

Chapter 4 – Ancient India and China  
Lesson 2 notes

**Lesson 2 – Buddhism and Hinduism**

**I. The suffering of a Prince**

**A. Siddhartha Guatama**

1. Legends say that he was told he would either become a great king or a teacher of wisdom

2. His father hoped he would become a great king.

**B. Siddhartha's Search**

**1. Finding Contentment**

a. Prince Siddhartha was not satisfied with his life in the kingdom, and then met up with an ascetic.

**1) Ascetic** – see vocabulary

b. He was still not satisfied with life and he sat under a bo tree, where he received enlightenment or understanding

**2. Buddha**

a. Siddhartha was called Buddha which means **“the enlightened one”**

b. His followers were called **Buddhists**.

**C. Asoka spreads Buddhism**

1. Asoka did several things to help the suffering people:

**a. Planted trees** along roads to shade hot travelers

**b. Ordered wells** to be dug so they could refresh themselves

**c. Built hospitals** to care for people and animals

2. To honor Buddha, he built stone pillars with Buddha's teachings carved on them.

**D. A Religion of many beliefs**

**1. Hinduism**

a. Buddhism did not replace Hinduism

## 2. Caste System

a. The Aryans had 4 social classes

- 1) Priests – Brahmins
- 2) Warriors and Rulers
- 3) Farmers and Merchants
- 4) Lowly Workers

b. Hinduism teaches **respect** for all living creatures

c. Hindus are vegetarians because they believe that animals are also considered to be gods and goddesses

d. Hinduism remains the religion of most people in India today.