Prince Siddhattha – the Buddha

When Prince Siddhattha was born, a wise man, Asita, told the King that his son would either be a King or a wandering teacher. King Suddhodana was worried: he wanted his son to stay in the palace for ever. He gave his son everything he could wish for!

As he grew up, Prince Siddhattha grew bored with his life of luxury. One day, his charioteer, Chana, took Siddhattha outside the palace gates. On the road, Prince Siddhattha saw an old man. 'Who is that?' he asked Chana. Chana explained that it was an old man. On a second visit outside the palace, Prince Siddhattha saw a sick man, and on a third visit, he saw a dead man. Prince Siddhattha was shocked when Chana explained that age, sickness and death happen to every living thing. When Chana drove Siddhattha outside the palace gates a fourth time, Siddhattha saw a holy man dressed in saffron robes. He had left his family and all his belongings to live a simple life, trying to understand what life is all about. He looked calm and wise.

Prince Siddhattha decided to follow the example of the holy man. He left his wife, his parents and the palace for a life of meditation. After many years, Prince Siddhattha came to understand important lessons about life. He spent his time travelling and teaching others. He became known as the Buddha, the Enlightened One!

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