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HHS113

24 February 2023

Response to The Life of The Buddha

1. What events led Siddhartha to leave the palace and seek answers to the "pain of existence"?

Siddhartha's first experience of reality beyond the Palace walls changed how he viewed the world, it literally opened a new door for him. Witnessing the difficulty of the farmer plowing through the land, a bird eating a freshly dug out worm, he asked the question why living beings had to suffer like this, he was convinced that everything was interconnected. This naturally led him into a meditative state which became a central aspect of his preaching.

2. What challenges did he face in his quest to find enlightenment?

The Brahman religion was the first challenge Siddhartha had to face. Brahmanism dominated all wisdom and knowledge, which dominated all aspects of life. He challenges Brahmanism by stating: One does not become a Brahman by birth, One becomes a Brahman by living well, One does not become an outcast by birth, One becomes an outcast by living badly.

This is very much a challenge to the cultural framework of that period and challenges the caste system that dominated the country.

3. Describe "the Middle Way" of peace and harmony he sought.

It is said in the film that Siddhartha was observing a musician tune his sitar, when the string was to slack the instrument did not resonate, when the string was too tight it snapped, somewhere in the middle is where it would resonate with a beautiful tone. This is the "Middle Way" of harmony that he sought. Not too