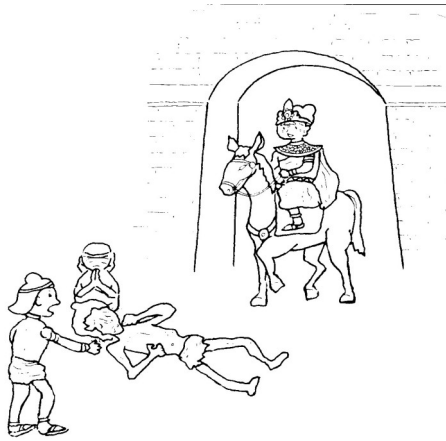
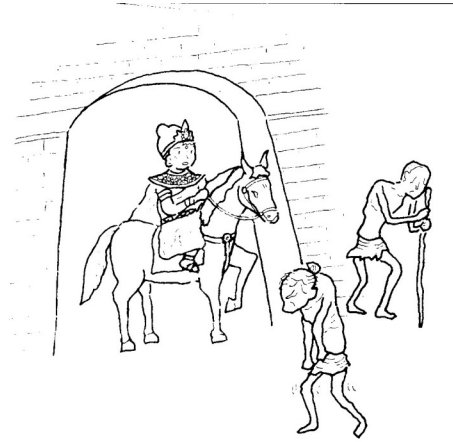


Chapter 7

Seeing the Reality of the World Outside the Four Gates

“Do I also die? If I was dead, Rahula and Princess Yashodhara would be lonesome just as I was when my mother died. Is there any way for a man to live forever? Is there any way to be free from birth, old age, sickness and death? How is it possible for a person to be free from these sufferings and to have peace of mind?”

One day he went out of the palace with several servants. At first, he went out of the east gate and saw an old man who looked lonesome. His back was bent and he was mumbling meaningless words. Although Siddhartha had no way to understand his mumbling, the Prince seemed to understand the old man might be worried about the uncertainty of his life. He was afraid of sickness and death.



The next day he went out of the castle from the south gate. He and his attendants saw a very sick man. The man said with a very weak voice, “I don’t want to die!”

On the third day, they went out of the west gate and saw a funeral procession. The people looked very sad. Some people were crying. The Prince saw these grieving people and thought his own heart would break. He thought, “Why must a man

die? A child grieves with the death of his parent. Parents are sad with the death of their child. A husband mourns the death of his wife. A wife laments her husband's death. Why is a man's life so uncertain?"



Lastly, Prince Siddhartha went out of the north gate. A pure hearted monk was waiting for the Prince. He bowed to the Prince respectfully. At that time, Siddhartha felt something strange. It felt like pure spring water had sprung up within him. He later made up his mind.

