

Chapter 16

THE BUDDHA

Over two and a half thousand years ago, there ruled a king of the Sakya tribe, Siddhodana. A child was born to the king and the queen. He was named Siddhartha Gautama.

At that time, a famous prophet was visiting the kingdom. The king called him to bless the little prince. When the prophet saw Siddhartha Gautama, he was delighted.

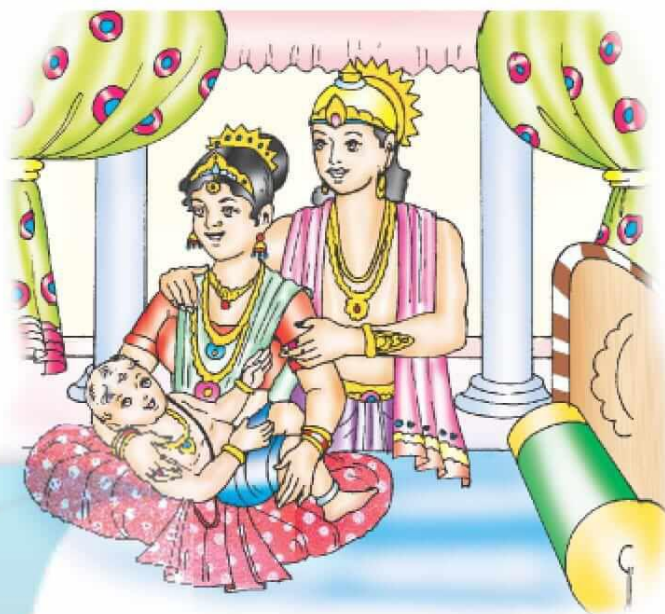
He told the king, “This child will either become a great king, or, he’ll renounce the world to become a great monk.

Now, the king got worried on hearing such words. The king didn’t want his son, the prince, to give up the pleasures of the world and become a hermit. These thoughts would upset the king.

So he surrounded the prince with all the wonders of the palace life. He especially made sure that whenever the prince left the palace, he saw no sign of suffering or sorrow.

Siddhartha grew up to be a very gifted child and he quickly mastered everything that he was taught. He was given all the luxuries. But he remained a quiet-child, always lost in thought.

When Siddhartha was sixteen years old, his father decided to get him married. So a *swamyamvara* was arranged for the young princess Yashodhara. Many princes were called by Yashodhara’s father. The princess Yashodhara chose noble-looking Siddhartha to be her husband.



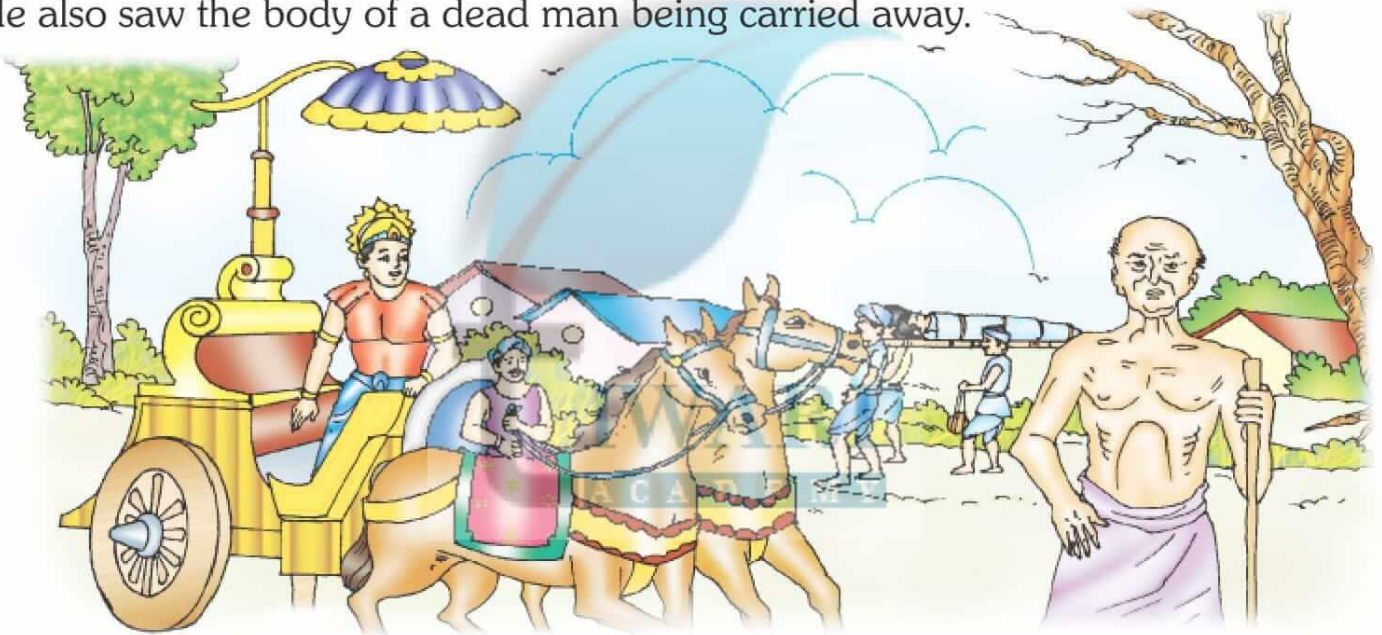
Teacher’s Note: Encourage the children to discuss about the different kinds of religions, and their beliefs.

The wedding was celebrated and the young couple was very happy. In a few year, they had a son and named him Rahul.

Now king Suddhodana was content “Now that Siddhartha has a lovely wife and son, he will never want to leave the kingdom,” he thought. “He will now become a great king.”

But, the king was wrong. Siddhartha was tired of the luxurious life in the palace. He began to think about the people of his country and how they lived. Soon he grew curious. He wanted to see what lay beyond the life of luxury. He asked his charioteer, Chandaka, to take him into the town.

There, Siddhartha saw the suffering for the first time in his life. He saw an old man, walking slowly across the road. He saw a sick man, groaning with pain. He also saw the body of a dead man being carried away.



He was dismayed. He began to think deeply about the cause of such misery. How could it be prevented ? Siddhartha knew that he must give up everything to find out. After much thought he decided to leave his family. One night, after Yashodhara and Rahul had gone to sleep, he crept out of the palace.

Siddhartha rode with Chandaka to a place outside his kingdom. There he took off his princely clothes and exchanged them with a beggar.

Then he told Chandaka, “Tell my father that I have given up the kingdom to go in search of peace. I will either return someday as a learned sage, or I will die.”

Chandaka left to tell the king.

Siddhartha began to wander the land with only a begging bowl. He started his search by talking to wise priests. But the priests lived lives of ease, comfort and wealth. None of them could help him. Then one evening, Siddhartha decided to focus on meditation.

So he walked to a large banyan tree and sat down under it. He was lost in thought. After many days, Siddhartha opened his eyes at dawn. He knew he had found his answer.

Siddhartha decided to teach the people what he had learnt. He said, “Nothing lasts forever. All of us will grow old and die. Do not give too much importance to the material things like money, youth and good looks. Do not hurt or kill people or animals. Abandon the caste system of dividing people into groups. Do not follow someone blindly, just because he or she is popular. Live your life with honesty.”



From that moment, Siddhartha became to be known as the ‘Enlightened One’ or the ‘Buddha’ meaning ‘One with knowledge.’ The banyan tree under which he sat was called the ‘Bodhi Tree’, meaning ‘Tree of knowledge.’

For forty-five years the Buddha travelled to many places, teaching people as he went. Many people joined him as he travelled and they began to live like him. His son, Rahul also joined him. The message of Buddha spread to many countries.

When the Buddha died at the age of eighty, he had gathered many followers about him. His followers decided to write down what he had taught them. Over many years, they wrote down what he had said in his sermons. They called this collection ‘Tripitaka,’ meaning ‘The three Baskets.’ The Tripitaka was first written on palm leaves and were collected in baskets.

Today, Buddha’s teachings are followed by millions of people all over the world. Buddhism is the religion based on the teachings of the Buddha.

Words to Learn

prophet	delighted	renounce	monk	hermit	pleasures
luxuries	curious	charioteer	groaning	dismayed	crept
princely	wander	meditation	abandon	sermons	

● Skill Test ●

WORK OUT

A. Answer the following questions :

1. What did prophet say about Siddhartha at the time of his birth ?

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2. What all facilities were provided to the prince ?

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3. What did Siddhartha see in the town ?

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4. What were the teachings of Siddhartha ?

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B. Complete these sentences in your own words :

1. The king got worried on

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2. A swamyamvara was

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3. Siddhartha wanted to see what

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4. Siddhartha decided to focus

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5. Siddharth became to be known

.....

6. When the Buddha died at the age of eighty,

.....

C. Match the following :**I**

1. Siddhodana
2. Yashodhara
3. Rahul
4. Chandaka
5. Buddha
6. Bodhi Tree
7. Tripitaka
8. Buddhism

II

- a. Siddhartha's son
- b. Enlightened one
- c. The three baskets
- d. Religion based on Buddha's teachings
- e. Siddhartha's father
- f. Tree of knowledge
- g. Charioteer
- h. Siddhartha's wife

D. Write true or false :

1. The king wanted his son to give up the pleasures of the world and become a hermit. ☐
2. Siddhartha married princess Yashodhara when he was forty. ☐
3. Siddhartha was quiet and gentle as a child. ☐
4. Siddhartha decided to teach the people what he had learnt. ☐
5. Siddhartha sat under the mango tree for meditation. ☐

VOCABULARY**A. Read these words aloud. Make sentences to bring out their difference :**

1. **Vine** :
- Wine** :
2. **Vice** :
- Wise** :
3. **Verse** :
- Worse** :
4. **Rode** :
- Road** :
5. **Weak** :
- Week** :
6. **Went** :
- Vent** :



B. Here are some words which describe happiness and others describe sadness. Place them in the correct column :

worried upset sorrow peace happy pain delighted content
dismayed suffering celebrate

Happiness

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Sadness

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C. Fill in the blanks with 'a', 'an' or 'the' where necessary. Where no article is needed, write 'x' :

- child was born to king and queen.
- king called prophet to bless little prince.
- It was beautiful bird as large as eagle.
- He walked to large banyan tree.
- Buddhism is religion based on teachings of Buddha.
- Tripitaka was first written on palm leaves.

GRAMMAR

A. Join each of the following pairs of sentences using either 'whom' or 'whose' :

Examples : (i) This is cobbler. I gave him my shoes to repair.

This is a cobbler whom I gave my shoes to repair.

(ii) This is a dog. Its colour is black.

This is a dog whose colour is black.

1. This is a cat. Everyone likes it.

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2. This is a singer. I saw her yesterday.

.....

3. It is a horse. Its master is very cruel.

.....



4. This is a robber. The police officer arrested him yesterday.

5. This is a tiger. Its cubs are very small.

B. Read the following sentences. Underline the subjects and put a box around the predicates. Then write them in the box :

1. Siddhartha grew up to be a very gifted child.

2. Yashodhara chose noble-looking Siddhartha to be her husband.

3. The Tripitaka was first written on palm leaves.

4. Chandaka, the charioteer took him to the town.

5. The banyan tree was called the Bodhi tree.

SUBJECT

PREDICATE

1. Siddhartha

grew up to be very gifted child.

2.

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3.

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4.

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5.

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COMPOSITION

Write the summary of Buddha's life in two paragraphs.

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