

The Buddha

The Buddha: Hello my name is Siddhartha Gautama. I live in a royal family in Nepal and I live in the palace. I have never been outside the palace. Everything I see is happy and well.

The Buddha's wife: Hello. I am Siddhartha Gautama's wife. Because we have now got married and had children, Siddhartha is going to come outside the palace and see what is on the other side.

Old Man: Hello Siddhartha, I am a very old man.

Poorly Man: Hello Siddhartha, I am a very poorly man. I am in pain and am unwell.

The Buddha: As well as meeting the old man and the poorly man I also saw the body of a man who had died. This made me very worried but also made me realise this happens to everyone, even if you have lots of money.

Holy Man: Hello Siddhartha. I am a holy man and all I wear is rags. I own nothing so I hold a bowl to beg for money and food. Even though I don't own anything I am very calm and at peace.

The Buddha: I don't understand how you can be so happy when you have nothing. Seeing the old man, the poorly man, the body of the man who had died and the holy man has made me think a lot. I want to know if there is more to life than sickness, old age and dying. I think I need to leave all my money behind me and find out for myself...

I dressed up as a monk and meditated under a tree called a Bodhi tree. I promised not to stand again until I found the truth. I thought about the past, present, future and the four men I had seen. I then realised there was a way to end pain and sadness and became wise and enlightened.

Narrator: Siddhartha began to teach people about what he had realised and people began to call him Buddha or 'teacher'. He taught them to lead good lives by being truthful, respecting others and doing good deeds.

