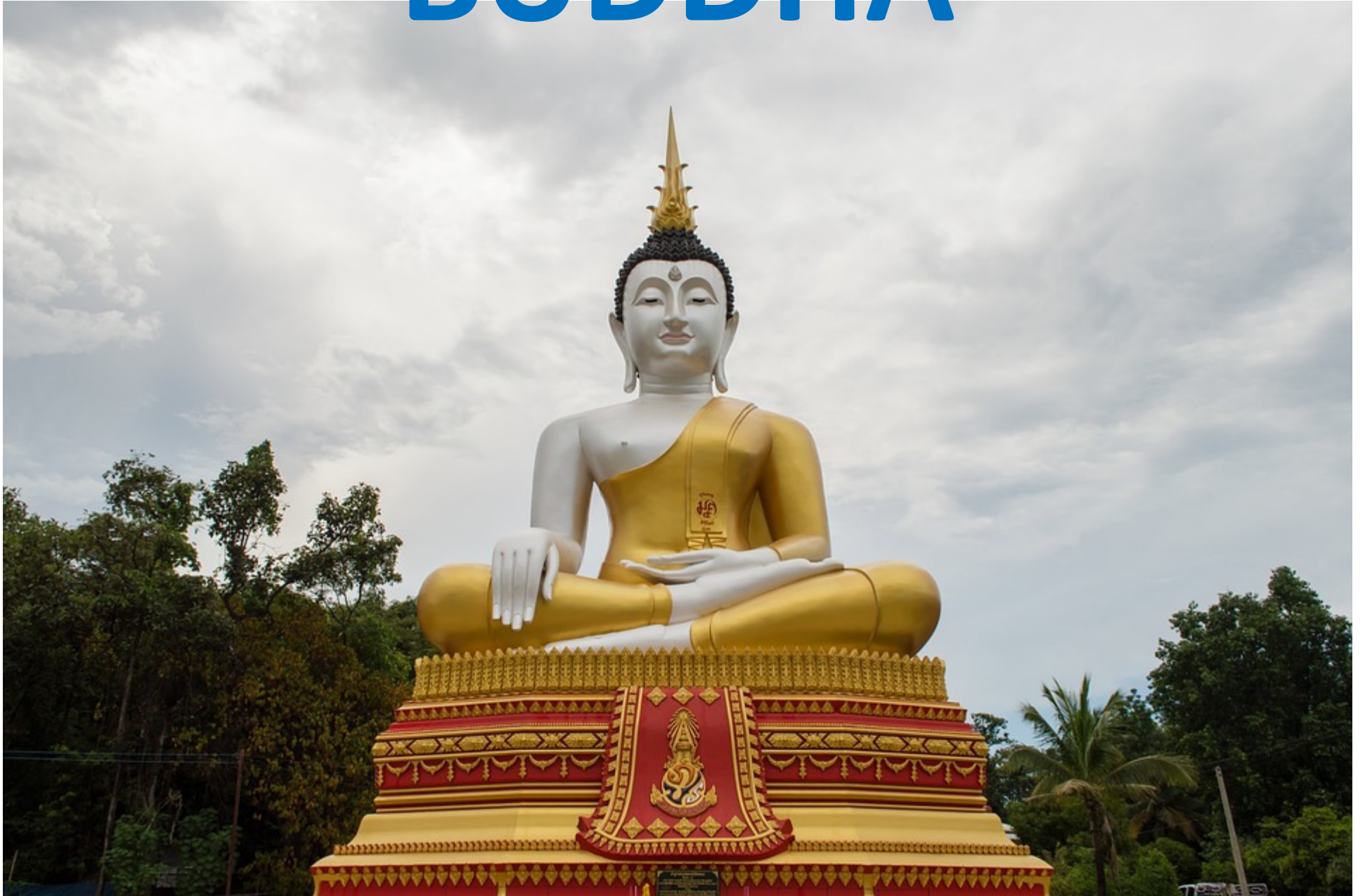


History

CHAPTER 7

NEW QUESTIONS
AND IDEAS

BUDDHA



Buddha



- Siddhartha, also known as **Gautama**, the **founder** of **Buddhism**.
- He was born about 2500 years ago in a town called Lumbini in Nepal.
- The Buddha belonged to a small *gana* known as the *Sakya gana*, and was a ***kshatriya***.

The story of Buddha

- When Siddhartha was a young man, he left the comforts of his home in search of knowledge.
- His search brought him all the way to Bihar.
- He finally decided to find his own path to realisation, and meditated for days on end under a *peepal* tree at *Bodh Gaya* in *Bihar*, where he attained enlightenment.

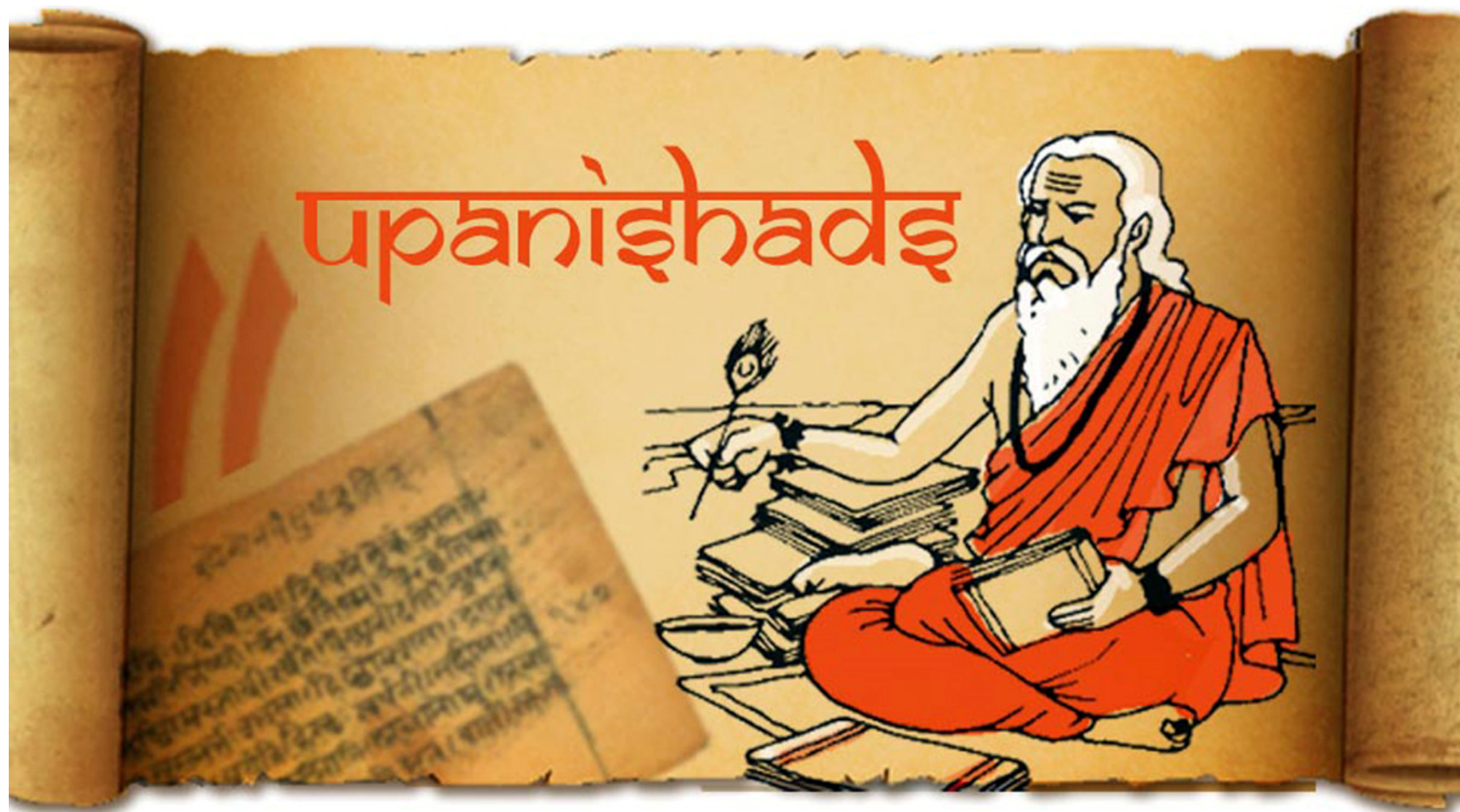
The story of Buddha

- After that he was known as the **Buddha** or the **Wise One**.
- He spent the rest of his life travelling on foot, going from place to place, teaching people.
- He did this till he passed away in **Kusinara** at Madhya Pradesh.

The story of Buddha

- Buddha taught in Prakrit, which was the language of the common people at that time.
- He taught people to be kind, and to respect the lives of others, including animals.
- He believed that the results of our actions, weather good or bad, affect us both in this life and the next.

Upanishads



Upanishads

- Around the time that the Buddha was preaching and perhaps a little earlier, other thinkers also tried to find answers to difficult questions.
- They has many questions which they were trying to answer.

Upanishads

- Questions they has:
- What happens after death(life after death)?
- What kind of sacrifices should people perform?
- Is there something permanent in the universe that lasts even after death?

Upanishads

- Many of their ideas and discussion about these questions were recorded in the Upanishads.
- Upanishads means ‘approaching and sitting near’.
- This knowledge is gained through conversations between teachers and students.

Upanishads

- Most Upanishadic thinkers were *brahmins* and *rajas*.
- Women thinker – **Gargi** – she was famous for her learning and participated in debates held in royal courts.
- Poor people rarely participated in these discussions.
- One famous exception was **Satyakama Jabala**.
- He had a deep desire to learn about reality and was accepted as a student by a teacher named **Gautama**.

Upanishads

- Many of the ideas of the Upanishads were later developed by the famous thinker *SHANKARACHARYA*.
- Upanishads are books that have the main ideas of Hinduism.
- They talk about *atman* or the individual soul and *brahman* or the universal soul, which are the core concepts of Hindus.

Jainism



Jainism

- Mahavira was a kshatriya prince of the Lichchhavis.
- At the age of 30, he left home and went to live in a forest.
- For 12 years he led a hard and lonely life, at the end of which he attained enlightenment.

Jainism

- He taught a simple doctrine:
- Men and women who wished to know the truth had to leave their homes.
- They had to strictly follow the rules of *ahimsa* – *which means not hurting or killing living beings.*
- Mahavira taught in the language of the people, which was another form of Prakrit called Magadhi.

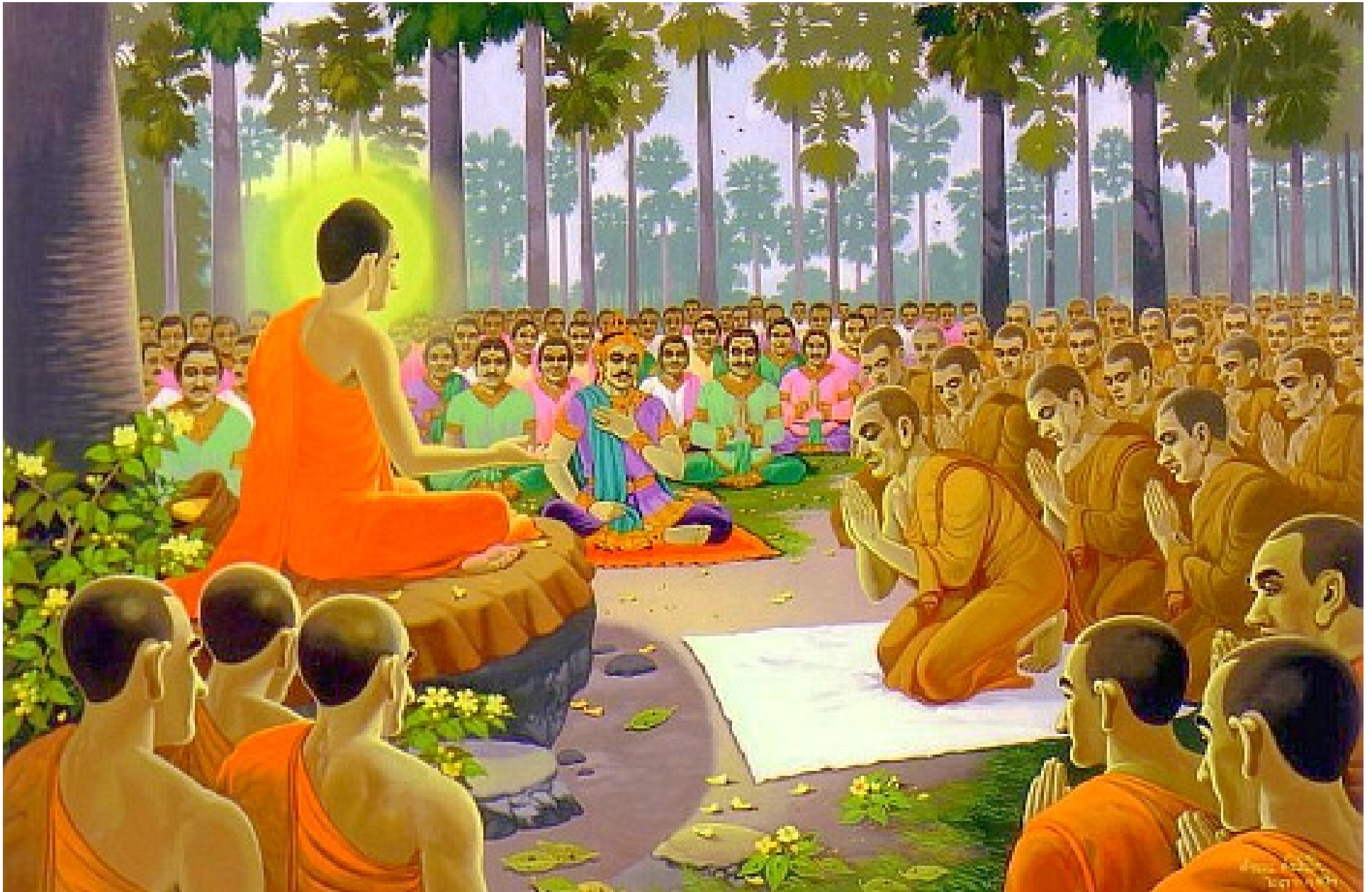
Jainism

- The followers of Mahavira were called **Jainas**.
- They had to lead very simple lives and had to beg for food.
- They had to be absolutely honest, and were especially asked not to steal.
- Men had to give up everything, including their clothes.

Jainism

- It was very difficult to follow these strict rules.
- Nevertheless, thousands left their homes to learn and teach this new way of life.
- Many remained behind and supported those who became monks and nuns, providing them with food.

The Sangha



The Sangha

- Mahavira and Buddha felt that only those who left their homes could gain true knowledge.
- They arranged for them to stay together in the Sangha.
- The rules made for the Buddhist sangha were written down in a book called the Vinaya Piitaka.

The Sangha

- Men and women who joined the sangha led simple lives.
- They meditated for most of the time, and went to cities and villages to beg for food.
- They were known as **bhikkhus** and **bhikkunis** (beggar).
- They taught others, and helped one another.

Monasteries



Monasteries

- Both Jaina and Buddhist monks went from place to place throughout the year, teaching people.
- During rainy season they used to stay together, as it was difficult to travel at that time.
- Then, their supporters built temporary shelters for them.

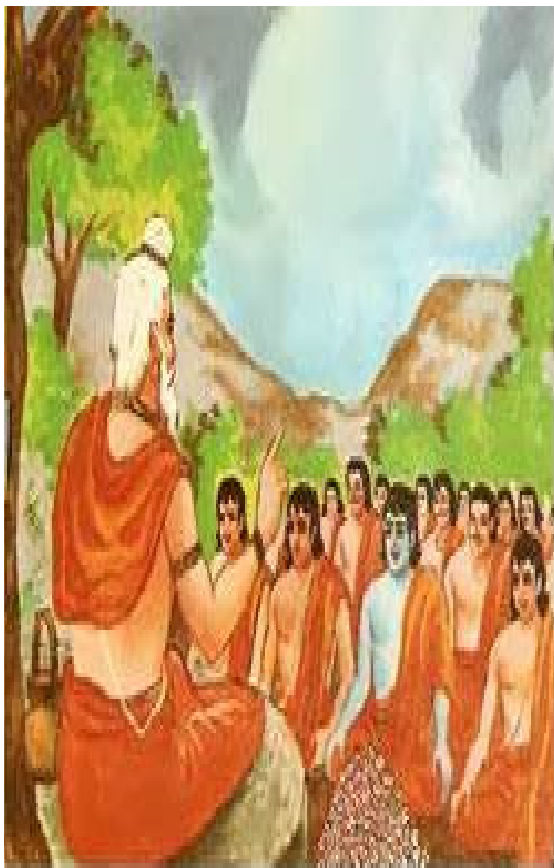
Monasteries

- As the time passed away, the supporters of monks and nuns, and they themselves felt the need for permanent shelters and so monasteries were built.
- They were known as **Viharas**.
- Viharas were made of wood, and then of brick.

Monasteries

- Very often, the land on which the viharas was built was donated by a rich merchant or a landowner or the king.
- The local people came with gifts of food, clothing and medicines for the monks and nuns.

The system of ashramas



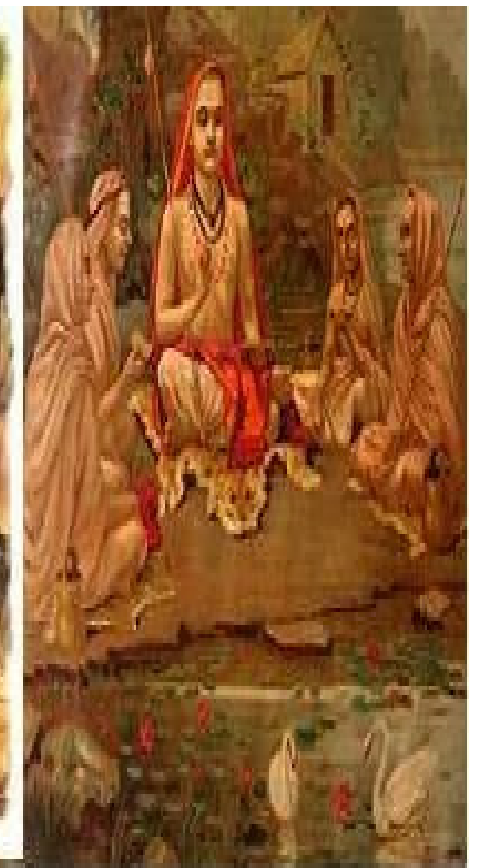
Brahmacharya



Grihastha



Vanaprastha



Sannyasa

The system of ashramas

- Brahmins develop the system of ashramas.
- Ashramas means a **stage of life**.
- Four stages of ashramas were recognised:
 - **Brahmacharya**
 - **Grihastha**
 - **Vanaprastha**
 - **Samnyasa**

The system of ashramas

- Brahmin, kshatriya and vaishya men were expected to lead simple lives and study the Vedas during the early years of their lives(**brahmacharya**).
- Then they had to marry and live as householders(**grihastha**).
- Then they had to live in the forest and meditate(**vanaprastha**).
- Finally, they has to give up everything and become **samnyasins**.
- Womens were not allowed to study the Vedas, and had to follow the ashramas chosen by their husbands.

