

The BuddhaFilm Viewing Questions

“When I know that the glass is already broken,   
every minute spent with it is precious.”

1. What happened in the Queen’s dream, and how did the sages interpret it?
2. Why is Lumbini known as one of the “holiest places in the world”?
3. When was the Buddha born?
4. Describe the Buddha’s early life and childhood.
5. What was the Buddha’s father’s expectation for his life?
6. The first and second times that Siddhartha Gautama goes outside, he encounters an old man and a sick man. The third time, he encounters a corpse. How do these encounters change him?
7. The fourth time he goes outside, he sees a spiritual man. How does this change him?
8. Why does Siddhartha decide to leave the palace?
9. Siddhartha names his son a word that means “fetter”—sort of like “ball and chain.” What did he mean by this?
10. “There is no knowledge won without sacrifice. This is one of the great truths of human existence. In order to gain anything you must first lose everything.” How does this relate to Siddhartha’s quest?
11. What was Siddhartha’s problem with Vedic Hinduism?
12. In what sense is reincarnation the “problem” that the Buddha faced?
13. Buddha became apprenticed to a spiritual guru. What did he learn from this experience?
14. What are the purposes of yoga and meditation? How do these relate to spirituality?
15. Why is Siddhartha not satisfied by the practices of yoga and meditation that he learns from his spiritual teacher?
16. What is asceticism? What is its purpose? What did Siddhartha learn from this pursuit?
17. What is Nirvana? How did Siddhartha come to understand Nirvana?
18. What are the “Four Noble Truths”? What is the “Noble Eightfold Path”?
19. How did the Buddha feel about social hierarchy and religious ritual?