all that happened and quickly went to King Suddhodana and reported happily: "Your Majesty, we have found a suitable bride for the prince. She is Princess Yasodhara, the daughter of your neighbour, King Suprabuddha. Let us go to the king and ask him to give his daughter in marriage to Prince Siddhartha."

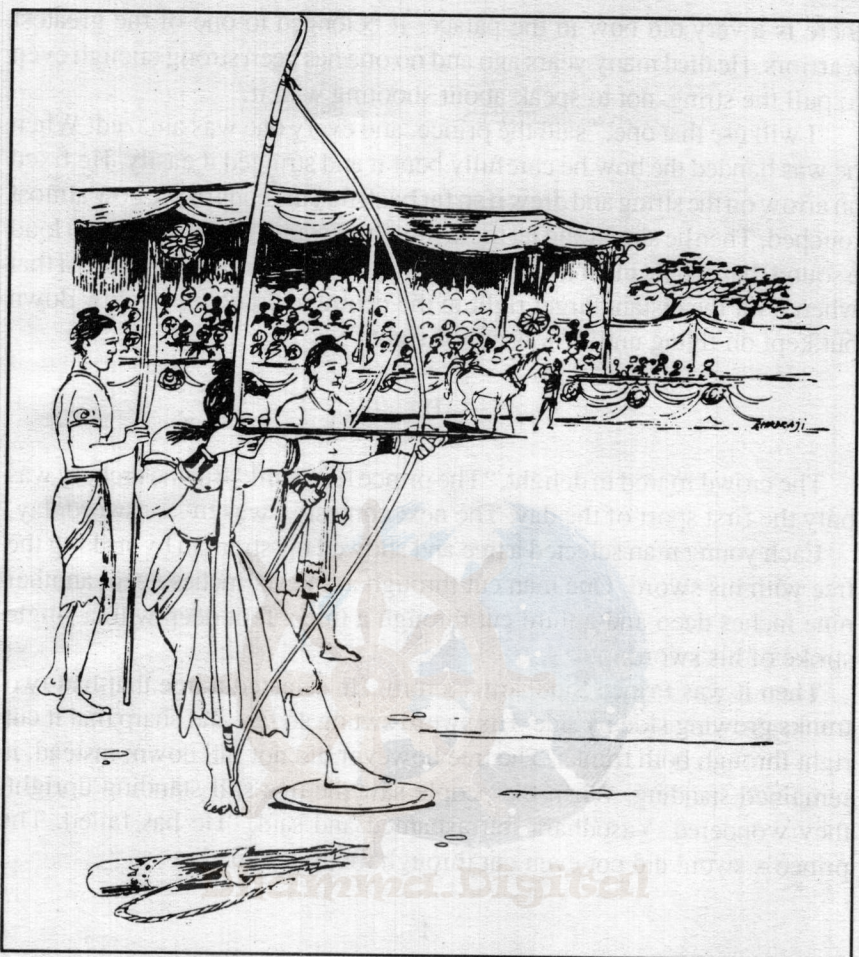
King Suddhodana listened to what the ministers said and he went to King Suprabuddha who welcomed him warmly. King Suddhodana asked the king's daughter for his son in marriage. King Suprabuddha said: "I am sure your son is a fine young man. Many other princes want to marry her and they are all excellent young princes. They are skilled in horse riding, shooting and many other royal games and sports. Therefore, as it is our custom, if your son wants to marry my daughter, he will have to compete in a contest with the other princes."

## F

So a great contest was arranged in which the winner was to be given Princess Yasodhara in marriage. King Suddhodana was worried. He thought: "My son has never showed the slightest interest in games and sports. How can he ever win this contest?" Prince Siddhartha understood his father's fear. He said, "Please don't worry, I am ready to do whatever is necessary to win Yasodhara for myself."

The first sport was archery. The other princes placed their targets far away, yet each one of them was able to hit the bull's eye. When Devadatta's





turn came he not only hit the bull's eye but sent his arrow right through the target. The crowd cheered but Yasodhara covered her eyes in fright. "How can my beloved Siddhartha ever beat that shot?" she thought, "How dreadful it is, I have to marry Devadatta!" But Prince Siddhartha was quite sure that he would beat all the other competitors. When it was his turn, he had his target placed so far away that most people could hardly see it. Then he took an arrow from the quiver and pulled his bow. The prince was so strong that the bow broke in two.

G

"Please fetch me another bow," said the prince, "but a much stronger one this time so that it will not break." Then a minister called out: "O Prince,

there is a very old bow in the palace. It belonged to one of the greatest warriors. He died many years ago and no one has been strong enough even to pull the string, not to speak about shooting with it."

"I will use that one," said the prince, and every one was amazed. When he was handed the bow he carefully bent it and stringed it easily. He fixed an arrow on the string and drew it so far back that the ends of the bow almost touched. Then he aimed and let the arrow fly. Twang! the bow made so loud a sound that people in far away villages heard it. The arrow went so fast that when it hit the distant target right in the centre it did not even slow down but kept on flying until it was out of sight.

## H

The crowd roared in delight, "The prince has won!" But the archery was only the first sport of the day. The next contest was in swordplay.

Each young man selected a tree and showed his strength by striking the tree with his sword. One man cut through a tree six inches deep, another nine inches deep and a third cut through a tree a foot deep with a single stroke of his sword.

Then it was Prince Siddhartha's turn. He selected a tree that had two trunks growing side by side. His sword swung so fast and sharp that it cut right through both trunks. The tree however did not fall down; instead, it remained standing. When the people saw the tree still standing upright, they wondered. Yasodhara felt ashamed and said: "He has failed. The prince's sword did not even cut through the first trunk."

## I

Just then a storm came suddenly and felled the tree. The crowd was very amazed to see the tree blown down. All people shouted cheerfully, "The prince has won!"

The last contest was in horsemanship. A wild horse which had never been ridden before was held by several strong men while each young competitor tried to mount it. But the horse kicked and jumped so angrily that none of them could stay on its back for more than a few seconds.

Finally one young man managed to hold on and the attendants let go of the horse. But it jumped so wildly that the rider was thrown to the ground. And he would have been trampled if men had not rushed out and pulled him to safety.

The crowd cried in alarm: "Stop the contest. Don't let Prince Siddhartha go near that horse! It is too dangerous; the horse will kill him!" But Siddhartha had no fear. "Gentleness can be more powerful than brute strength," thought Siddhartha. He slowly reached out and took hold of a small tuft of hair on the horse's forehead. Speaking in a low, pleasant voice and stroking the wild horse's head and sides, he calmed its rage and fear.

Then still whispering sweetly to the horse, the prince climbed onto its back. While the crowd roared happily, he rode the horse in front of the kings and ministers. Then he came to the lovely Yasodhara and bowed down to her. The contest was over; young Siddhartha had won! He had won not by his strength and skill but by his gentleness and kindness as well.

### NOTES AND EXERCISES

#### HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

##### A

1. The king wanted his son to grow up to be  
(a) a great teacher (b) a great king (c) a great warrior.

##### B

2. The king was worried because his son Prince Siddhartha was not interested in  
(a) learning how to help others.  
(b) learning how to rule the kingdom.  
(c) learning how to be a king.

##### C

3. Several ministers watched the prince closely to see  
(a) which of the friends the prince seemed to like.  
(b) which of the young women the prince seemed to like.  
(c) which of the sports the prince seemed to like.

##### D

4. Costly gifts were to be presented  
(a) by the king.  
(b) by the queen.  
(c) by the prince.
5. Prince Yasodhara was  
(a) the daughter of a minister.  
(b) the sister of a queen.  
(c) the daughter of a king.
6. The prince fell in love

- (a) with a girl from a noble family.
  - (b) with a daughter of a neighbouring king.
  - (c) with a young and beautiful daughter of a wealthy man.
7. Prince Siddhartha gave to young Princess Yasodhara as a gift
- (a) a necklace.
  - (b) a ring.
  - (c) a bracelet.

E

8. Who was Suprabuddha?
- (a) a trader
  - (b) a prince
  - (c) a king
9. The Koliya kingdom was ruled by
- (a) King Suddhodana
  - (b) King Bimbisara
  - (c) King Suprabuddha.
10. Find words in the story that mean
- (a) troubled , restless
  - (b) competition
  - (c) fearful
  - (d) go and bring
  - (e) surprised
  - (f) shouted loudly
  - (g) close
  - (h) quicker
  - (i) felt shy
  - (j) many
  - (k) to ride
  - (l) gladly

HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

11. Answer these questions:
- (a) Why did everybody who knew Prince Siddhartha love him very much?
  - (b) Why was King Suddhodana bothered about his son?
  - (c) What did the ministers suggest to the king in order to make Prince Siddhartha more interested in this world?
  - (d) What made Prince Siddhartha fall in the love with Princess Yasodhara?
  - (e) How could Siddhartha win all the contests, particularly the horse-manship?

## Lesson 5

### THE PLEASURE PALACES

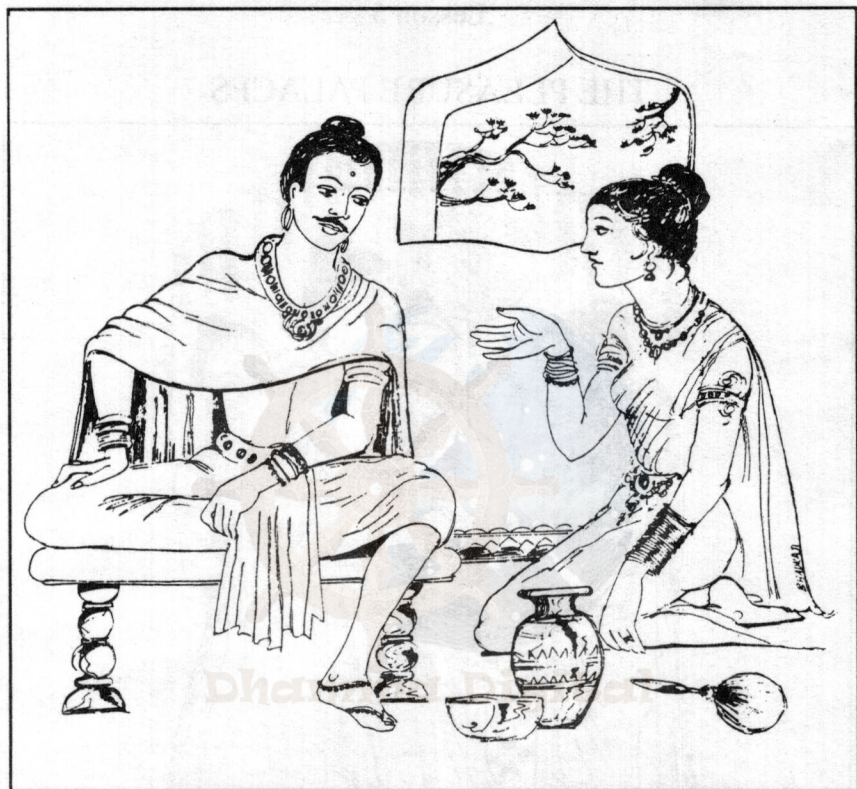


A

Soon afterwards Prince Siddhartha and Princess Yasodhara were married. King Suddhodana wanted to be certain that his son would never want to leave the kingdom. So he ordered three pleasure palaces to be built for the new couple. The palaces were so magnificent that once they were inside, people thought they were in heaven.

One of the palaces was a summer palace made of cool marble and

surrounded by refreshing pools and fountains. The second one was the winter palace, warm and comfortable. And the third one was for the rainy season. All these palaces were built in the middle of a large park with beautiful scenery in all directions. Round the park was a tall wall so that nothing unpleasant from outside ever got into these palaces.



B

The king did everything possible to make these new homes very attractive to the prince.

Prince Siddhartha had the most pleasant and happy life with his lovely wife, Princess Yosodhara. He had the most skilled musicians to play music throughout the day and into the night. All the servants were beautiful dancing girls and the cooks in the kitchen cooked a never ending variety of delicious food. Nothing was allowed into the palace that might disturb the prince's mind and make him want to leave.

For many years Prince Siddhartha lived in these heavenly palaces. From morning till night he was entertained in a thousand ways. He never saw

anything that was not beautiful nor ever heard any sorrowful and unpleasant sound. For example, if a servant became ill she was taken away from the palace and not allowed to return until she was better again. In this way no sick person or anything that might upset his mind and make him sad was allowed. Nobody attending on him was permitted to speak to him anything that might make him sad. Even the faded and dying plants in the garden were quickly removed so that the prince would never even see them. In this way he was kept unaware of the suffering and unpleasantness in the world.

## D

Time passed as in a dream and everything seemed perfectly well. The king was very glad that his plan to keep the prince tied to a luxurious life was working so well. But in spite of his time being spent in these ways, eventually, when the time was right, he would discover the true purpose of his life.

## NOTES AND EXERCISES

### A

1. Find the word in Lesson 5 that mean:

- (a) later
- (b) sure
- (c) to abandon
- (d) splendid
- (e) at ease

### B

- (a) a place where the cook prepares food
- (b) one who prepares food
- (c) permitted
- (d) upset

### C

- (a) not pleasing
  - (b) sorrowful
  - (d) not knowing
2. HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?
- (a) How many palaces were built for Prince Siddhartha and what each palace was meant for?
  - (b) Describe the life of Prince Siddhartha with his wife in these palaces?
  - (c) Why was King Suddhodana happy?

3. DIRECTIONS: Read the meaning. Then look at the letter in each line of the puzzle. When you think you know what the word is, write the word.

(a) tasty

(b) desirous

(c) ill

(d) sure

(e) commanded

(f) different kinds

(g) going in

(h) in every direction

D										
I										
S										
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O										
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## Lesson 6

### THE WORLD BEYOND THE PALACE

#### A

One evening after dinner, Prince Siddhartha lay reclining on his couch with his head on the lap of Yasodhara. The musicians were playing sweet music and the maid servants were whispering to one another and laughing quietly. But this night Prince Siddhartha felt a bit restless. Turning to one of his favourite singers he said: "Lull me to sleep with a song. Sing a song you have never sung before."

The singer gladly began to make up a new song from the words that came to her mind. She played a stringed musical instrument and sang of the beauties of distant lands where she had travelled as a child. She also sang a song of golden cities where people lived very happily.

#### B

The song pleased the prince. When it was over, he said to the singer: "Tell me honestly, are there really such beautiful places beyond the garden wall? What kind of life do the people live in the cities? Are there things in the world more lovely than what I have seen in these pleasant palaces? Please tell me all that you know."

"O, Prince," she answered, "Surely these palaces of yours are most beautiful. But there are many other beautiful things to be seen in this wide world. There are cities, towns and villages in distant lands where people speak strange languages. There are mountains and lakes about which I have only heard. Your palaces and gardens are indeed beautiful but there is much to see outside."

#### C

Hearing this, the prince became interested in seeing all these strange and wonderful things for himself. For so many years he had been content to live within the pleasure palaces and gardens, completely ignoring the world

beyond. Now he wished to go out on a journey. He sent a message to the king requesting him to arrange for his travel in the city beyond the garden walls.

The king received his son's message and thought to himself: "Now my son wishes to see our kingdom. So be it! He has stayed long enough inside his pleasure palaces. It is time for him to see the kingdom he will rule some day."

### NOTES AND EXERCISES

1. If the statement is true, put 'T' before it; if it is false, put 'F'.
  - (a) ..... One evening after dinner Prince Siddhartha lay reclining on his couch, his head resting in Yasodhara's lap.
  - (b) ..... The song did not please the prince. He asked the singer if there were more pleasant places than he had seen within the palace walls.
  - (c) ..... Hearing this the prince was not interested in seeing all these strange and wonderful things for himself.
  - (d) ..... For so many years he had been content to live in the garden within the pleasure palaces, completely ignoring the world beyond.
  - (e) ..... The prince did not wish to go out and so he sent a message to the king requesting him not to arrange for his travel in the city beyond the garden walls.
2. HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?  
Answer these questions:
  - (a) What did the singer say about the wide world?
  - (b) Did the song please the prince?
  - (c) What did the singer say when the prince said to her, "Are there things in the world more beautiful and lovely than what I have seen here?"
  - (d) Why did Prince Siddhartha want to go out?

## Lesson 7

### THE FIRST JOURNEY OUTSIDE

#### A

The king still wanted to be sure that his son would not follow the holy life. So the day before the prince was about to travel to the city, the king sent his servants and soldiers out with this message: "By the order of the king: tomorrow, Crown Prince Siddhartha will visit the capital city of Kapilavastu. Decorate your houses and streets and let everything be colourful in his honour. Let those who are sick or old stay indoors. Nothing should be seen in the city that is not young, fair and beautiful."

Then the soldiers took all the street beggars to that part of the city where the prince would not visit.

#### B

When morning came, the charioteer, Channa, made ready the prince's favourite horse Kantaka, and Siddhartha rode out through the palace gate with his royal attendants. It was the first time the prince had seen Kapilavastu since he was a small child, and it was the first time also for most of the citizens of Kapilavastu to see the prince. Everyone was excited and stood on either side of the decorated streets to see the handsome young prince as he rode by. "How tall and good looking he is!" they said to one another, "How bright are his eyes and brow! We are indeed lucky that someday he will be our king."

#### C

The prince was delighted too. The city was very clean and everywhere he saw the people laughing, cheering and even dancing. The streets were covered with flowers that the citizens threw as a mark of respect to their beloved prince. "The song was true," he remembered happily, "This is indeed a beautiful and wonderful city!"



But as the prince and his charioteer Channa were riding by they saw an old and sad-looking person who was walking with his body bent and shaking. The prince was very curious, for he had never seen such a person before. He asked: "Channa, who is that man over there? Why is he bent down and not dancing like the others? Why is his face not smooth and shining like that of the others? Why is his face pale and wrinkled? Why is he so different from others?"

D

Channa answered, "Why, Sir, that is an old man." "Old?" the Prince questioned, "Was this man always old like this or did he become old recently?" "Neither, O Prince," Channa answered, "Many years ago that old man was young and strong as all the others you see here today. But slowly he became weak. His body became bent and his face turned pale. He lost most of his teeth, and now he looks the way he does." Surprised and saddened, Siddhartha asked again, "That poor man, is he the only one suffering from the weakness of old age? Are there any others like him?" Channa answered, "Surely, you know, O Prince, every one must become old. You, me, your wife Yasodhara, and everyone in the palace. We are all growing older. Some day all of us will look like that."

E

These words so shocked the gentle prince that for a long time he stood silently. He looked like a person who had just been frightened by a sudden

lightning. Finally he regained his voice and spoke: "O Channa, I have seen something today that I never expected to see. In the midst of all these young and happy people, this sight of old age startles me. Turn the chariot back to the palace; all my enjoyment of this trip has gone! Turn back quickly. I wish to see no more."

Channa did as he was ordered. When they arrived home, the prince entered his palace down-hearted. He hurried upstairs to his own room and sat by himself for a long time. All the people in the palace noticed how strangely the prince behaved. They tried their best to please him but nothing helped. At dinner he did not eat any food, even though the cook prepared his favourite meal. He paid no attention to the music and dancing. He sat thinking: "Old age! Old age! Old age!"

### NOTES AND EXERCISES

#### A

1. Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the list of words given below.

before, still, about, out, visit.

The king .....wanted to be sure that his son would not follow the holy life. So the day ..... the prince was ..... to travel to the city, the king sent his servants and soldiers ..... with this message, "Tomorrow the Crown Prince will ..... the capital city of Kapilavastu."

#### HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

2. Answer these questions:
- (a) What did the king do to ensure that his son would not follow the holy life?"
  - (b) What made the prince very curious?
  - (c) What made the prince stand silently as if he was frightened by a sudden lightning?
  - (d) How did King Suddhodana arrange the prince's visit to the streets of Kapilavastu?
  - (e) What did the prince see in the street which he had never seen before?
  - (f) Why was the prince surprised and saddened?
3. The king wanted to be sure that his son would not follow  
(a) a lazy life (b) a holy life (c) a royal life
4. Let those who are sick and old stay  
(a) in the streets (b) indoors (c) in the city

#### B

5. We are indeed lucky that someday he will be our  
(a) guest (b) king (c) student

C

6. As the prince and Channa were riding by they saw  
(a) an ugly girl (b) a young man (c) an old man

D

7. We are all growing  
(a) younger and younger (b) older and older (c) poorer and poorer

E

8. "O Channa, I have seen something today that I never"  
(a) disliked to see. (b) expected to see. (c) would be unhappy to see.

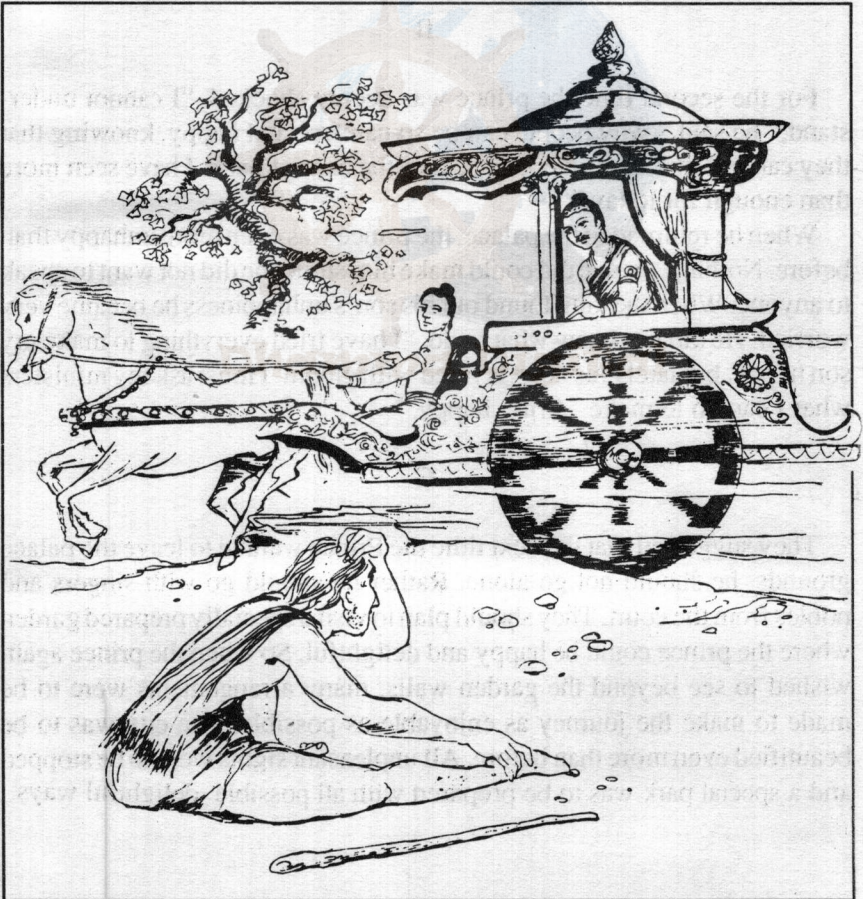


Lesson 8

THE SECOND JOURNEY

A

King Suddhodana heard about his son's unhappy mood and wondered what could have gone wrong. "He needs many more kinds of enjoyment,"



the king said to himself, "I will plan another trip for him. This time it would take him to even more beautiful parts of the city."

So Channa prepared Kantaka again, and they rode out to Kapilavastu. The streets were decorated as before and people were again happy to see their prince. But this time a sick person was seen among the cheerful crowd. The prince said: "Channa, look! Why is that man coughing terribly? He is shaking his body pitifully and crying."

"That is a sick person, O Prince," said Channa.

"Why is he sick?" the prince asked. "People become sick for many reasons, Sir. Perhaps he ate some bad food or let himself become too cold. Now his body is out of balance. He feels weak and his body is trembling with fever." "Do these happy people ever become sick?" asked the prince. "Oh, yes," answered the charioteer, "a person might be healthy one day and sick the next day. No one is safe from illness."

## B

For the second time the prince was deeply shocked. "I cannot understand," he said, "why people can be so carefree and happy, knowing that they can fall ill at any time." Please turn the chariot back. I have seen more than enough for today."

When he returned to the palace, the prince was even more unhappy than before. Nothing anyone did could make him smile; he did not want to speak to anyone. When the king found out his son's unhappiness he became very worried. He did not know what to do. "I have tried everything to make my son happy, but lately his heart is filled with gloom. I must ask my ministers what I can do to make him happy."

## C

They suggested that the next time the Prince wanted to leave the palace grounds he should not go alone. Rather he should go with singers and nobles from the court. They should plan to visit a specially prepared garden where the prince could be happy and delightful. So when the prince again wished to see beyond the garden walls, many arrangements were to be made to make the journey as enjoyable as possible. The city was to be beautified even more than before. All unpleasant sights were to be stopped and a special park was to be prepared with all possible delightful ways.



## NOTES AND EXERCISES

### A

1. Find words in Lesson 8 that mean;  
(a) arrange (b) journey (c) made (d) furnish with (e) sympathetically (f) replied (g) keeping well (h) disease.
2. DIRECTIONS: Column II gives antonyms (opposite meaning) for the words in Column I. Using the words in Column II write the antonym for each word in column I.

(I)	(II)
careful	delightful
sad	beautiful
well	careless
sorrowful	prepared
pitiable	ill
ugly	happy
unpleasant	pleasant
impossible	enjoyable
unprepared	possible

### HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

3. Answer these questions:
  - (a) What strange sight did the prince see in his second journey?
  - (b) How did he feel when he saw the sick man?
  - (c) What suggestions did the ministers make to make the prince happy again?

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## Lesson 9

# THE FINAL SHOCK

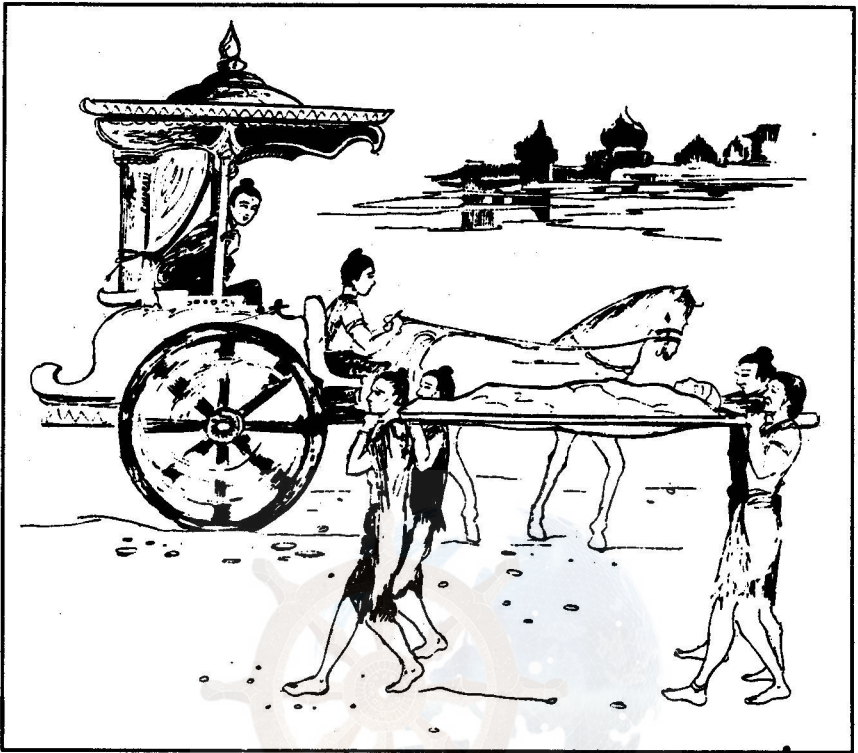
### A

On his return to the palace from his second trip the prince was more unhappy and he became more thoughtful than before. The king, seeing him so changed, became very sad. Once again the prince asked his father to let him go out of the palace gardens to see more life in the city. The king agreed, as it was no use trying to stop his son. Prince Siddhartha and Channa again left the palace in the chariot. With the ministers, musicians and servants following, it looked like a ceremonial parade. As before, people lined up the streets to see the prince coming in a grand procession.

This time too the prince and Channa went to many parts of Kapilavastu. Then he saw a few people coming along the streets crying while four people were carrying a plank in which a very thin man lay flat and still. He was like a stone, never saying a word. He was covered with a white sheet of cloth. Then these people went a little farther, put the person down on a pile of wood and set the wood on fire. The man did not move as the wood burnt on all sides. "What is this, Channa? Why did he lie so still, allowing these people to burn him?" asked the prince. "He does not know anything; he is dead," replied Channa.

### B

"Dead! Is this what is called death? Has everyone to die like that man?" said the prince. "Yes, my dear Prince, all living things must die some day. No one can stop death from coming," replied Channa. The prince was shocked and surprised. He could not say any more. He thought that it was terrible that death should come to everybody, even to kings, queens, and princes. Was there no way to stop it? "Come Channa, turn the chariot around, I wish to go back," said the prince.



Channa drove the chariot instead to a beautiful garden. There all the most charming singers, dancers and musicians were waiting along with ministers and a grand feast had been prepared by the palace cooks. They welcomed the prince joyfully when he stepped down from the chariot. But the prince did not smile nor did he say anything. He was very unhappy. His thoughts were totally absorbed in what he had seen that day. They drove back home in silence. The prince was sunk in thought in his room the whole day. He was very unhappy with the thought: "Everybody in the world must die some day. No one has found out how to stop it. O, there must be a way to stop it. I must find it and help the whole world."

## NOTES AND EXERCISES

1. Fill in the blanks with correct words to match the meaning in the story from the following list:

stop, shocked, death, surprised, any, to kings, everybody, princes, terrible.

**B**

The prince was..... and ..... He could not say ..... more. He thought that it was..... that ..... should come to ....., even .....queens and ..... Was there no way to ..... it?

2. DIRECTIONS: Column II gives synonyms (same meaning) for the words in Column I. Using the words in Column II write the synonym for each word in Column I.

(I)	(II)
unhappy	lean
agreed	horrible
too	dreadful
thin	intensely interested
move	stir, shake
living	delightfully
surprised	prevent
shocked	speechless
terrible	beautiful
charming	amazed
joyfully	consented
absorbed	alive, now existent
silence	also
stop	sad

3. Answer these questions:

- Why was the prince still more unhappy than before after his return from his second journey?
- What was the terrible sight he saw on his journey?
- Why was he not happy and what did he want to find out?

## Lesson 10

### A MONK

A

When the prince visited the city for the fourth time, he saw a happy man in a garden. He wore an orange-coloured robe. Then he asked Channa: "Who is that man wearing the yellow dress? His hair is all shaved off. Why



does he look so happy? How does he live and what does he do for a living?"

"That is a monk," said Channa. "He lives in a temple. He goes from house to house for his food. He goes from place to place telling people how to be happy and how to be good."

The prince was very happy now. He thought, "I must become like him." Then he walked through the garden very happily. He walked until he was tired. Then he sat down under a tree to rest. As he was sitting under the cool shady tree, news came that his wife, Yasodhara, had given birth to a fine baby boy. As soon as he heard the news, he said, "Rahula has been born to me; an obstacle has been born to me." So his son's name became 'Rahula'.

## B

As he was returning to the palace from the garden, he passed the room of a princess called Kisagotami. She was looking out of the window and saw the prince coming. She was so taken in by the young, handsome prince that she said loudly, "O! how happy must be the mother, the father and the wife of such a handsome young prince!"

The Prince heard it but he said to himself that all people would be happier if they knew what real happiness was.

### NOTES AND EXERCISES

1. Learn these words:  
robe= yellow clothes  
living= livelihood  
until= up to the time, till  
obstacle= hindrance, blocking, obstruction  
taken in= fascinated, charmed  
handsome= charming, beautiful  
real= true  
selfish= self-interested
2. Answer these questions:
  - (a) What did the prince see on his fourth visit to the city?
  - (b) Why was the prince happy?
  - (c) What news came to him while he was sitting under a tree?

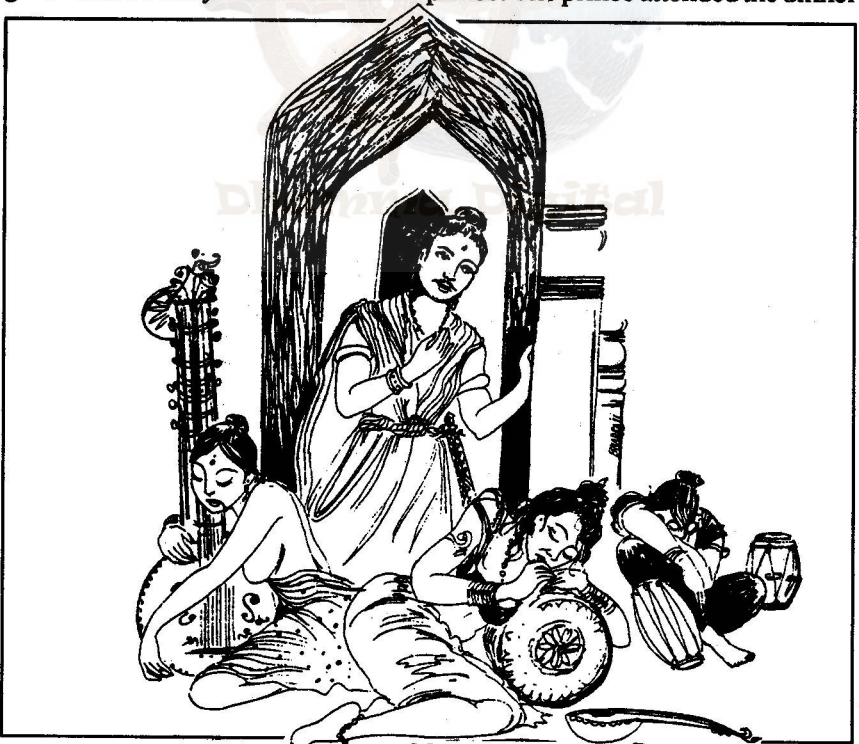
## Lesson 11

### ESCAPE

A

King Suddhodana arranged a grand dinner and dance for Prince Siddhartha to celebrate the birth of his son. He got the best dancers and singers in the country for this party because he saw that the prince was unhappy although he just had a son. The king felt that the prince was going to leave the palace for good. So for the last time he must do his best to stop him from going away.

The most tasty food was served at the dinner. The most beautiful dancing girls in the country danced before the prince. The prince attended the dinner



party just to please his father. In fact he was tired and he was thinking of how he could stop old age, sickness, unhappiness and death. He was so tired of thinking that he fell asleep.

## B

When the singers and the dancers saw that they were dancing and singing to a sleeping prince, they stopped and rested. Like the prince, they too were very tired and soon they fell asleep. Sometime later that night the prince got up and was shocked at the sight that awaited him. All the prettiest, most charming dancing girls and singers in the country, who, an hour ago were trying to make the prince so happy, were now all over the room: on chairs and beds and on the floor in the most ugly, shameful and loathsome positions. Some girls were snoring like pigs with their mouth wide open while others were grinding their teeth like hungry devils. So ugly and dirty did they look now that the prince was even more disgusted

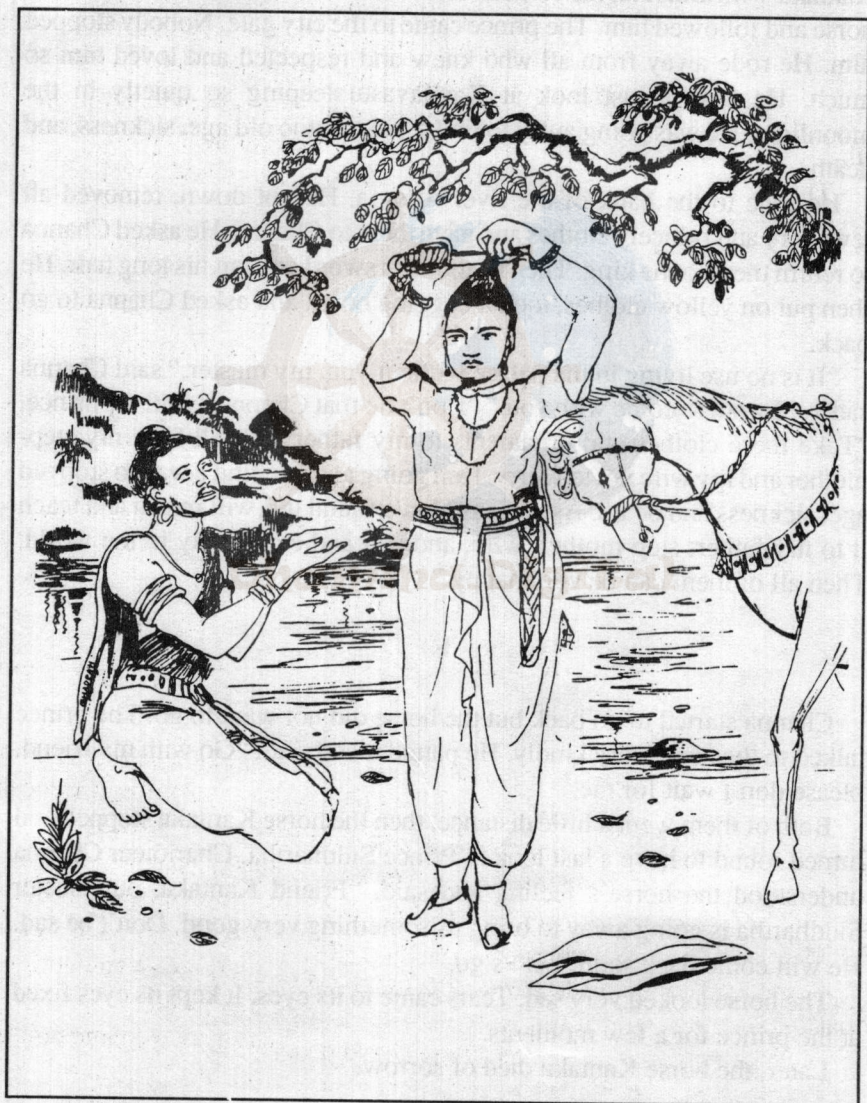




and he was very unhappy indeed. He got up quietly from the room as he did not want to wake up any of the dancing girls. He called his faithful servant, Channa, to saddle his favourite horse, Kantaka, to go out on a long journey.

C

As Channa was getting his horse ready, the prince went quietly to his new-born son for the first time. His wife was sleeping with the baby beside her with her hand covering the baby's face. So he could not see the baby's



face. He knew that if he moved his wife's hand, he might wake her up and she would certainly not allow him to leave the palace. He said to himself: "If I try to see my son's face, I fear I may wake her. No! I must go without seeing my son's face this time, but when I have found what I am going forth to seek, I shall come back and see him and his mother again."

## D

Then he quietly went out of the palace at midnight on his white horse Kantaka with Channa, his faithful servant, who held on to the tail of the horse and followed him. The prince came to the city gate. Nobody stopped him. He rode away from all who knew and respected and loved him so much. He took a last look at Kapilavastu sleeping so quietly in the moonlight. He was going away to find a way to stop old age, sickness, and death.

He rode to the bank of the river Anoma. He got down, removed all jewellery and princely clothes and gave them to Channa. He asked Channa to return them to the king. Then he took his sword and cut his long hair. He then put on yellow clothes, took a begging bowl, and asked Channa to go back.

"It is no use living in the palace without you, my master," said Channa sadly, "I want to come with you." "Don't do that Channa," said the prince, "Take these clothes and ornaments to my father and tell him, my step-mother and my wife not to worry. I am going away to find a way to stop old age, sickness and death. As soon as I have found it, I will return and teach it to my father, step-mother, wife, and son and everybody in the world. Then all of them can be very happy."

## E

Channa started to go back but the horse did not want to go. The prince talked to the horse very kindly. He patted it and said, "Go with my friend, please don't wait for me."

Both of them went a little distance, then the horse Kantaka stopped and turned round to have a last look at Prince Siddhartha. Charioteer Channa understood the horse's feeling and said, "Friend Kantaka, our master Siddhartha is going away to bring us something very good. Don't be sad. He will come back soon. Let us go."

The horse looked very sad. Tears came to its eyes. It kept its eyes fixed at the prince for a few moments.

Later, the horse Kantaka died of sorrow.

## NOTES AND EXERCISES

### 1. Learn these words:

attended= took part

running away= escaping

tired of= fed up, sick of

tired= fatigued, exhausted, weary, tedious

prettiest= most beautiful

loathsome= disgusting, hateful, detestable

shameful= indecent, immodest

faithful= obedient

favourite= preferable, most desirous

### 2. Match the parts in Column A and Column B and make complete sentences:

A

- (a) As Channa was getting his horse ready
- (b) His wife was sleeping with the baby beside her
- (c) He knew that if he moved his wife's hand to see his son's face
- (d) Then he quietly went out of the palace at midnight
- (e) He came to the city gate with Channa his faithful servant.
- (f) He was going away to find
- (g) He rode to the bank
- (h) He got down, removed all his jewellery and clothes

B

- he might wake her up.
- he went to see quietly his new born son for the first time, with her hand covering the baby's face.
- a way to stop old age, sickness and death.
- on his white horse, Kantaka
- and nobody stopped him.
- and gave them to Channa to return them to the king of the river Anoma.

### HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

### 3. Answer these questions:

- (a) Why did King Suddhodana arrange a grand dinner?
- (b) Did the prince enjoy the dinner party?
- (c) Why was he disgusted?
- (d) What did Channa say to the prince when he was asked to go back?
- (e) What did the prince reply to Channa when he said, "I want to come with you!"
- (f) What did the horse Kantaka die of?

## Lesson 12

### KING BIMBISARA'S OFFER

A

From the Anoma river, the young prince, dressed as a beggar, went from place to place. Sometime later he came to Rajagriha city where King Bimbisara lived. Here, with his begging bowl in his hand, Siddhartha walked round the streets of the city begging for food from door to door like any other religious man.



Now he did not have a house to go nor a friend to talk to. He ate whatever food was given to him by the people. They began to call him a 'sage'. Some people called him the 'ascetic Gotama'. But nobody called him Prince Siddhartha any more.

## B

He was very young. He looked most handsome, healthy, neat and clean. He spoke very kindly and gently. He did not ask people to give him anything. But people were very happy and pleased to put some food into his bowl. Some people went and told King Bimbisara: "Your Majesty, there is a young man. Some people call him the 'ascetic Gotama'. He is very neat, clean, kind, polite and not like a beggar at all. But he is going round the city, begging for food."

When King Bimbisara heard the name 'Gotama', he knew at once that this prince was none other than the son of his friend King Suddhodana. King Bimbisara went immediately to him and asked: "Have you quarrelled with your father? Why do you go about like this? Stay here, I shall give you half of my kingdom." "Thank you very much, Sir. I love my parents, my wife, my son and everybody but I want to find a way to stop old age, sickness, worries, and death. Therefore I am going thus," said the ascetic, Gotama, and he went away.

## NOTES AND EXERCISES

### HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

1. Answer these questions:
  - (a) Where did Prince Siddhartha go from the Anoma river?
  - (b) What did the people call him when he became a monk?
  - (c) How did he get the food?
  - (d) Who was Bimbisara?
  - (e) What did Bimbisara say to the prince?
  - (f) What did the prince tell the king?
  - (g) Why were the people happy to give him food?

## Lesson 13

### ALARA AND UDDAKA

#### A

When Prince Siddhartha left the palace, five of his friends heard of it and they too left their homes to become monks like him. One of them was Kondannya, a young wise man. In fact he was the cleverest among the five. The other men were Bhaddiya, Wappa, Mahanama and Assaji. They too wore orange coloured robes and went from place to place begging for food.

At that time in India there were many wise and holy teachers. The best and most well known one was Alara Kalama. The ascetic Gotama went with his five friends to study under him. He learnt all that Alara could teach him. He was the most hard-working pupil. His master liked him very much because he was very clever too. Finally the teacher could not teach him any more. So one day he said to Gotama, "Look, you are the same as I am now. There is no difference between us. Stay here. Take my place and teach my pupils along with me."

#### B

Gotama was surprised. He asked, "You can not teach me more? Can you teach me the way to stop death, sickness and old age?" "No," said Alara Kalama, "I cannot, for I don't know that myself. So how can I teach it to you. There is none in the world who knows this."

Then the ascetic, Gotama, left with his five friends. They wandered all over the country practising what they had learnt. At last they heard of another great teacher who was famous for his religious knowledge. He was known as Uddaka. They went to him and learnt from him for some time. Here too the ascetic, Gotama, learnt very obediently and became his best pupil. Uddaka too could not teach him how to stop suffering, old age and death. He had never heard of any one who could solve these problems.

Once again Gotama was very disappointed and left Uddaka with his five friends. He made up his mind to struggle very hard by himself until he found

the cause of all the sufferings of life.

### NOTES AND EXERCISES

1. Choose the right word from within the brackets and fill in the blanks:
  - (a) When Prince Siddhartha ..... the palace, five of his friends heard of it and they too left their home to become monks like him. (went/left)
  - (b) One of them was Kondannaya, a young .....man. (foolish/wise)
  - (c) In fact he was the ..... among the five. (cleverest/prettiest)
  - (d) At that time in India there were many wise and holy teachers. The best and most well known one was ..... (Mahanama/Alara Kalama)
  - (e) The ascetic, Gotama, left with his ..... friends. (two/five)
  - (f) At last they heard of another great teacher who was ..... for his religious knowledge. (famous/good) He was ..... (Bhaddiya/Uddaka)

### HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

2. Answer these questions:
  - (a) Who were the five friends of the ascetic, Gotama?
  - (b) Who was their first teacher?
  - (c) Why did the ascetic, Gotama, and his five friends leave him?
  - (d) What did the teacher, Alara Kalama, tell the ascetic, Gotama?
  - (e) Whom did they meet next?

Dhamma.Digital

## Lesson 14

### TORTURING THE BODY

#### A

After leaving Uddaka, the ascetic, Gotama, and his five friends wandered about from place to place as before. He practised fasting as it was thought to be one of the best ways to gain wisdom. At the beginning he took very little food. Later on for months he ate one meal a day. Then he took food once in two or three days. He ate the roots of plants, leaves and fruits. Because of lack of proper food his body became so thin that his legs were like bamboo sticks, his backbone was like a rope and the ribs in his chest were like the beams in a roof. His eyes sank right inside like a stone in a deep well. His skin was so dry and wrinkled that his whole body became a skeleton. In fact he looked like a living skeleton -all bones and no flesh. He suffered terrible pain and hunger. He thought that the only way to





happiness was to be most unhappy now. He continued to meditate but still he did not know anything new.

## B

Another way of torturing his body and mind was holding the breath for a long time until he felt terrible pains in the ears, in the head and in the whole body. Then he practised living lonely. During full moon and new moon nights he went to the forests and cemeteries and tortured his body and mind and suffered more than ever.

For six years he practised like this and after suffering great pain he finally thought that this was not the way to find wisdom. One day he fainted in a place called Uruvela. A shepherd happened to come and gave him some milk that made him better. Soon he began to take more milk and food and build up his body. When the five friends saw that he was not fasting any more, they felt disappointed and left him alone.

### NOTES AND EXERCISES

#### 1. Learn about words:

ascetic= monk, hermit

wandered= travelled

fasting= going without food

wisdom= highest knowledge

beam= a long piece of timber (wood)

skeleton= framework of bones

to meditate= to think deeply

torturing= giving bodily or mental pain

cemetery= a place for burning the dead body

in spite of= for all that, although, notwithstanding

wrinkled= shrunk marks in the skin of old and aged people

finally= at the end

disappointed= hopeless, frustrated

#### 2. Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the list of words given below:

proper, thin, bamboo, wisdom, best, practised, disappointed, alone, torturing, breath, fasting.

(a) He .....fasting which was thought to be one of the .....ways to gain .....

(b) Because of lack of ..... food his body became so ..... that his

legs were like ..... sticks.

- (c) Another way of ..... his body and mind was holding the ..... for a long time.
- (d) When the five friends saw that he was not ..... any more they felt ..... and left him.

### HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

3. Answer these questions:

- (a) Who were the five friends of the ascetic, Gotama?
- (b) Why did the ascetic, Gotama, fast?
- (c) How did the ascetic, Gotama, look as a result of fasting?
- (d) What was the other way of torturing his body?
- (e) How many years did the ascetic, Gotama, practise various ways to find wisdom?
- (f) Why did the five friends leave him?



## Lesson 15

### SUJATA AND THE MILK-RICE

A

In a village called Senani there lived a young and rich girl named Sujata who wanted to marry for the sake of a son. For this she waited for many years but she was not successful. The people told her that she must go to a banyan tree near the Neranjara river and ask the tree-god to give her a husband and a lovely son. The people at that time believed in trees as gods. She did as she was told by the people. Later on she got married to a young



man and they had a lovely son. She was very happy.

One day she sent her servant to clean the ground at the foot of the banyan tree while she cooked milk-rice to offer to the tree-god in gratitude for granting her wish. She was very surprised when her servant came in haste and said: "O, my lady Sujata, the banyan tree-god himself has come out to receive your offering of milk-rice. He is seated under the tree meditating. How lucky you must be to have the god in person accept your offering of milk-rice!"

## B

Sujata was very happy and excited. She danced in joy. Then she and her servant took the delicious milk-rice to the banyan tree. Sujata was so surprised and excited to see the handsome tree-god himself. He was sitting with crossed legs and meditating. She did not know that he was the ascetic, Gotama. She put the milk rice in his bowl and said, "May you be successful in obtaining your wishes, as I have been."

Ascetic Gotama ate the food. Then with the empty bowl in his hand he got up and crossed the river Neranjara on his way to Gaya.

## NOTES AND EXERCISES

### A

#### HOW WELL DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

1. There lived a young and rich girl who wanted  
(a) to die (b) to dance (c) to marry
2. She must go to a banyan tree near the  
(a) Bagmati river (b) Neranjara river (c) Anoma river
3. She cooked milk-rice to offer to the tree god.  
Her name was-  
(a) Mahamaya (b) Sujata (c) Yasodhara
4. She was surprised and excited to see her  
(a) boy friend (b) tree-god (c) father
5. She did not know that he was  
(a) the tree god (b) the ascetic Gotama (c) the king
6. Answer these questions:  
(a) What was the name of the girl who gave the ascetic, Gotama, the milk-rice?  
(b) What did she want from the tree-god?  
(c) Where did the ascetic, Gotama, go after eating the milk-rice ?

7. **DIRECTIONS:** Read the meaning; then look at the first letter in each line of the puzzle. When you know what the word is, write the right word beginning with the letter to fill in the blanks:

- (a) trusted
- (b) pretty
- (c) made food
- (d) quickly
- (e) thinking deeply
- (f) happy
- (g) went across

B									
B									
C									
H									
M									
J									
C									



## Lesson 16

# THE HIGHEST WISDOM -BUDDHAHOOD



A

In the evening after Sujata's nice meal, Gotama went to Gaya and looked for a suitable place to sit down and meditate. He sat under a tree with his face to the east. He made an earnest wish and a very strong determination. "Though my skin, my nerves and my bones waste away and my life blood go dry," he said to himself, "I will not leave this seat until I have attained enlightenment that ends all sorrows."

## B

So on the eve of Vaisakh Full Moon he practised deep breathing exercise. During this practice many evil thoughts came to his mind, such as a desire for worldly things; dislike for a holy, pure and good life; feeling of great thirst and hunger; craving for all things; laziness; stubbornness; wish to have everything for oneself; wish to be praised and honoured and to do things for fame; thinking very highly about oneself, and looking down upon others.

These evil thoughts began to disturb his mind but he was more firm than ever. He became calm and brave. He continued the exercise of controlling his mind. At last, he destroyed all these evil thoughts during the earlier part of the night and he was able to see his own past lives. Then, he silently raised his right hand from his lap and touched the earth in front of him. Yes, the earth itself was the witness! For countless times in the past he had appeared on earth in various forms. He had practised generosity. He had acted lovingly and he had avoided harming others. He had meditated on Truth. He had done all these things - sometimes as a man, sometimes he was rich, sometimes poor - over and over again. He had done all these things just for the sake of discovering the end to all suffering. and the earth was his witness.

## C

In the second part of the night, he got the power of seeing the end or the death of living beings and their rebirth. In his mind's eye, he saw far into the past. He saw that when one life ended, another began. Death only brought the body to an end; life itself continued on and on finding a new body again and again.

In the third part of the night he got the power of understanding the cause of all evil and how to get rid of it. Thus, he became the wisest man in the world who could answer all questions put to him by anyone. Answers to the questions lodged in his mind for so many years were then found. He knew how to end sorrow, unhappiness, suffering, old age and death. He also found real peace, happiness and freedom. He discovered that when a person did evil in one life - such as harming another - he or she would suffer in the future. But a person who acted with love, happiness and joy would find happiness in the future. Nothing any one ever did was lost but it was carried on from life to life, bringing happiness or pain. He saw how everything was constantly changing; growing, decaying and growing again. Nothing

happened without a cause and every cause produced an effect, as a seed produced a fruit. He knew more than any other man could ever know and he became perfect. He had become fully awakened and enlightened to the Truth. He was now a Buddha. He had reached his goal.

With a calm and peaceful smile, he arose from his meditation. It was morning, and the sun was rising in the east.

### NOTES AND EXERCISES

Q. Match the words with their opposites (antonyms):

after            wet  
dry             lowest  
highest        sadness  
happiness     shame  
like             before  
fame            dislike

A

silently        covering  
countless      noisily  
rich            very few  
discovering    poor

B

ended          growing  
lost            began  
decaying      found

C

2. Find the word which means:
- think deeply
  - highest knowledge
  - lasting forever
  - hurting
  - in some days
  - idleness
  - finding a new body again and again
  - end of life
  - without stopping
  - one who is fully awakened and enlightened
3. Answer these questions:
- Where did the ascetic, Gotama, go after taking Sujata's milk-rice?
  - What was the determination he made under the tree?



- (c) What did he realise in the first part of the night?
- (d) What did he know in the second part of the night?
- (e) What do you call him now?





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