

Balvikas - Homework

BUDDHISM Question Sheet 3

1) Upon leaving the palace Buddha saw four signs of an old man, a dieing man, an ill man and an ascetic (wandering saint). This prompted Buddha to ask which one of the following questions?

- a) Why do people have to die? or
- b) Why do people get ill? or
- c) Why do we have to get old? or
- d) What is an ascetic? or
- e) Dieing, illness and old age seem to bring suffering. What is the cause of suffering? How can the world be free from suffering? Can the ascetic show me a way to get out of suffering?

2) What did the 5 wandering monks try to teach Buddha? Did this relieve Buddha from his suffering?

3) After starving himself Buddha realised that punishing himself like that would not release him from suffering. He then taught that human beings should try to follow the middle path. Try and guess what Buddha meant by the middle path and fill in what you think are the write words in the blank spaces below.

THE MIDDLE PATH MEANS NOT HAVING OR DOING TOO _____ OF ANYTHING AND ALSO NOT HAVING OR DOING TOO _____ BUT ALWAYS HAVING OR DOING JUST ENOUGH.

4) What did Buddha do then to try and find the answer to his question about suffering?

5) What are the four noble truths?

For those under 6 years of age, colour in the picture below. It shows Buddha attaining enlightenment.

