



PRIMARY SOURCE READING 6

The Buddha

About the Selection

Siddhartha Gautama was born a warrior prince. But at the age of 29, he left his family and possessions to search for truth. After seven years, he had found no answers to his questions. He then turned to meditation. Sitting under a sacred fig tree, he received his revelation and saw the Great Truths. From that point on, he was the "Buddha." In this selection, the Buddha writes about his daily habits.



Reader's Dictionary

alms: money given to help the poor
girdle: a belt worn around the waist
congregation: a small group
prodigies: persons with special talents
depress: become lower

The Buddha's Daily Habits

The Blessed One would rise early in the morning, and when, out of kindness to his body-servant and for the sake of bodily comfort, he had rinsed his mouth and otherwise cared for his person, he would sit retired until it was time to go begging. And when it came time, he would put on his tunic, girdle, and robes, and taking his bowl, he would enter the village or the town for alms. Sometimes he went alone, sometimes surrounded by a congregation of priests; sometimes without anything especial happening, sometimes with the accompaniment of many prodigies.

While, namely, the Lord of the World is entering for alms, gentle winds clear the ground before him; the clouds let fall drops of water to lay the dust in his pathway, and then become a canopy over him; other winds bring flowers and scatter them in his path; elevations of ground depress themselves, and depressions elevate themselves; wherever he places his foot, the ground is even and pleasant to walk upon, or lotus-flowers receive his tread. No sooner has he set his right foot within the city-gate than the rays of six different colors which issue from his body race hither and thither over palaces and pagodas, and deck them, as it were, with the yellow sheen of gold, or with the colors of a painting. The elephants, the horses, the birds, and other animals give forth melodious sounds; likewise the tomtoms, lutes, and other musical instruments, and the ornaments worn by the people.

Source: "The Buddha's Daily Habits." In *Indian History Sourcebook*.
www.fordham.edu/halsall/india/buddha-life.html