

## Chapter 4 THE PRINCE'S WORRY

“Why did my mother die and leave me, a new born baby? My mother must have been so sad to leave me alone! Why do people have to die?” Prince Siddhartha often thought about his mother’s death for many hours and days.

The wise Prince, thinking about his father and foster mother feelings, never showed that he was lonesome and sad in front of them. But when he was alone, he thought about his dead mother. One spring day he saw a farmer plowing his field. He noticed a bird descending to the ground and carrying off a small worm which had been turned up from the earth by the farmer’s plough. He thought about it, whispering to himself, “Alas! Do all living creatures kill each other?” He, who had lost his mother so soon after his birth, was deeply affected by the tragedy of these little creatures.

“Why did you die? Why can I not be happy, while my parents and people of the kingdom are joyous about me becoming a great King? Why am I not excited to be a king? To become a king, I must fight with other countries and kill many people. The children of the killed and wounded people must feel lonesome and sad. I do not want to be a king who makes others suffer, defeats the weak, and gains their lands and estates. How can men be equal and happy? How can families live together and help each other live in peace and harmony?” Thus, Prince Siddhartha was talking to his dead mother.

