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World Civilization

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"The Buddha"

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

He always grew up inside of the palace around with his father's authority and wealthiness. However, he was always interested in understanding the nature of the world around him rather than the military and his father's kingdom. Once his father let him out of the palace, he saw the glimpse of the reality outside of the palace's wall and it changed his life. He saw the growth, illness, and death, and when he saw all of this, he understood that nothing in this world is permanent. Because of this, he felt that he had to leave the palace, his wife, and child behind to seek the answers to life suffering.

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

As seeking for enlightenment, his mind was focused. He started to enter the darkest reaches of his unconscious. The demon Mara appeared before him and made any horror in his mind real. Mara unleashed an army of demons to attack him and fired arrows of fire towards him, but Siddhartha turned them into lotus blossoms. Then Mara tried to seduce Siddhartha with his tempting three daughters. Soon, the faces of the daughters started to rot and they disappeared into the earth. Siddhartha realized that Mara is an aspect of himself, and the total recognition of this was his enlightenment.

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

Buddha uses the Middle Way as mindfulness or awareness of the body, which neither ignores it or tries to forcefully mastery, it is the Middle Way, the state of absolute wisdom and everlasting bliss, known as enlightenment