

## 18. The Buddha

The Buddha habitually walks along a certain path just close to the river Acirawati. There were fields in which a brahmin who is a farmer himself worked. The Buddha wanted to talk to the Brahmin. The Buddha smiled, and asked.

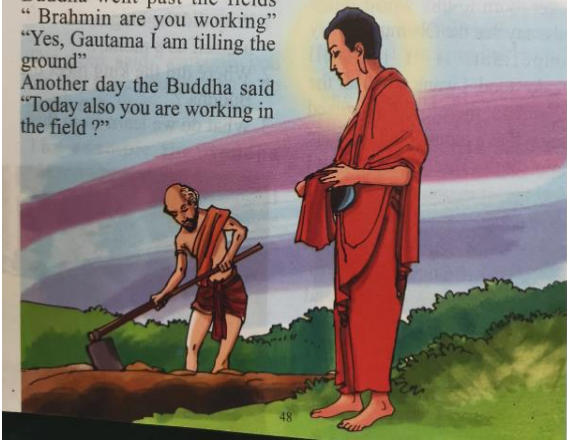
“Brahmin what are you doing?”  
The Brahmin did not look at the Buddha, nor did he answer to the Buddha. Next day too the Buddha went past the fields “Brahmin are you working”  
“Yes, Gautama I am tilling the ground”

Another day the Buddha said “Today also you are working in the field?”

“Yes I am striving to develop the soil. Next day too the Buddha asked the same question.

“Yes I am sowing seeds”

So it became custom of the Buddha to inquire about the Brahmin’s work. The Brahmin too described about the work he was doing; sowing, weeding. Thus they became friends.



The Brahmin said to the Buddha. You have very kindly inquired about my work, when ever you go this way. You are my friend I will give some portion of my paddy, after I harvest my crop. The crop was ready to be harvested. He thought to himself that he would do so the next day.

At night there was heavy rain. Early morning when the Brahmin went to the field everything had been destroyed by the rain. The fields were flooded.

He felt sad, because he could not keep to his promise, and give the Buddha a portion of the harvest.

He could not eat, he could not do anything.

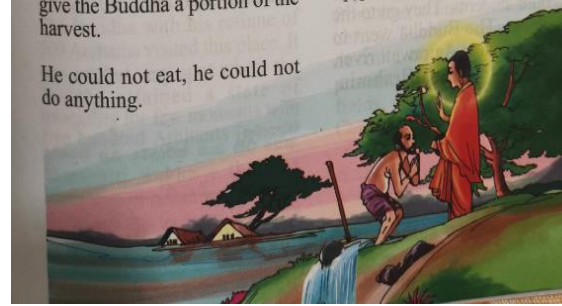
The Buddha visited the Brahmin in his house. “Brahmin why are you sad?”

“Venerable Sir my field was destroyed. You are my friend who always spoke to me, while I was at work. I promised to give you a part of the harvest, I won’t be able to do so. I am very sad. I won’t be able to fulfill the promise I made you”

“Brahmin don’t be sad. When you cannot fulfill your wishes, you feel sad that is quite natural”

“Brahmin do you know why you are sad?”

“No Venerable Sir”



“Brahmin you feel unhappy because we have a craving for things. When you get rid of it, we will not feel sad, for things that are lost”. So the Buddha delivered a Dhamma sermon to the Brahmin.

The Brahmin understood what The Buddha said and attained Sotāpanna. Our Buddha is a good teacher. When we talk about the Buddha we say that he is “Sattā Devamanussānaṃ” which means the teacher of gods and men.

A good teacher is always a friend of the students. They are kind to their students. They go to the students. The Buddha went to the fields near Acirawati river, in search of the Brahmin.

He spoke kind words to him and inquired about his work. The Buddha knew from the third day, that the fields would be destroyed and the Brahmin would feel sad one day. Therefore, the Buddha took the opportunity to help him to understand life. Thus the Buddha became a good teacher who helped his students, and friends, and was able to console and help him by giving necessary advice when it was needed.

The Buddha is a good teacher who taught his disciples, students, how to escape suffering and sadness, in Sansara, in all births throughout.

### Questions

1. How did the Buddha get friendly with Brahmin ?
2. Why do you call the Buddha “Sattā Devamanussānaṃ”?
3. Write 3 characteristics of a good teacher?