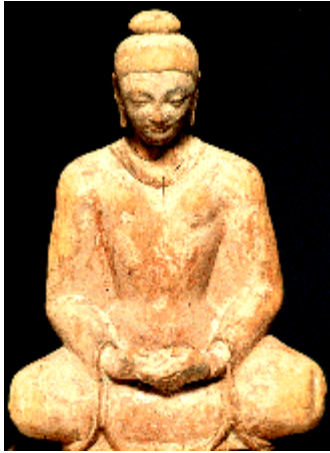


Buddhism



Buddhism evolved in India. There were periods in India's past when Buddhism was dominant in India. Today less than 1% of India's population is Buddhist. Buddhism has more followers in countries east of India.

Buddhism was established in about 500 BC. Buddhism began with a prince called Siddhartha Gautama. Siddhartha belonged to an aristocratic family. As a prince he had a lot of wealth. He never left his palace. At some point Siddhartha began to leave his palace and behold for the first time poverty, sickness and misery.

After seeing this Siddhartha lost interest in his spoiled life and left his palace forever and gave his rich personal belongings to the needy. He joined a group of ascetics who were searching for enlightenment. In those days people searching for enlightenment believed that this could be gained only by people who were capable of resisting their basic needs.

These people almost did not eat anything and almost starved themselves to death. Siddhartha also adopted this path of searching enlightenment. But at some point he came to a conclusion that this was neither the way towards enlightenment nor the spoiled life he had as a prince was the right path towards enlightenment. According to him the right path was somewhere in the middle and he called it the 'middle path'.....continue reading