

The Beginning of Buddhism

Characters (6)- Narrator, King Suddhodana, Queen Maya, Siddhartha Gautama, Sage Asita, Charioteer.

Narrator: In 577 B.C.E, in a little village just south of the Himalayan foothills a beautiful boy was born.

King Suddhodana: Oh what a beautiful son we have oh queen Maya.

Queen Maya: Yes, King Suddhodana, such a handsome boy, What shall we name him?

King Suddhodana: I have called the great sage Asita who will come and bless our boy with such a name that he will be known to the entire cosmos.

Enter Sage Asita

Sage Asita: A boy of this beauty I have not seen in my entire life, I predict this boy will either become a great ruler known to the entire world for his bravery and willpower or that he shall become a sage with such radiance that even the heavens shall bow down to him.

King Suddhodana: Thank you oh great sage Asita. However, my wish is to have this boy follow in my path and become the rightful ruler of this kingdom. He shall vanquish his enemies with his fierce warrior skills and might, isn't that right Queen Maya?

Queen Maya: Yes, King Suddhodana, I would not bear to see him as a sage who needs to beg for food just to be able to survive another day.

Sage Asita: What you see, may or may not come true as this boy will have to choose his own destiny and once, he chooses, no one will be able to change his mind.

Queen Maya: As long as your blessings are with this child I have no worries, im sure he will choose the correct path that will have the power to change the world.

King Suddhodana: Oh Sage Asita, please have the honor of naming this child and giving him your blessings

Sage Asita: With my blessings I give this child the name of Siddhartha Gautama which means one who has accomplished a goal

Narrator: Fearing Sage Asita's Words of Siddhartha becoming a sage, King Suddhodana had locked him up in the castle where he could be free from the negative effects of society such as poverty, sickness etc.

Narrator: Due to Siddhartha growing up securely inside the palace walls, he was trained in all forms of combat such as archery, sword fighting, swimming and many more. Siddhartha was free from all the negativity in the outside society and due to that he had never experienced sorrow or sadness in his life.

Narrator: Hence King Suddhodana had arranged for him to get married to a beautiful princess called Gopa.

Narrator: During the wedding of Siddhartha and Gopa, many kings, princes and sages came to watch the beautiful union of two pure souls. They all gave him their blessings and left as soon as it was over. Many years later, Gopa had given birth to a baby boy called Rahula.

Narrator: One day Buddha grew sick of being stuck inside the palace walls and he secretly asked his charioteer to take him through the streets of Kapilavastu which was part of his kingdom.

Siddhartha: What is that man doing there?

Old Man walking with a walking stick

Charioteer: That is an old man, he is no longer as young as you

Siddhartha: Will that happen to me too?

Charioteer: Of course, time waits for no one and once it passes you, you shall age just like this old man as well.

Narrator: Hearing this Siddhartha began to worry

Siddhartha: What is that man doing there?

Sick man Coughing

Charioteer: That man is sick he is no longer strong and healthy like you.

Siddhartha: Will that happen to me too?

Charioteer: Of course, sickness waits for no one and once it passes through you, you shall get sick like this man as well.

Narrator: Hearing this Siddhartha began to tremble

Siddhartha: What is that man doing there?

Enter Dead Man

Charioteer: That man is dead, he is no longer in this world.

Siddhartha: Will that happen to me too?

Charioteer: Of course, death waits for no one and once it passes through you, you shall leave this world like this man as well.

Narrator: Hearing this Siddhartha asked the charioteer to turn around and go back home. During that night while sleeping, Siddhartha realized that this was not the life he was meant to be living as this life has no purpose at all so he said goodbye to his wife and child and left in the middle of the night to go and become a sage.

Narrator: Many years of begging and learning from other sages he stumbled upon a bodhi tree, there he sat and meditated for a long time. Seconds turned into hours and hours turned into Days. After 6 days had passed, he finally opened his eyes and saw the rising of the morning star and realized, what he had been looking for had never been lost, neither to him nor to anyone else. Therefore, there was nothing to attain, and no longer any struggle to attain it. After understanding this he reached enlightenment and became known as the Buddha.

END PLAY

Sadhan- Dhoti, Saal, Hiking Stick, n95 mask, Crown