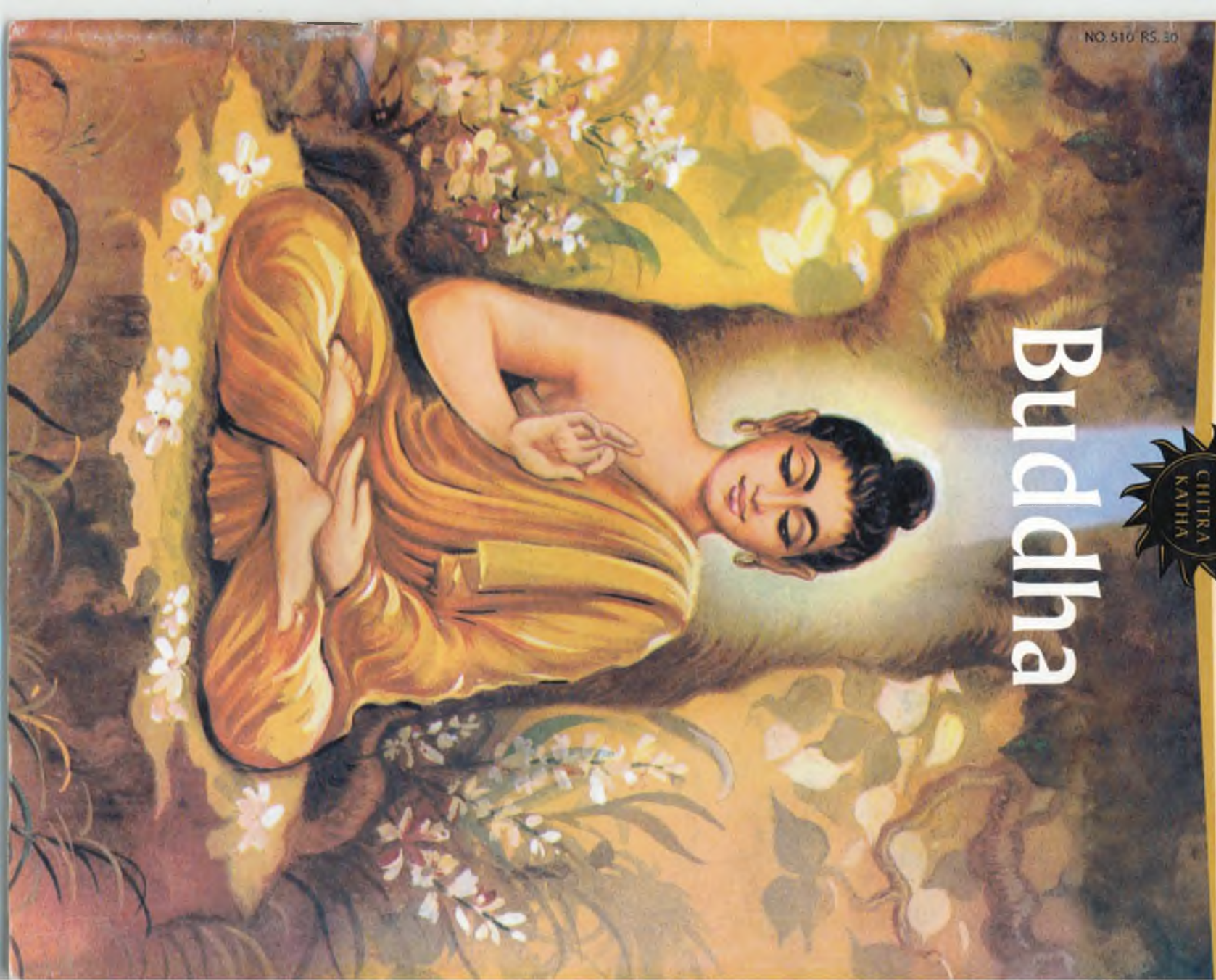




Buddha





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INDIA BOOK HOUSE

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IN THE HIMALAYAN FOOTHILLS, KAPILAVASTU WAS A SMALL BUT PROSPEROUS KINGDOM. THE SAKYAS RULED OVER IT. SUDDHODANA WAS THEIR KING.

ONE DAY, HIS QUEEN, MAYA-
DEVII, DREAMT THAT A
WHITE ELEPHANT WITH
SIX TUSKS, PIERCED HER
WOMB.



TEN MONTHS LATER THE QUEEN WAS
ON HER WAY TO HER FATHER'S HOUSE.
AS SHE WAS PASSING THROUGH A
BEAUTIFUL GROVE ON THE WAY TO
LUMBINI-



THE QUEEN GOT DOWN AND STARTED WALKING TOWARDS A SALA TREE
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
GARDEN. SUDDENLY -



THERE A BABY WAS BORN TO HER. IT WAS THE FULL MOON NIGHT
OF VAISAKHA. THERE WAS SILENCE ALL AROUND.

ON HEARING THE NEWS, THE KING RUSHED TO LUMBINI AND BROUGHT THE MOTHER AND THE CHILD TO THE PALACE. SAGE ASITA CAME TO THE PALACE TO SEE THE BABY.



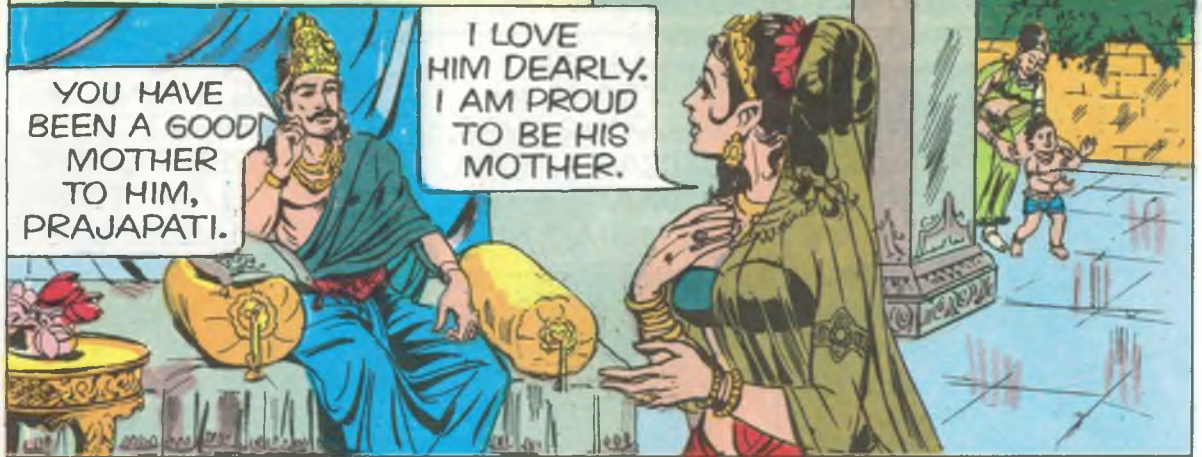
BOTH THE KING AND THE QUEEN WERE HAPPY. ON THE FIFTH DAY—



ON THE SEVENTH DAY AFTER THE BIRTH OF SIDDHARTHA—



AFTER A YEAR HAD PASSED—



AS SIDDHARTHA GREW, THE KING BECAME ANXIOUS ABOUT THE PROPHECY.



ONE DAY AS SIDDHARTHA WAS WALKING ALONG IN THE GARDEN—



SIDDHARTHA GENTLY REMOVED THE ARROW AND TENDED TO THE BIRD'S WOUND. SOME TIME LATER-

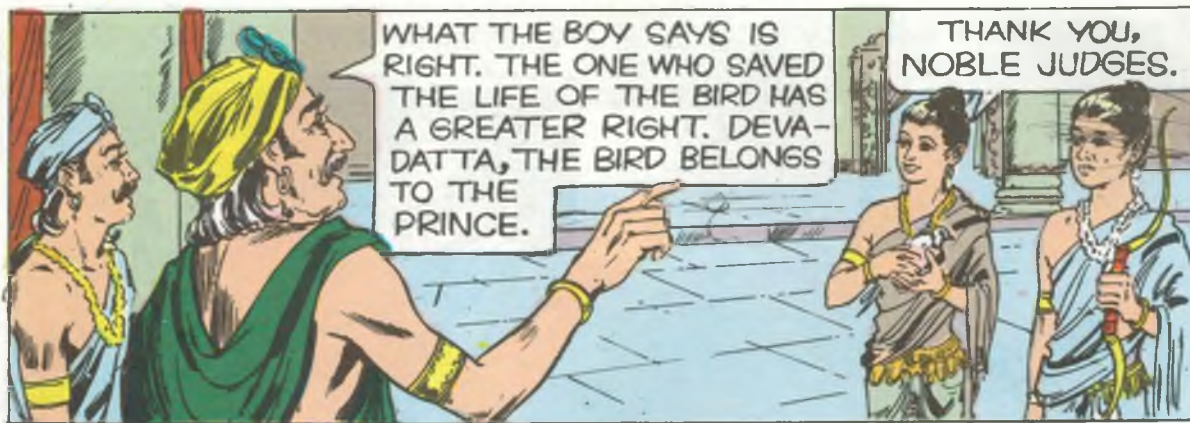


IT WAS DEVADATTA, SIDDHARTHA'S COUSIN.



THE MATTER WAS TAKEN TO THE COURT.





YEARS ROLLED BY. DANDAPANI, A SAKYAN NOBLE ARRANGED THE SWAYAMVARA OF HIS DAUGHTER, YASHODHARA. PRINCES FROM FAR AND NEAR CAME TO THE SWAYAMVARA.



YASHODHARA CHOSE SIDDHARTHA AS HER HUSBAND.



THE ASSEMBLED PRINCES WERE HURT BY YASHODHARA'S CHOICE. THEY APPROACHED DANDAPANI.



SIR THE PRINCESS SHOULD NOT BE MARRIED TO SIDDHARTHA. HE IS NOT A GOOD FIGHTER.

SIR, YOU SHOULD HOLD A TEST IN ARCHERY. THE PRINCESS SHOULD BE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE TO THE WINNER.

DANDAPANI TRIED TO PERSUADE HIS DAUGHTER.

YASHODHARA! CHOOSE SOMEONE ELSE AS YOUR HUSBAND.

FATHER, I HAVE MADE MY CHOICE. PLEASE AGREE TO IT.



WHEN THE NEWS REACHED KING SUDDHODANA, HE FELT SAD.

FATHER, WHY ARE YOU SAD?



THE PEOPLE DON'T THINK YOU ARE A GOOD WARRIOR.

FATHER, LET DANDAPANI HOLD A TEST. I WILL TAKE PART IN IT.

I AM HAPPY TO HEAR THAT. YOUR ANCESTORS WERE GREAT WARRIORS, SIDDHARTHA.



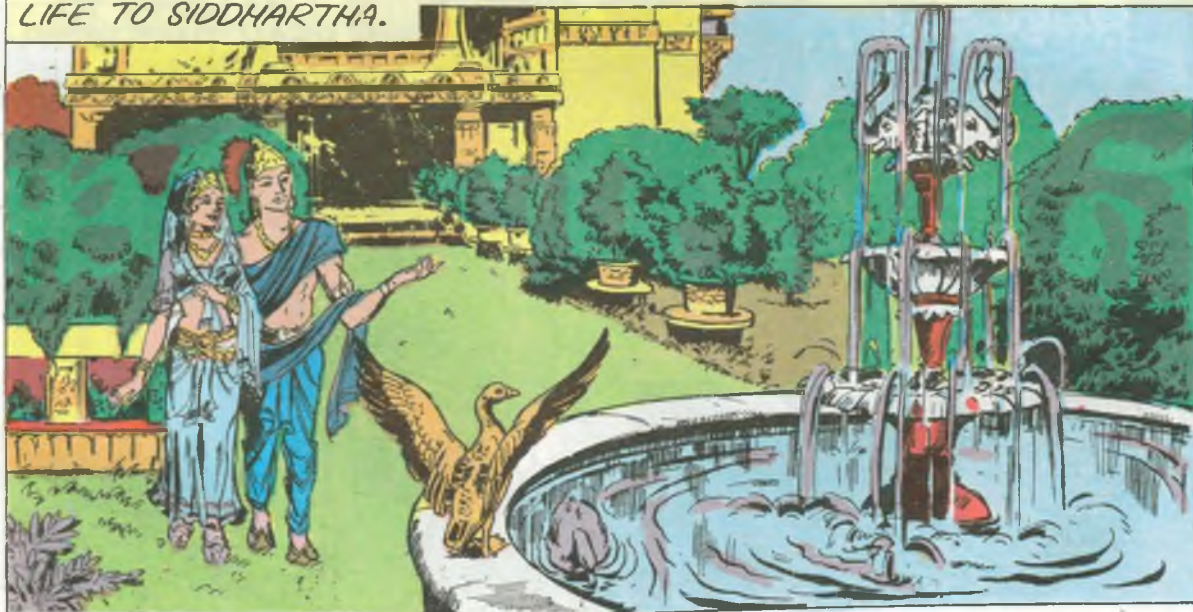
MANY GATHERED TO WITNESS THE TEST.



SIDDHARTHA AND YASHODHARA WERE MARRIED WITH GREAT POMP.



THE KING TRIED HIS BEST TO PROVIDE ALL THE COMFORTS OF LIFE TO SIDDHARTHA.



SOON, A SON WAS BORN TO THEM. KING SUDDHODANA WAS PLEASED WHEN HE HEARD THE NEWS.



ONE DAY...

FATHER, I WOULD LIKE TO GO OUT OF THE PALACE AND SEE MORE OF THE WORLD.

I WILL ORDER A CHARIOT FOR YOU. AFTER IT IS READY, YOU CAN GO OUT IN IT.



A FEW DAYS LATER, IN A BEAUTIFUL CHARIOT WITH FOUR HORSES DRIVEN BY CHANNA, SIDDHARTHA DROVE THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE CITY.



IN THE CITY, KING SUDDHODANA HAD ORDERED ALL SIGHTS OF UNHAPPINESS TO BE KEPT AWAY FROM SIDDHARTHA. BUT AS HE DROVE FURTHER—

CHANNA, WHO IS THIS? HIS HEAD IS WHITE. HE SEEMS VERY WEAK. HIS SKIN IS WRINKLED.

HE IS AN OLD MAN, MASTER! HE IS BENT WITH AGE.

DOES EVERYONE GET OLD, CHANNA?

YES, MY LORD! EVERYONE HAS TO GROW OLD.

WILL MY YASHODHARA ALSO GROW OLD? WILL MY STRENGTH GO AWAY WITH YEARS?

ON ANOTHER DAY—

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THIS MAN?

HE IS ILL, MY LORD! HE IS CRYING WITH PAIN.

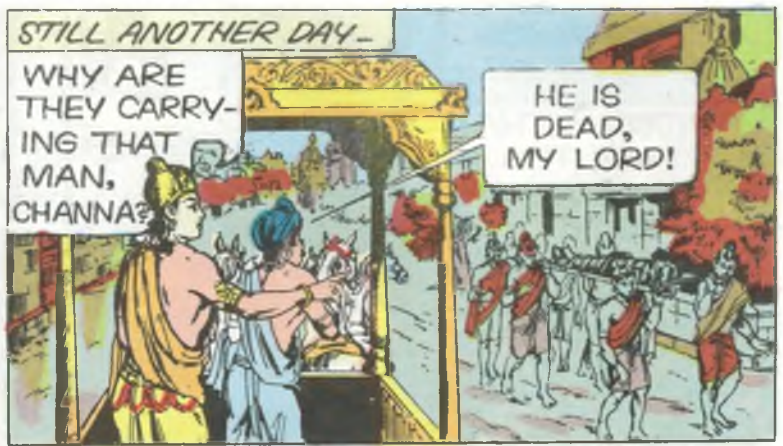
IS DISEASE PECULIAR TO HIM?

NO, MY LORD! ANYONE MAY FALL ILL IN HIS LIFETIME.



EVEN
I?

YES,
MASTER,
EVEN YOU.



STILL ANOTHER DAY—

WHY ARE
THEY CARRY-
ING THAT
MAN,
CHANNA?

HE IS
DEAD,
MY LORD!

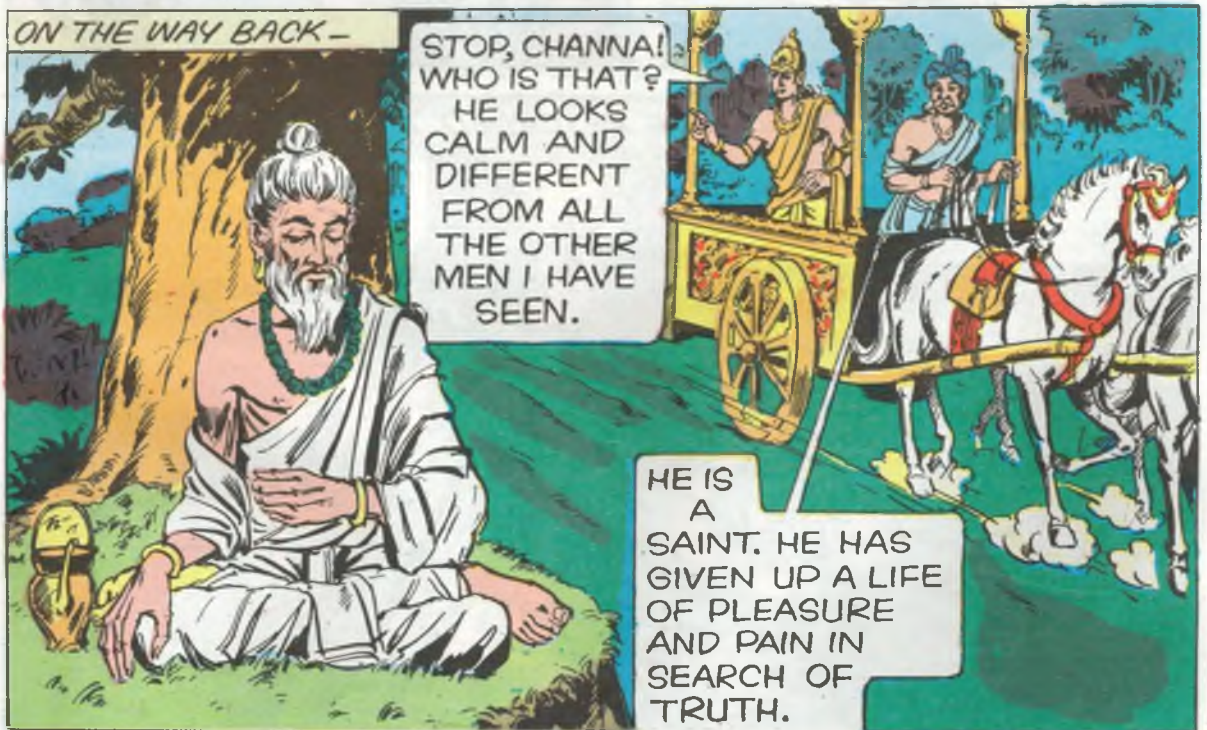


IS HE THE ONLY
DEAD MAN? OR
DO OTHERS ALSO
DIE?

EVERYONE
WHO IS BORN,
HAS TO DIE
SOME DAY.



I FEEL
SICK,
CHANNA.
LET US
RETURN
TO THE
PALACE.



ON THE WAY BACK—

STOP, CHANNA!
WHO IS THAT?
HE LOOKS
CALM AND
DIFFERENT
FROM ALL
THE OTHER
MEN I HAVE
SEEN.

HE IS
A
SAINT. HE HAS
GIVEN UP A LIFE
OF PLEASURE
AND PAIN IN
SEARCH OF
TRUTH.

AT THE PALACE—

SIDDHARTHA!
PLEASE TELL ME
THE CAUSE OF
YOUR
UNHAPPINESS!

MOTHER, I
HAVE LEARNT
THAT ALL THINGS
ALIVE AND
BEAUTIFUL KEEP
CHANGING. MEN
GROW OLD. MEN
FALL ILL AND
DIE. I FEEL UN-
HAPPY WHEN I
THINK OF THESE
THINGS.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT,
HE MADE THE DECISION.

I MUST FIND
A WAY TO END
SORROW. I WILL
GO IN SEARCH
OF TRUTH,
LIKE THAT
SAINT.

CHANNA GET MY
HORSE READY!
I WISH
TO
RIDE
OUT.

YES,
MASTER!

BEFORE LEAVING, THE PRINCE RETURNED TO THE BEDROOM OF
HIS WIFE, YASHODHARA
AND THE CHILD, RAHULA,
WERE FAST ASLEEP.

I CAN'T KISS RAHULA
GOODBYE; THAT
WILL AWAKEN
YASHODHARA.
I MUST GO.

SIDDHARTHA MOUNTED HIS HORSE AND RODE OUT, ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY CHANNA.



ONCE THEY WERE OUTSIDE THE CITY, SIDDHARTHA GOT DOWN FROM THE HORSE.



HE THEN CUT OFF HIS LONG HAIR AND WALKED ALONE.



LATER HE SAW A BEGGAR.

HALT, MY GOOD MAN! TAKE



SOON HE REACHED RAJAGRHA, THE CAPITAL OF MAGADHA. HE WENT FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE SILENTLY WAITING TILL THE PEOPLE OFFERED HIM FOOD. KING BIMBISARA OBSERVED HIM FROM HIS PALACE.



AS SOON AS THE MESSENGERS BROUGHT NEWS ABOUT SIDDHARTHA, KING BIMBISARA WENT TO MEET HIM.

YOU SEEM TO BE -
LONG TO A NOBLE
FAMILY. YOUR HAND
SHOULD NOT HOLD
A BEGGING BOWL,
BUT THE REINS OF
AN EMPIRE. I WILL
GIVE YOU A HIGH
POSITION IN MY
KINGDOM. COME.

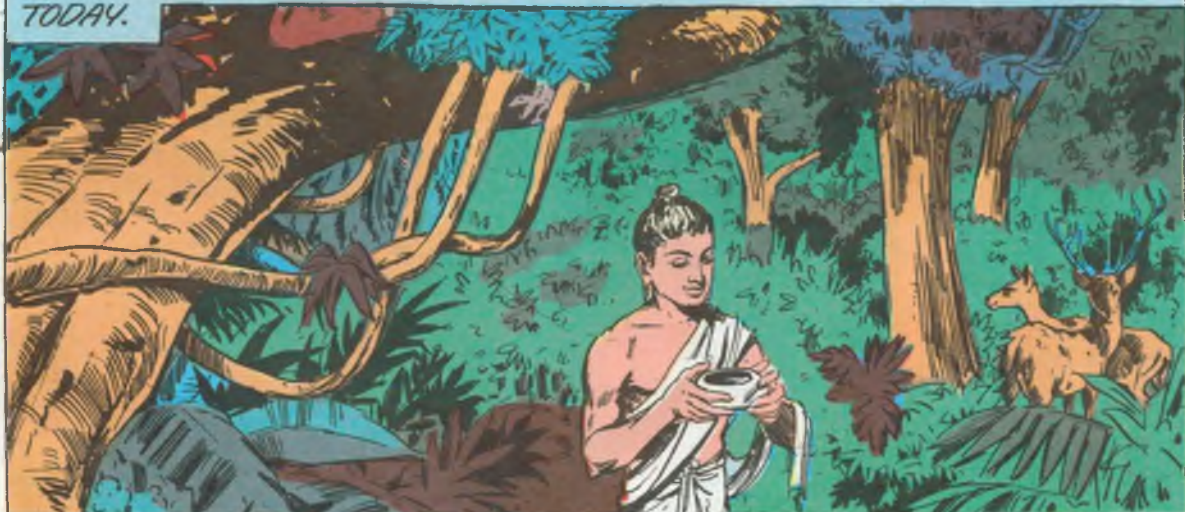


O KING, YOU ARE
KIND. BUT I CANNOT
ACCEPT YOUR
INVITATION.
I FEEL THAT
LIFE IS FULL
OF SORROW.
I WISH TO
FIND A WAY TO
END ALL SORROW.



IF THAT IS YOUR
WISH, I PRAY
THAT YOU
FIND IT.
PLEASE COME
AND TEACH
ME WHEN
YOU HAVE
FOUND THE
SOLUTION.

FROM RAJAGRIHA, SIDDHARTHA WENT IN SEARCH OF THE GREAT SAGES OF THOSE DAYS. NOT SATISFIED WITH THEIR TEACHINGS, HE ENTERED THE THICK JUNGLES OF URUBILVA, NEAR GAYA OF TODAY.



THERE WERE FIVE HERMITS IN THE JUNGLES OF URUBILVA.



SIDDHARTHA DRANK ONLY WATER AND ATE ONLY FRUITS AND HERBS. HE SLEPT ON THE HARD GROUND. AFTER SOME TIME HE STARTED EATING ONLY ONE HEMP GRAIN EVERY DAY. THIS MADE HIM VERY WEAK. ONE DAY, WHEN HE HAD GONE TO BATHE IN THE RIVER.



HE CAUGHT HOLD OF A LOW BRANCH OF A TREE AND RAISED HIMSELF WITH ITS SUPPORT.



BUT AS HE BEGAN TO WALK AWAY FROM THE BANK, HE FELT WEAK AND FELL DOWN.



SLOWLY HE GOT UP.



NEXT DAY, AS HE SAT BENEATH A BANIAN TREE, SWATA, DAUGHTER OF A HERDSMAN, CAME TO THAT SPOT. SHE OFFERED FOOD TO BUDDHA.



THANK YOU FOR FEEDING ME.



LATER—

HOW IS IT THAT YOU HAVE STARTED EATING FOOD AGAIN?

I HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT STARVING DOES NOT HELP IN REACHING THE TRUTH.



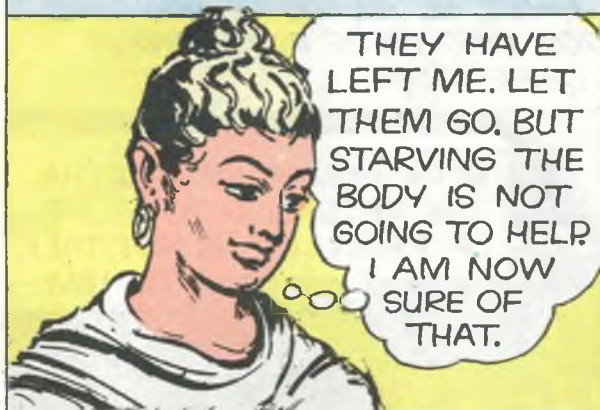
THE FIVE ASCETICS WERE DISAPPOINTED.

HE DOES NOT DESERVE OUR RESPECT.

YES, HE WANTS THE PLEASURES OF LIFE.



SIDDHARTHA NOW LIVED A LONELY LIFE.



HE MOVED TOWARDS A BODHI TREE AND SAT BENEATH IT.



HEAT AND COLD, HUNGER AND THIRST TROUBLED HIM. RAIN LASHED ON HIM.



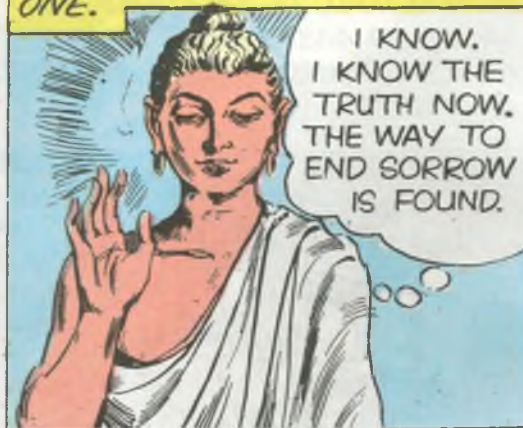
VISIONS OF THE LIFE OF PLEASURE FLOATED BEFORE HIS EYES. BUT NOTHING COULD TEMPT HIM.



AND THEN HE SAW LIGHT.



SIDDHARTHA BECAME THE BUDDHA, THE ENLIGHTENED ONE.



HE SPENT SEVEN WEEKS UNDER THE TREE ENJOYING HIS STATE OF PERFECT HAPPINESS. THEN HE WENT OUT INTO THE WORLD TO TEACH OTHERS. FIRST, HE WENT TO BANARAS, IN SEARCH OF THE FIVE ASCETICS, WHO WERE WITH HIM IN URUBILVA. HE FOUND THEM IN DEER PARK.



BUT AS SOON AS HE CAME NEAR, THEY GOT UP AND RECEIVED HIM WITH RESPECT.

I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU WHAT I HAVE FOUND. LISTEN!



AFTER THAT, HE RETURNED TO URUBILVA AND WENT TO THE HOUSE OF KASSHYAPA, A GREAT BRAHMAN.

WHEN THEY HEARD THE BUDDHA, THEY BECAME HIS DISCIPLES. THE SANGHA THUS CAME INTO BEING.

THERE IS GREAT SORROW IN THIS WORLD. THIS SORROW IS BECAUSE OF DESIRE. IF YOU CAN FREE YOURSELF FROM DESIRE, YOU WILL BE FREE FROM SORROW. I WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY TO REMOVE SORROW FROM THE MIND.



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT TO SPEND A NIGHT HERE.





YOU
ARE
WELCOME.
PLEASE
COME
IN.

*KASSHYAPA WAS A
WORSHIPPER OF AGNI,
THE GOD OF FIRE.*



MAY I
STAY IN
THE
ROOM,
WHERE YOU
KEEP
THE
SACRED
FIRE?



HAVEN'T YOU
HEARD THAT THE
SACRED FIRE IS
GUARDED BY A
SERPENT AT
NIGHT? THE
SERPENT WILL
BITE YOU IF
YOU GO NEAR
THE FIRE.

I AM NOT AFRAID.
PLEASE ALLOW ME
TO SPEND THE
NIGHT THERE.

*AT LAST KASSHYAPA AGREED.
BUDDHA SAT SILENTLY
BEFORE THE FIRE. KASSHYAPA
WENT TO SLEEP OUTSIDE.*



EARLY NEXT MORNING -

LET ME GO AND
LOOK FOR HIM.
HE MUST BE
DEAD. POOR
MAN!



WHEN HE WENT INSIDE THE ROOM, HE SAW BUDDHA SITTING PEACEFULLY. THE LIGHT FROM THE FIRE SHONE ON HIS FACE.



I ACCEPT YOU AS MY MASTER. TEACH ME.

BUDDHA TAUGHT KASSHYAPA AND MANY OTHERS IN URUBILVA.



ONE DAY-

MASTER, I HAVE HEARD THAT KING BIMBISARA WILL BE CELEBRATING A GREAT YAGNA.

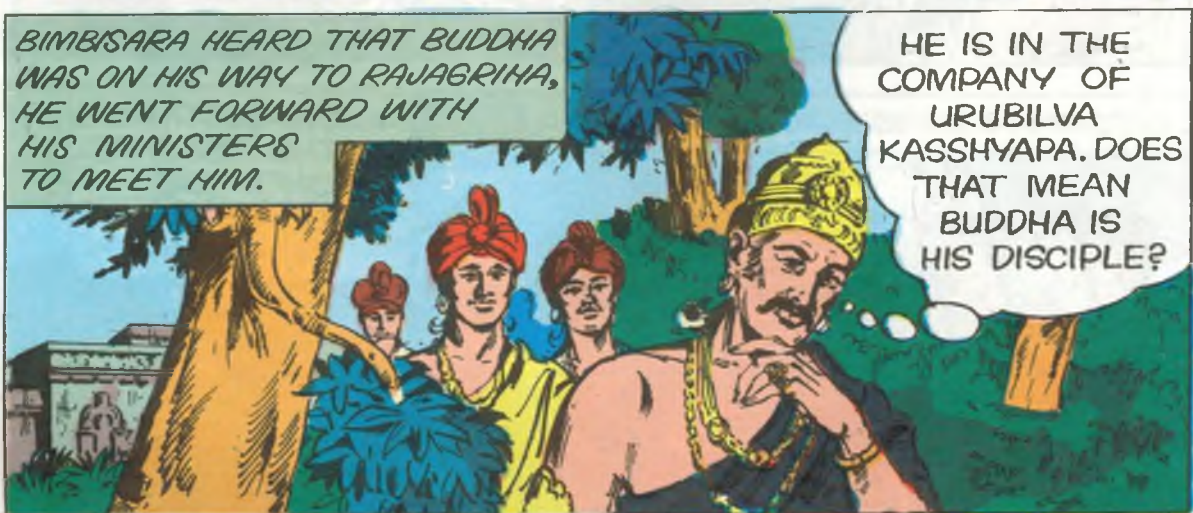
LET US GO TO RAJAGRIHA.



ON THEIR WAY TO RAJAGRIHA, THEY SAW A HERD OF SHEEP. THERE WAS A LAME LAMB. BUDDHA LIFTED IT IN HIS ARMS.



POOR THING, IT MUST HAVE BEEN SUFFERING A LOT OF PAIN.





O KING, KILLING
OF INNOCENT
ANIMALS
CANNOT BE
A GOOD DEED.
THE WAY TO
HAPPINESS DOES
NOT LIE
IN YAGNA.



THE KING TURNED TO KASSHYAPA.

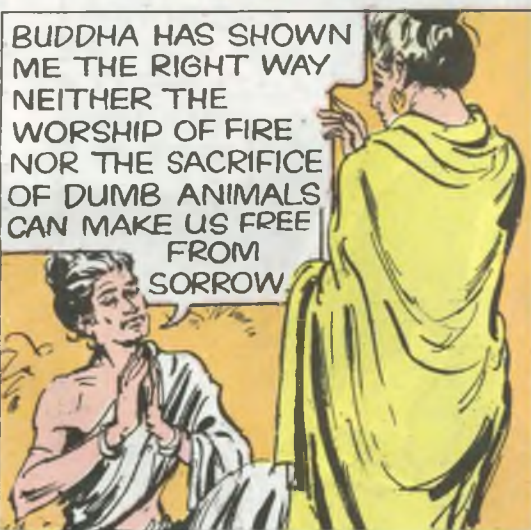
WHAT HAS THE GREAT
KASSHYAPA TO SAY? YOU
ARE KNOWN AS A WORSHIP-
PER OF
FIRE.

KASSHYAPA BOWED TO BUDDHA.

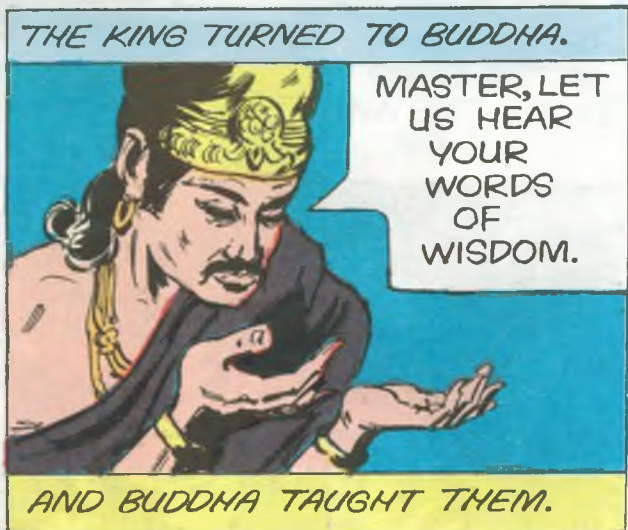


I AM A
DISCIPLE
OF
BUDDHA.

I SEE. BUDDHA
IS THE TEACHER.
DON'T YOU
ALSO BELIEVE
IN YAGNA?



BUDDHA HAS SHOWN
ME THE RIGHT WAY
NEITHER THE
WORSHIP OF FIRE
NOR THE SACRIFICE
OF DUMB ANIMALS
CAN MAKE US FREE
FROM
SORROW.



THE KING TURNED TO BUDDHA.

MASTER, LET
US HEAR
YOUR
WORDS
OF
WISDOM.

AND BUDDHA TAUGHT THEM.

LORD, I HAVE GIVEN
UP THE IDEA OF
PERFORMING YAGNA.
I TAKE REFUGE
IN BUDDHA.



NEXT DAY, THE KING INVITED BUDDHA
AND HIS DISCIPLES FOR A MEAL AT HIS
PALACE. AFTER THE MEAL WAS OVER...

LORD, I GIVE VENUVANA,
MY GARDEN AS A
GIFT TO THE SANGHA.
PLEASE ACCEPT IT.



ONE DAY, KRISHA GOTAMI BROUGHT BEFORE BUDDHA HER
DEAD CHILD.

MASTER, PLEASE BRING
IT BACK TO LIFE. IT IS MY
ONLY CHILD.



CONTROL YOUR GRIEF.
DO AS I SAY. GET ME
A FEW MUSTARD
SEEDS FROM ANY
HOUSE, WHERE NO
DEATH HAS TAKEN
PLACE. AND I
WILL BRING
BACK TO LIFE
YOUR CHILD.



FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE KRISHA GOTAMI WENT.

I LOST
MY HUSBAND
LAST YEAR!

I LOST MY TWO
CHILDREN.

MY
MOTHER
DIED
YESTERDAY.



DISAPPOINTED KRISHNA GOTAMI
CAME BACK TO BUDDHA.

LORD! I COULD
NOT FIND A
PLACE WHERE
NO DEATH HAS
OCCURRED.



MY CHILD ALL THAT IS BORN,
MUST DIE ONE DAY. THERE IS
ULTIMATELY NOTHING BUT
SORROW IN LIFE.
IT IS FREEDOM
FROM DESIRE
THAT FREES US
FROM SORROW.



AFTER A FEW YEARS, AT SUDDHODANA'S COURT.

LORD! OUR PRINCE HAS BECOME
FAMOUS. MANY HAVE BECOME
HIS DISCIPLES. THEY ARE
SPREADING HIS TEACHINGS.

GO TO SIDDHARTHA
AND TELL HIM
THAT I AM GROW-
ING OLD AND WISH
TO SEE HIM BEFORE
I DIE.



WHEN BUDDHA REACHED KAPILAVASTU...

WELCOME MY
SON! I WISH YOU
WOULD BECOME
KING.

I AM SORRY. I HAVE
CHOSEN THE PATH
OF PEACE.



THE KING ARRANGED FOR BUDDHA'S STAY IN A GROVE NEARBY.

NEXT MORNING—

LORD, THE PRINCE IS GOING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE TO RECEIVE ALMS IN THE CITY!!

QUICK, LEAD ME TO HIM.



MY SON, MUST YOU BEG?

BUT IT IS OUR CUSTOM.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU ARE DESCENDED FROM KINGS.

O GREAT KING, YOU CLAIM DESCENT FROM KINGS. MY DESCENT IS FROM THE BUDDHAS OF OLD. THEY ALWAYS BEGGED FOR THEIR FOOD AND LIVED ON ALMS.



ONCE THEY REACHED THE PALACE, BUDDHA SPOKE SOFTLY TO ALL THOSE THAT HAD GATHERED.

HIS WORDS ARE THE WORDS OF A GREAT MAN.

THEY BRING PEACE TO THE HEART.



BUDDHA NOTICED THAT YASHODHARA WAS NOT PRESENT.



WHERE IS
YASHODHARA?

SHE HAS
REFUSED
TO COME.

SHE HAS BEEN VERY UN-
HAPPY EVER SINCE YOU
LEFT. SHE HAS CUT HER
HAIR, WEARS SIMPLE
CLOTHES AND EATS
SPARINGLY JUST
AS YOU DID.



WITH TWO OF HIS DISCIPLES, BUDDHA
WENT TO YASHODHARA'S CHAMBER.



I MUST TRY
TO HEAL
THE SORROW
IN HER
HEART.

WHEN YASHODHARA
SAW BUDDHA, SHE FELL
AT HIS FEET AND
WEPT.



THEN REMEMBERING THAT
OTHERS WERE PRESENT,
SHE GOT UP AND SAT AT A
LITTLE DISTANCE.



BUDDHA SPOKE WORDS OF COMFORT.

A WEEK AFTER BUDDHA CAME TO KAPILAVASTU.

RAHULA, DO YOU SEE THE MAN SITTING THERE IN THE CENTRE? HE IS YOUR FATHER. GO TO HIM AND ASK FOR YOUR SHARE OF HIS PROPERTY.



RAHULA WENT TO BUDDHA.

FATHER! MY MOTHER SENT ME TO ASK YOU FOR MY SHARE OF YOUR PROPERTY.



BUDDHA TURNED TO SARI-PUTRA, HIS DISCIPLE.

MY SON ASKS FOR HIS INHERITANCE. WELL THEN, TAKE HIM IN THE SANGHA.



AFTER RAHULA JOINED THE SANGHA, MANY YOUNG MEN OF THE ROYAL FAMILY ALSO JOINED. AMONGST THEM WAS DEVADATTA. HE ALSO MOVED ABOUT WITH BUDDHA. ONE DAY-

MASTER, YOU SHOULD REST. I SHALL LEAD THE SANGHA.

NO, DEVA-DATTA THE SANGHA STILL NEEDS MY GUIDANCE.



DEVADATTA FELT JEALOUS OF BUDDHA. HE WENT TO RAJAGRIHA AND MET AJATASATRU, SON OF KING BIMBISARA.

PRINCE AJATASATRU!
HOW LONG CAN YOU
WAIT TO BECOME
A KING?
PUT YOUR
FATHER
IN PRISON
AND BE A
KING
YOURSELF.

IT IS A GOOD IDEA,
DEVADATTA. I
WILL DO AS
YOU SAY.

AJATASATRU DID AS DEVA-
DATTA ADVISED HIM.

IT IS NICE TO
BE A KING.
THANK YOU,
DEVADATTA!
IF YOU WANT
MY HELP IN
ANYTHING,
ASK FOR IT.

I NEED
YOUR HELP,
KING
AJATASATRU.
HELP ME
KILL BUDDHA.
I HATE
HIM.

DEVADATTA TRIED MANY WAYS
TO KILL BUDDHA.

LOOK OUT!
A BIG STONE
IS ROLLING
DOWN
TOWARDS
BUDDHA.

SIT WHERE
YOU ARE. NO
HARM WILL
COME TO ME.



THE ROCK SPLIT INTO TWO AND A PIECE FELL ON EITHER SIDE OF BUDDHA.



MANY OF DEVADATTA'S FOLLOWERS CAME TO JOIN THE SANGHA OF BUDDHA.

THE ROCK DID NOT KILL HIM.



HE LOOKS FRAIL, BUT HE IS GREAT. LET US GO TO HIM.

I HEAR, MANY OF MY FOLLOWERS HAVE JOINED HIS SANGHA. WHY NOT SET AN ELEPHANT ON HIM?



YET ANOTHER ORDER FROM AJATA-SATRU.

INTOXICATE THE ELEPHANT NALAGIRI, AND THEN LET HIM LOOSE IN THE PATH OF BUDDHA.



RUN, RUN, NALAGIRI IS FREE. HE HAS RUINED HALF THE TOWN ALREADY. TWENTY MEN HAVE BEEN KILLED.



MASTER, LET US HIDE. A WILD ELEPHANT IS COMING THIS WAY.

NO, HE WON'T HARM US.



NALAGIRI CAME THUMPING ALONG AND RUSHED TOWARDS BUDDHA IN A MAD FURY.



BUDDHA SMILED AND RAISED HIS HAND. THE ELEPHANT, AT ONCE CALMED, KNELT AT HIS FEET.



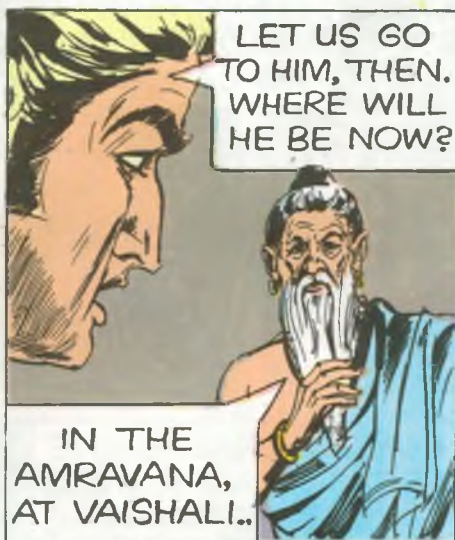
AJATASATRU WAS AN UNHAPPY MAN. HE FELL ILL OFTEN. JIVAKA WAS HIS PHYSICIAN.

JIVAKA, WHY DO I SUFFER?



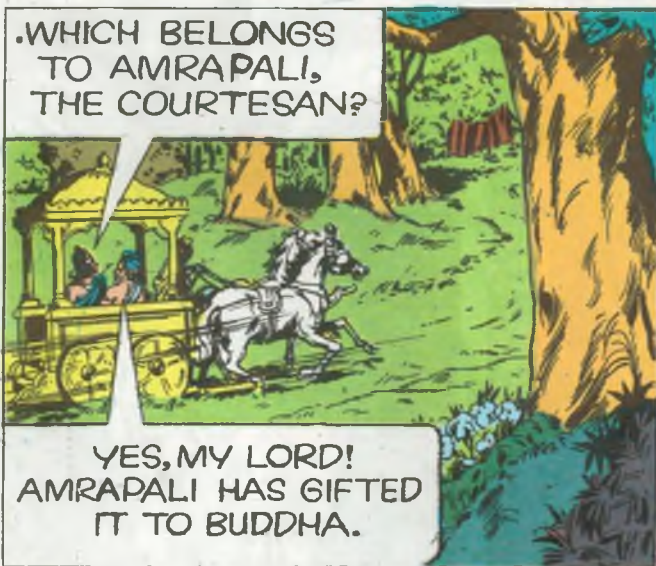
YOUR AILMENT IS NOT PHYSICAL BUT SPIRITUAL ONLY BUDDHA CAN HELP YOU.

LET US GO TO HIM, THEN. WHERE WILL HE BE NOW?



IN THE AMRAVANA, AT VAISHALI..

WHICH BELONGS TO AMRAPALI, THE COURTESAN?



YES, MY LORD! AMRAPALI HAS GIFTED IT TO BUDDHA.

WHEN AJATASATRU REACHED AMRAVANA- HE IS

I HEARD NO SOUND. WHERE IS BUDDHA?

HERE WITH OVER TWELVE HUNDRED DISCIPLES



AJATASATRU'S MIND TROUBLED HIM.

TWELVE HUNDRED PEOPLE! NOT A SOUND OF HUMAN HABITATION HERE!! HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE TO BE KILLED? IS IT A PLOT OF YOURS?

MY LORD! TRUST ME. LET US GO AHEAD.



AND AJATASATRU WAS SPELL-BOUND WHEN HE SAW THE ASSEMBLY OF MEN LISTENING QUIETLY TO THE GREAT TEACHER.

ALL SUFFERING AND PAIN, FEAR AND HATRED, COME FROM DESIRE. THE MAN WHO IS FREE FROM ALL DESIRE, NEED NOT WORRY. WHOM HAS HE TO FEAR?

HOW SOOTHING!



AJATASATRU BECAME A DISCIPLE OF BUDDHA.

NOT MUCH LATER, DEVADATTA ALSO REPENTED. ONE DAY, HE SAID TO HIS FOLLOWERS-

CHILDREN, TAKE ME TO BUDDHA. HE ALONE CAN BRING PEACE TO MY TROUBLED MIND.



THE MEN CARRYING DEVADATTA KEPT DOWN THE LITTER AND WENT TO REFRESH THEMSELVES.



WHERE HAVE MY MEN GONE? I AM IN A HURRY TO MEET BUDDHA.

BEFORE HE COULD REACH BUDDHA, HE TOTTERED AND FELL.



I AM DYING. BUT NOW I KNOW THAT BUDDHA IS INDEED THE ENLIGHTENED ONE - THE TEACHER OF ALL. I TAKE REFUGE IN HIM.



BUDDHAM
SARANAM
GACCHAMI

SANGHAM
SARANAM
GACCHAMI

DHAMMAM
SARANAM
GACCHAMI

BUDDHA LIVED TO A RIPE OLD AGE. MILLIONS TOOK REFUGE IN HIM AND IN HIS TEACHINGS. PEOPLE, WHO SPOKE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AND BELONGED TO DISTANT LANDS BECAME HIS FOLLOWERS.



Illustrated Classics From India

Buddha

Gautama Buddha was one of the most exceptional of free thinkers and religious leaders. Buddha was born as Prince Siddhartha to King Suddhodana and Queen Mayadevi in the Himalayan kingdom of Kapilavastu in 544 BC. Sage Asita visited the palace and predicted that the baby will live to be either the greatest of kings or the greatest of saints. Frightened by the prophecy, Suddhodana took great care to ensure that the young prince was surrounded only by beauty, luxury and happiness.

Years later, restless in his gilded cocoon, Siddhartha set out to explore his kingdom and was greatly moved at the state of human suffering. One fine day, he renounced the world and began a life of severe asceticism to seek an answer to life and sorrow, to seek the ultimate truth.

His search led him to enlightenment that liberated and illuminated him as he pondered under a Bodhi tree. He became the Buddha at the age of 35. He realised that the body need not suffer or starve to seek the truth. He adopted the "middle-path", that of moderation. He returned to preach what he had learnt and experienced, and did it with compassion for his fellow beings.

The noble Buddha then formed his first sangha and travelled through numerous lands for several years spreading his wisdom, reforming many kings and nobles and winning hundreds of followers. Buddha's gospel slowly spread further east, to the Asian countries, and became famous throughout the world. Today, the Buddha has followers across the world, but the largest numbers are concentrated in the South East Asian countries.

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