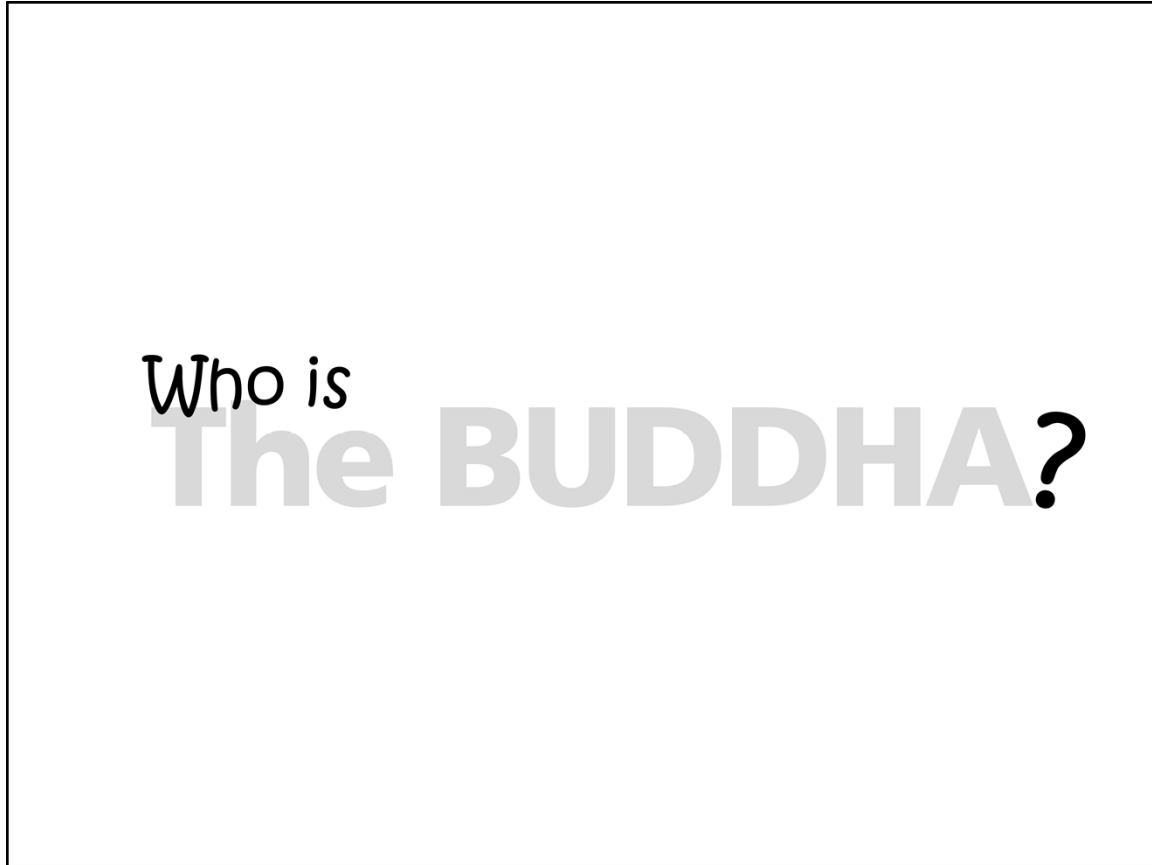


**Module 3: Classical Civilizations and Religious Traditions**  
**Topic 4 Content: Who is the Buddha?**

**Introduction**

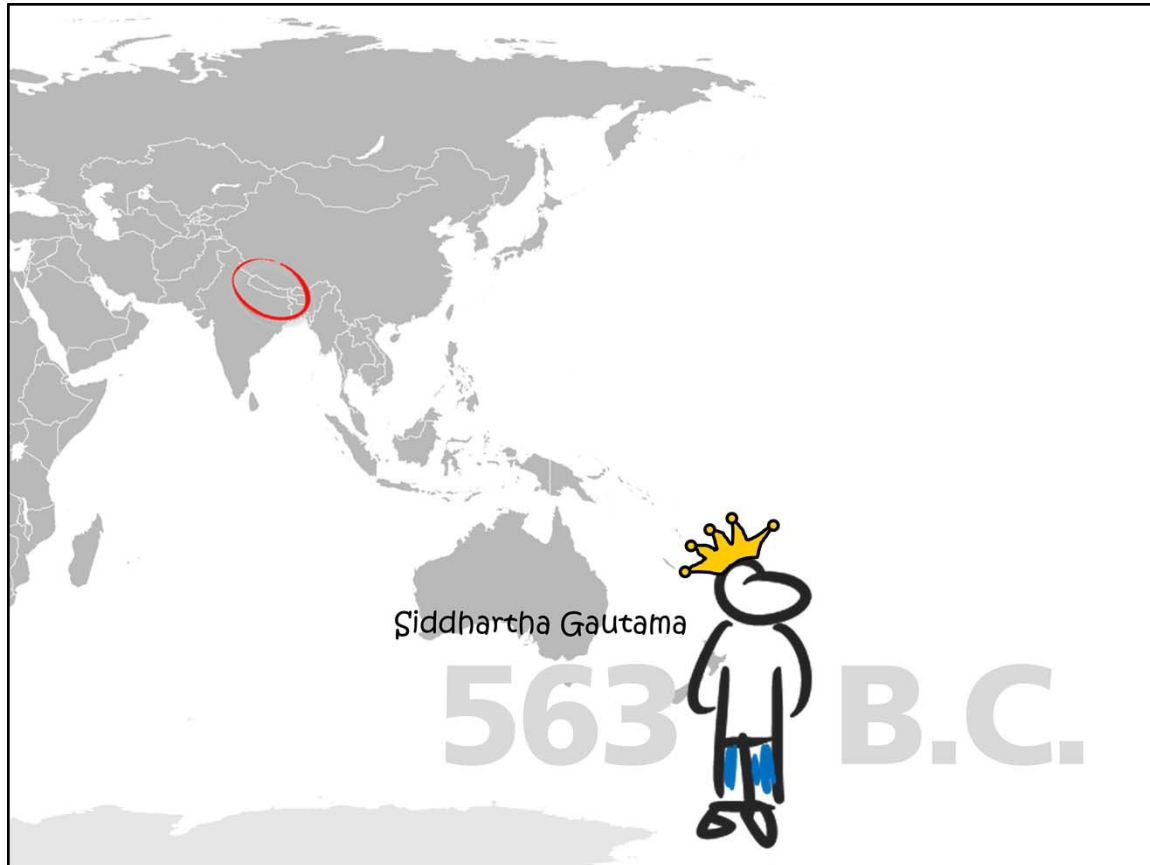


Who is the Buddha?

## Module 3: Classical Civilizations and Religious Traditions

### Topic 4 Content: Who is the Buddha?

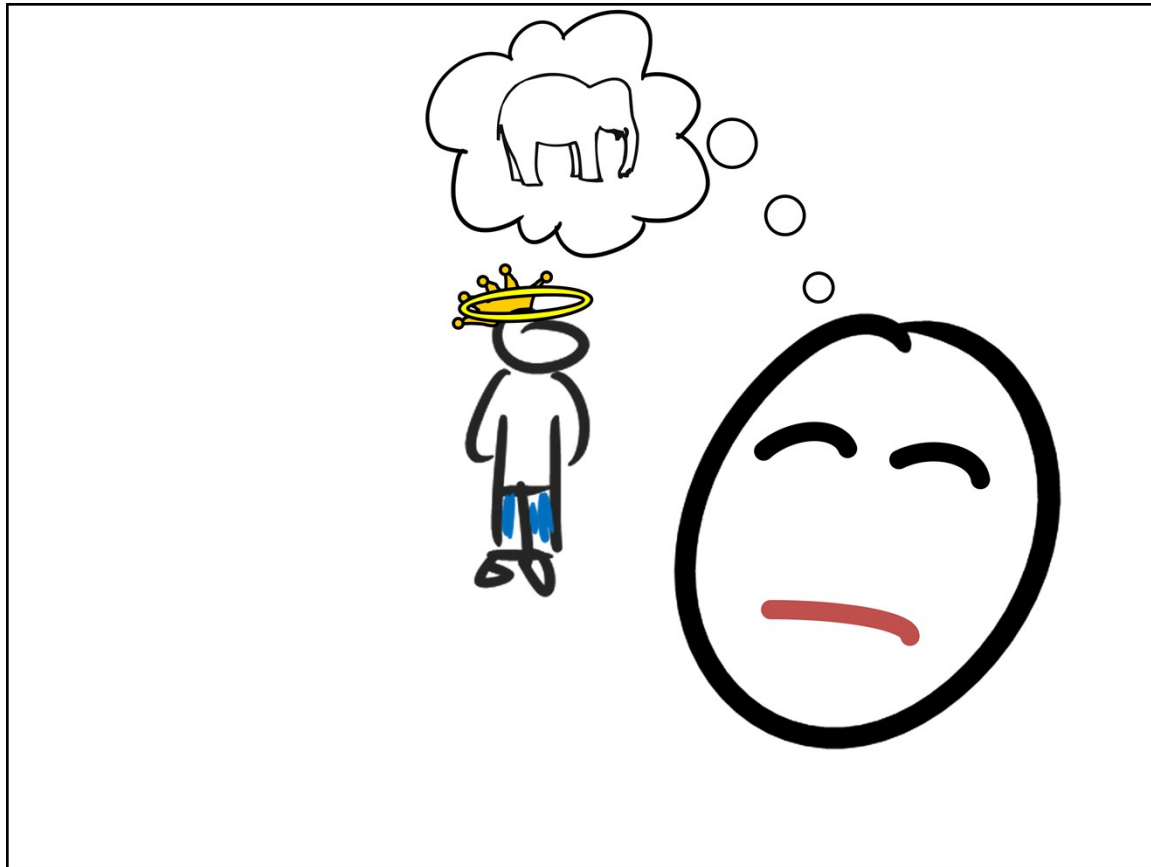
#### Birth



Siddhartha Gautama was born a prince around 563 B.C. (B.C.E.) in an area near the Himalaya Mountains in Nepal.

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**White Elephant**

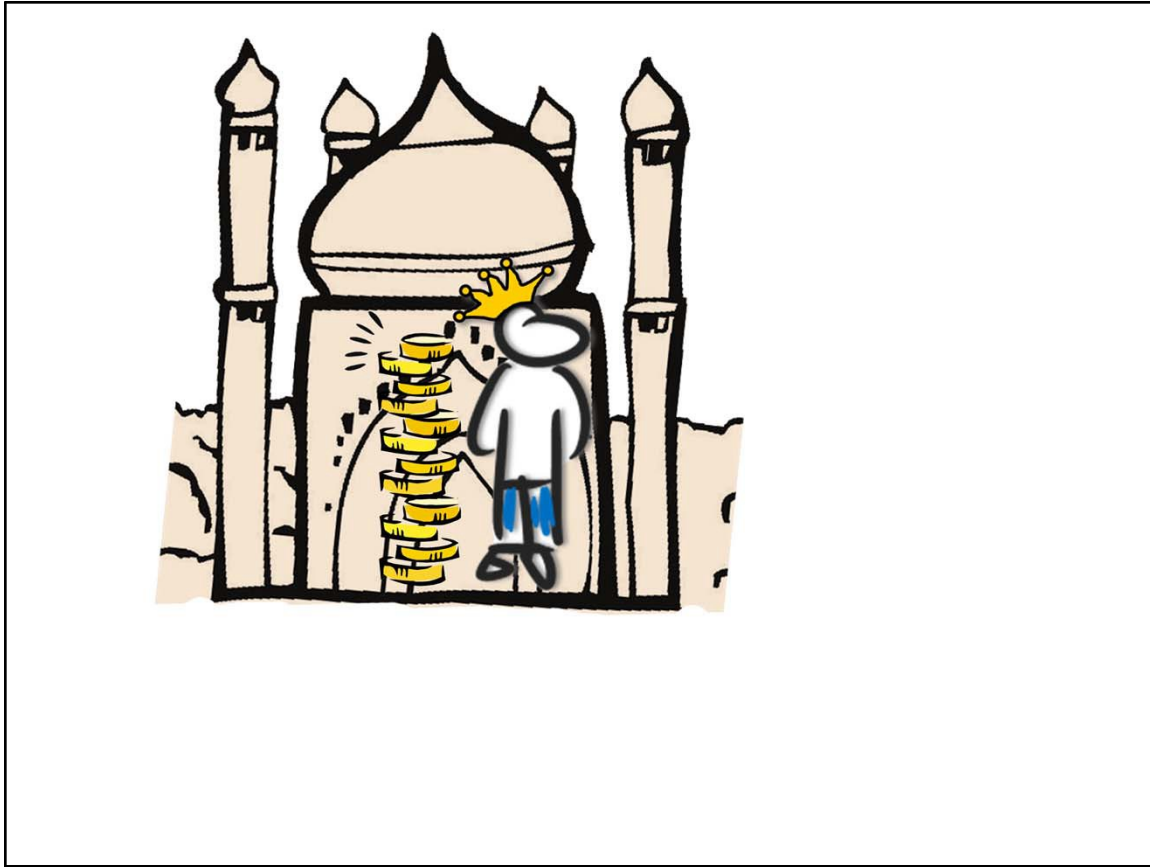


His mother had a dream where she saw a white elephant; this sign meant that he would become a holy man.

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#### Inside the Palace

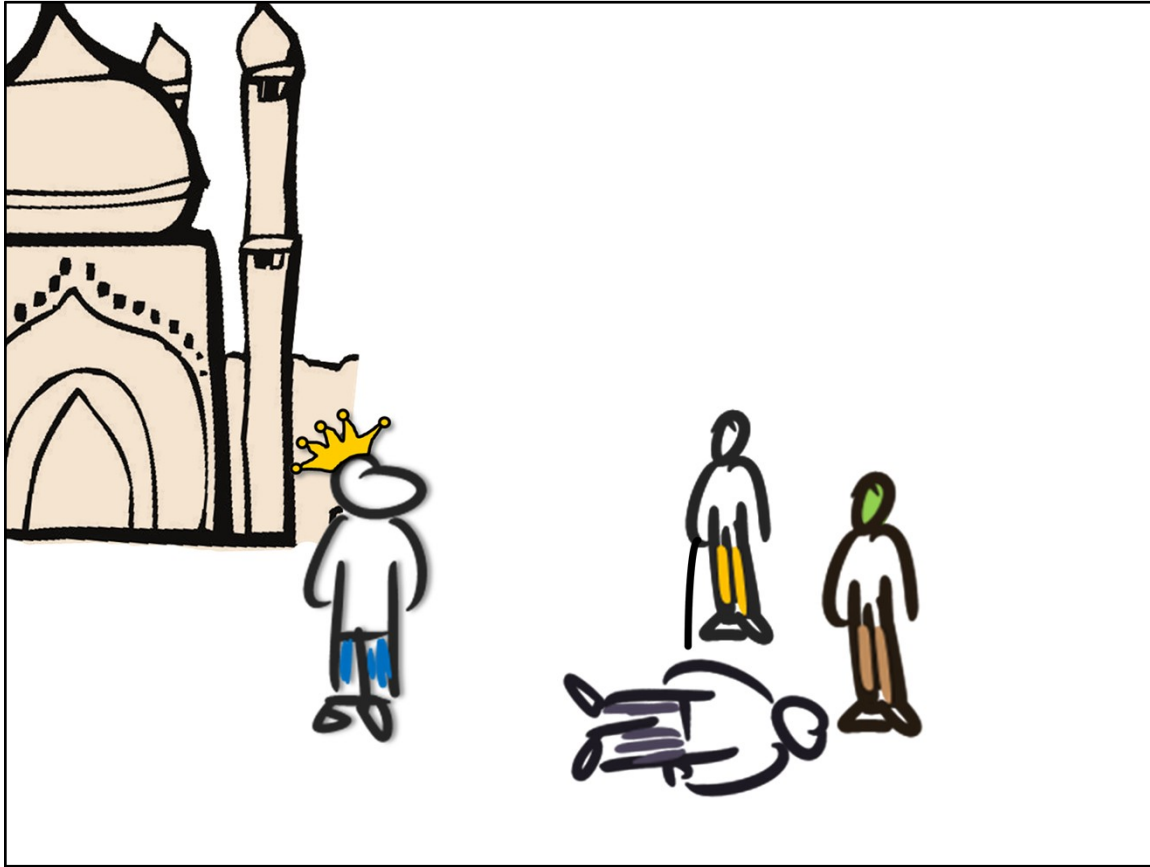


His parents did not want this life for him, so they kept him very sheltered, and provided him with wealth and luxury. They would not let him leave their palace; however, at age twenty-nine, Siddhartha wandered outside the palace gates.

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#### Three Men

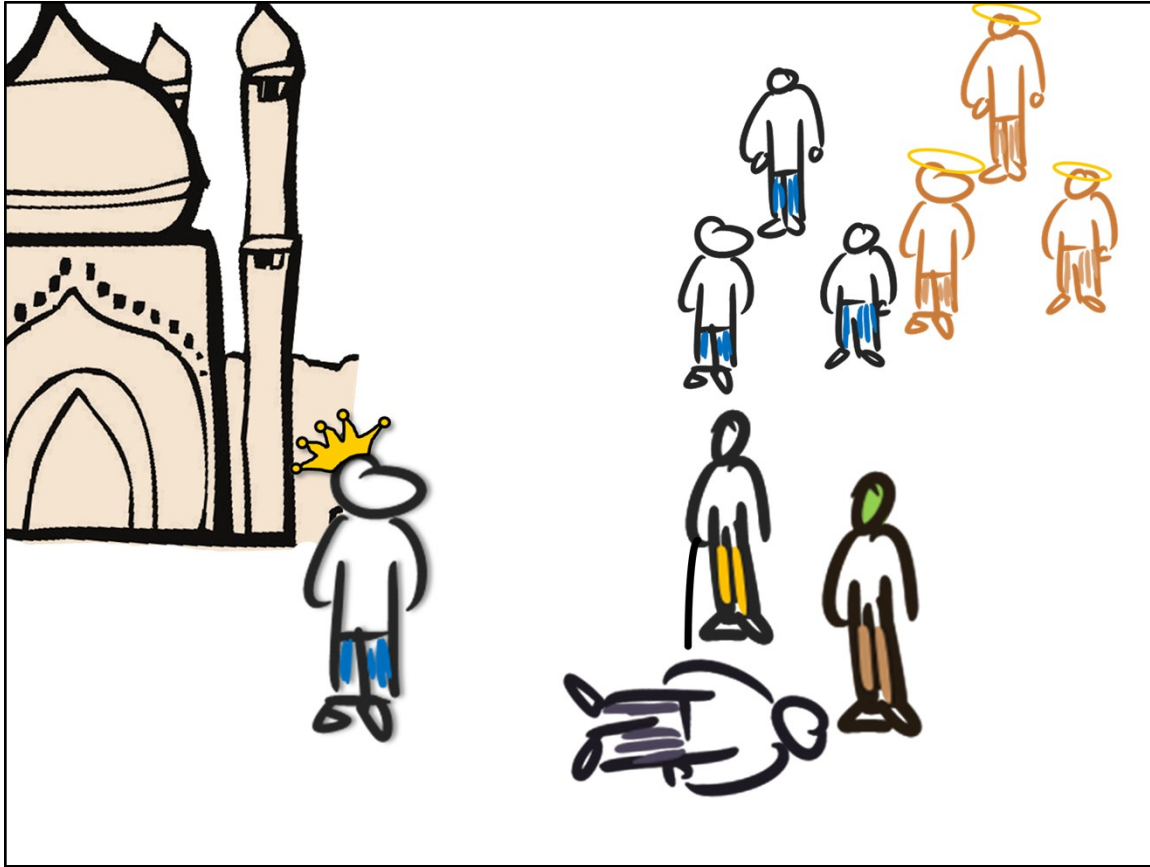


This was when he saw an old man, a sick man, and a dead man.

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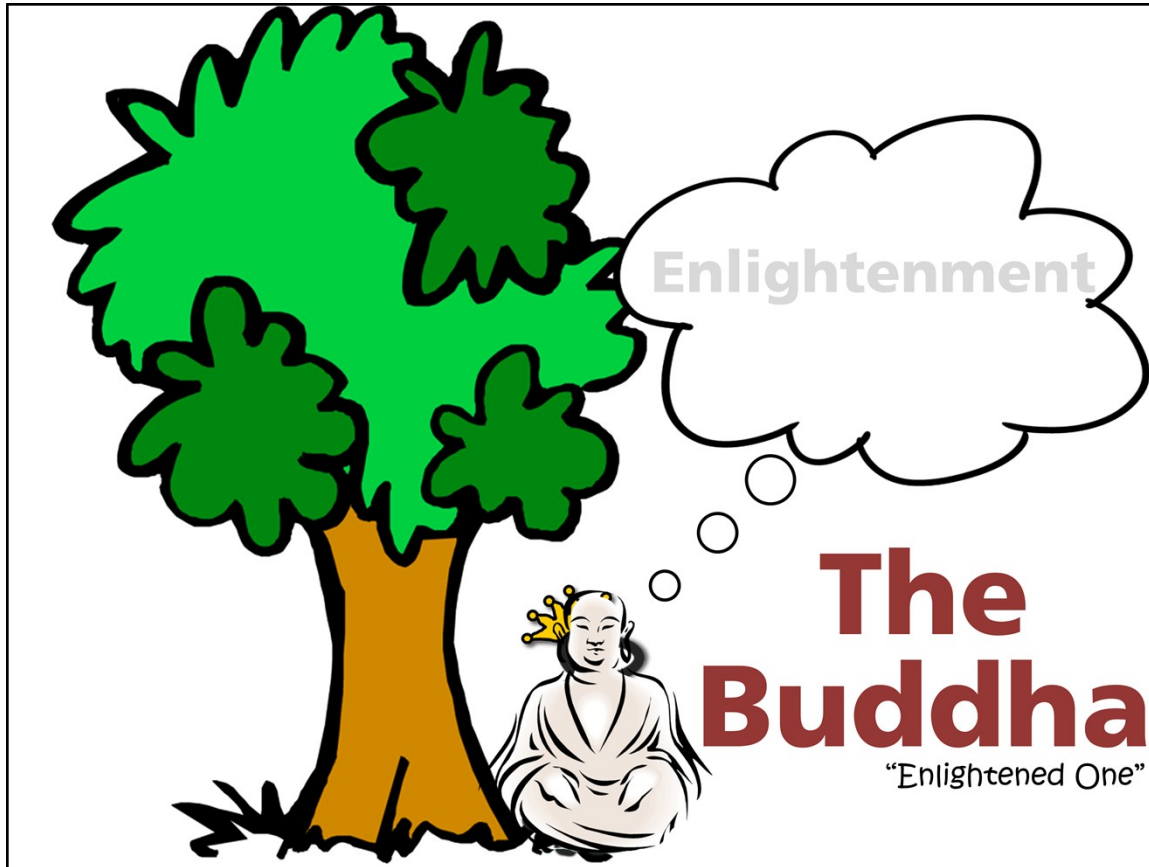
#### Wanting to End Suffering



He decided to leave for good and try to find a cure to end all suffering. He wandered for many years, seeking advice from many people, including Hindu holy men.

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**The Enlightened One**



It was not until he sat under a tree in intense meditation that he found enlightenment, or pure knowledge. After this meditation, he became The Buddha, meaning "Enlightened One," and his teachings are the foundation of Buddhism.