

Meaning, Happiness and the Good Life • Cathal Woods
Reading Questions on Buddhism (1)

Reading: Smith 'Buddhism' chapter in *The World's Great Religions* pp. 82-92, 94-103

1. The story of why Siddhartha leaves the palace is kinda neat. But do we really need to read it? (Another way of asking the same question: What parts/elements of the story, if any, are important for us as (possible) seekers of enlightenment?) (pp. 82-87)
2. Why (do you think) was it important for the Buddha not to allow himself to be treated as a divine figure? (pp. 88-92)
3. Of the six traits described on pp. 94-97, pick the one that is most striking to you (perhaps the one that is most attractive to you) and describe the trait in your own words and explain why it is striking to you.
4. Give your own interpretation of the first Noble Truth. As part of your interpretation, give an example which you think illustrates it (and different from the list on p. 101). (pp. 99-103)