The Story of the Buddha

Many years ago there was a prince who lived in a palace in India. The prince was loved by his father, the king. The king didn't want the prince to see life outside the palace. The prince grew up without learning about illness, death and other types of suffering.

When he was older the prince decided to look at the world outside the palace. While travelling in his chariot the prince saw an old man leaning on a stick. It was the first time he had seen an old person.

The prince then came across a beggar covered in sores. It was the first time the prince had seen someone who was poor and ill.

Next the prince saw saw a dead man. The prince was very sad and shocked. It was the first time the prince had seen a dead man.

After his trip outside the palace the prince wanted to find out what caused the suffering he had seen. The prince gave up his rich life and became a holy man. After many years the prince found the answer to the questions. Suffering, he said, was caused by selfishness, greed and hatred. The way to stop suffering, he also said, was to stop selfishness, greed and hatred.

Many people listened to the prince. He became known as the Buddha. 'Buddha' means 'the one who has found the answers'.