

Buddhism



*Dhipa Begum
Downsell Primary*



The Buddha and the wounded Swan



One day, Prince Siddattha was walking in the courtyard of the beautiful palace where he lived. Suddenly a swan fell from the sky and landed at his feet. To his horror, he saw that it was wounded. The young prince was distressed and tried to help the bird by gently removing the arrow that had injured its wing.



The Prince's cousin, Devadatta, appeared from the woods with his bow and arrows and said, "Give me that swan. It's mine. I shot it while out hunting. I will have it for supper."

Siddhartha said, "No the swan is only wounded, and it can be nursed back to health."



The two boys argued, unable to resolve their dispute finally they went before the King and Queen with their problem. The King and Queen were uncertain about what to do and asked for advice from the oldest person in the court. That person was respected by all and said, "Everyone values one's life more than anything else. Let the swan be given to the person who tried to save its life, not to the person who tried to take its life."

The swan was presented to Siddhattha who took the swan and when it had recovered, he set it free.

