

The Buddha Cares for a Sick Monk

Learn together, one small step.

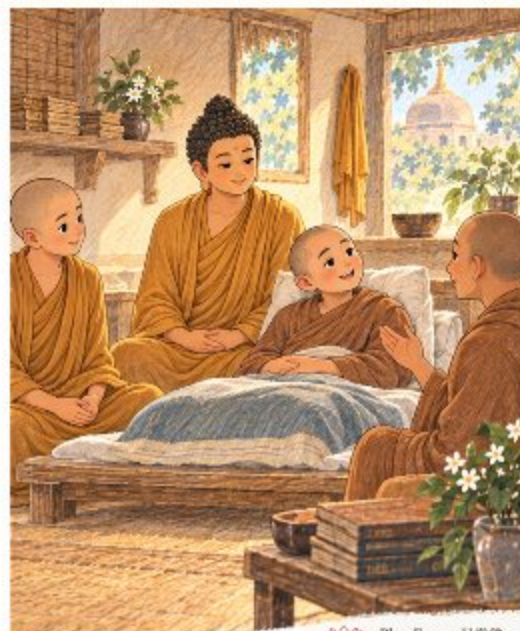
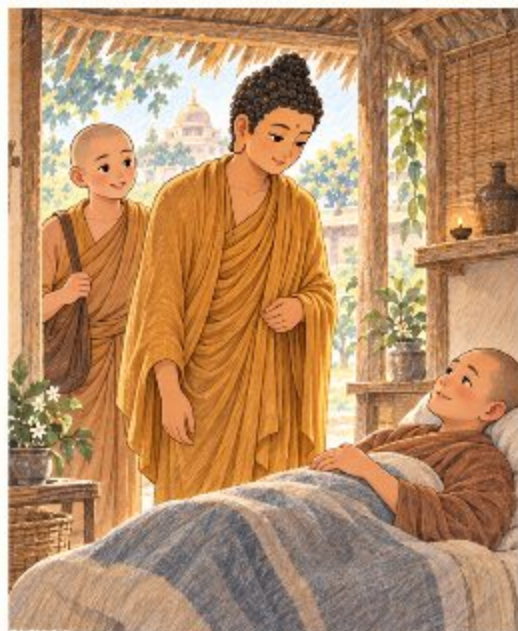


Look closely

Does someone who cannot help others while ill still deserve care?



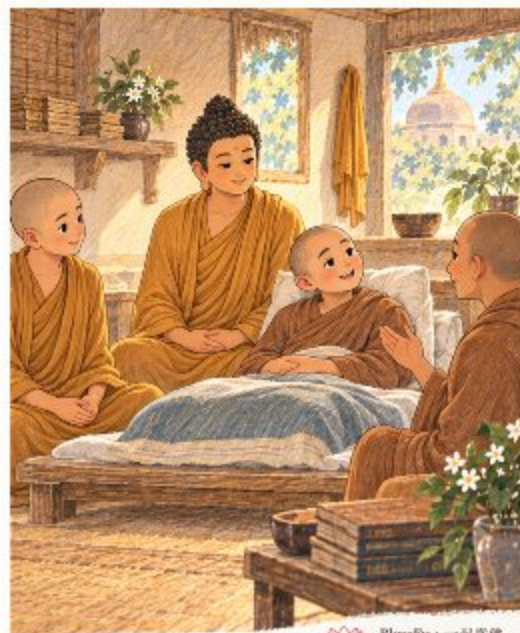
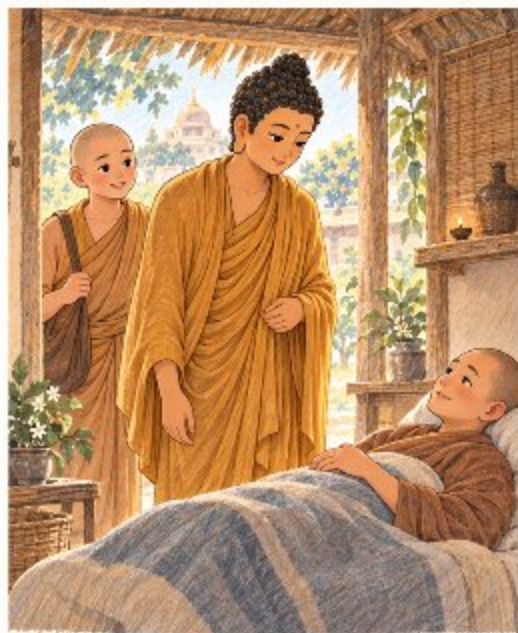
Story 1 / 3



A Buddhist monastic text tells how the Buddha and Ananda found a sick monk without anyone caring for him. The Buddha stopped to find out what was needed. He did not leave the monk aside because he was unable to do useful work.

Pause and ask: Why might an ill person need someone to notice?

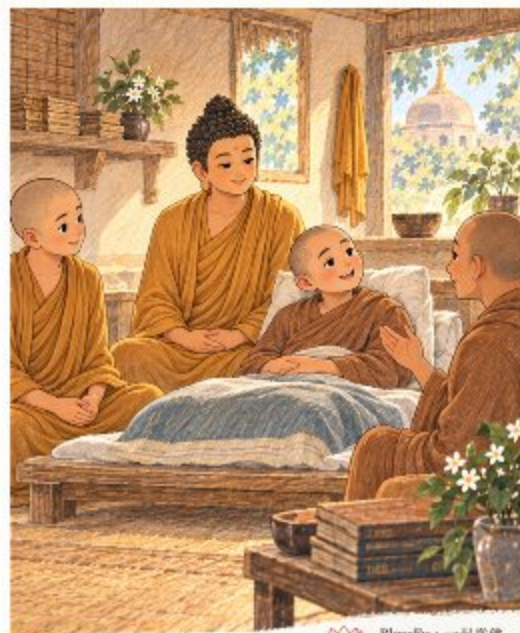
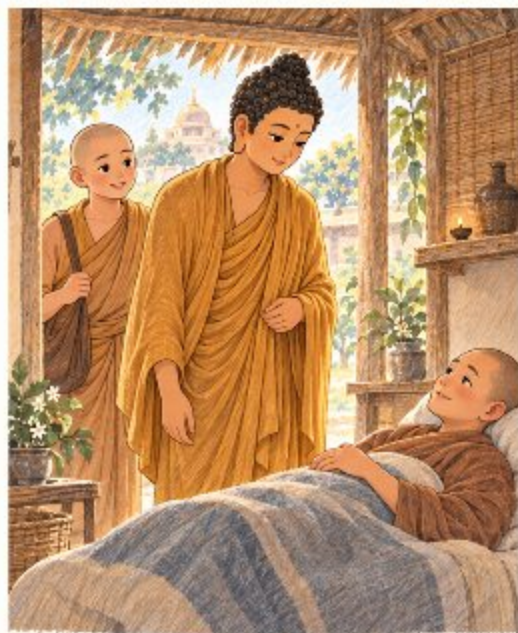
Story 2 / 3



Ananda fetched water. Together they cleaned the monk and settled him on a bed. Both carers in the story were adults. Our illustration shows water and a clean cloth, keeping the person's dignity and practical needs in view.

Pause and ask: Who carries out physical care in this story?

Story 3 / 3

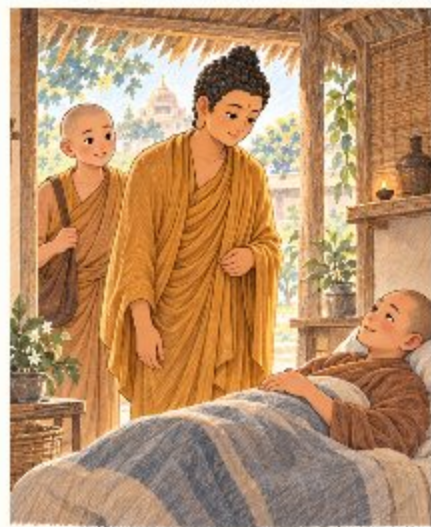


Later the Buddha gathered the monks and emphasised their responsibility to care for one another when sick. Care is not reserved for someone who is useful. Today a child can tell a trusted adult when someone seems unwell, then ask what safe little task might help.

Pause and ask: What safe action could express concern?

A Buddhist idea

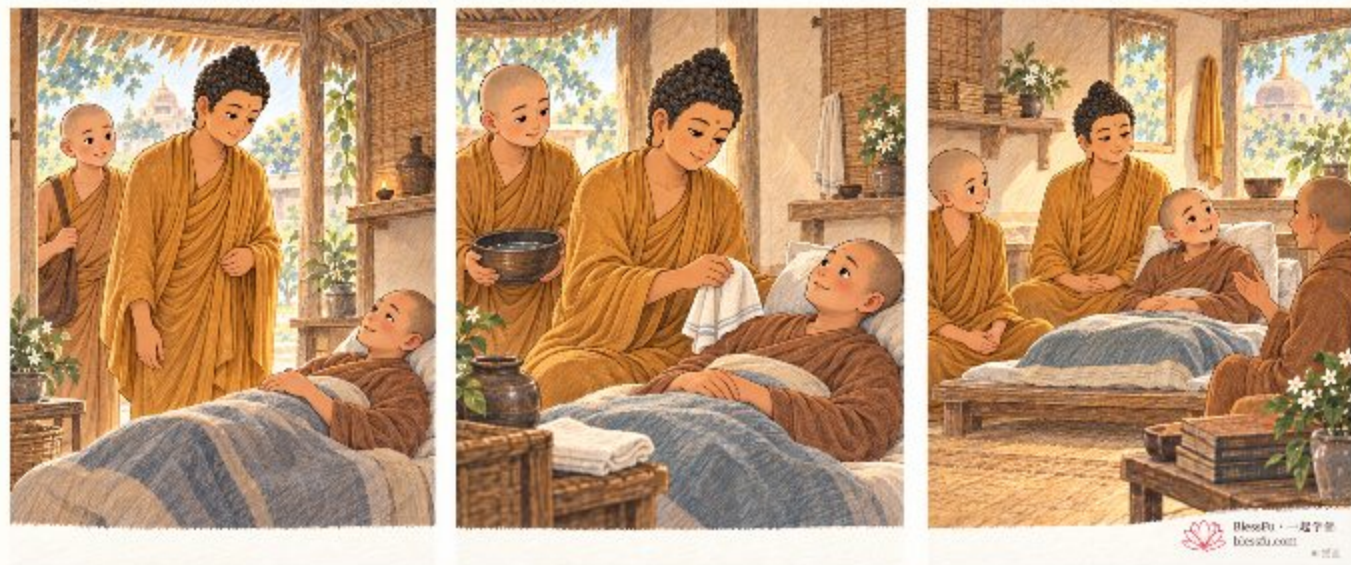
Someone unable to help
still deserves kindness.



Talk together

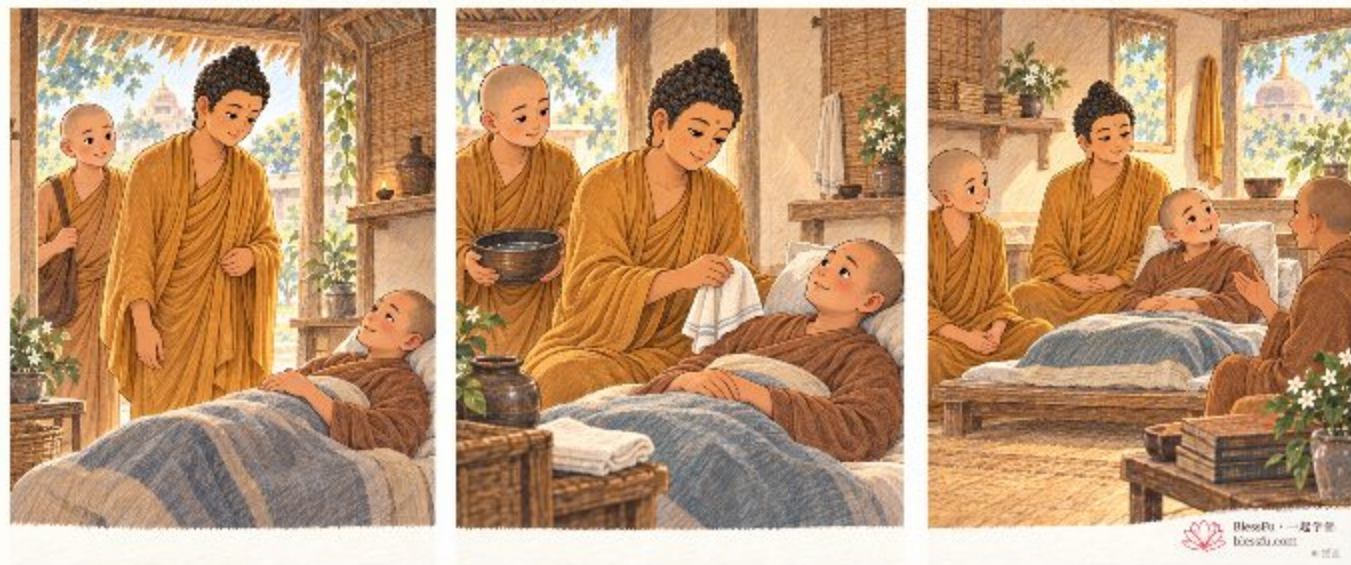
What did the Buddha do when he noticed the sick monk?

How do children's tasks differ from adults' caring responsibilities?



Try an activity

Ask an adult, then choose a safe small task.



For grown-ups

Adapted and shortened by BlessFu from Pali Vinaya, Mahavagga 8.26.1–8.

The Monk with Dysentery

Translation ©1997 Thanissaro Bhikkhu, Access to Insight.

Licence: Creative Commons Attribution–NonCommercial 4.0

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Retold for children; bodily details omitted.

Original exercises and AI-assisted illustrations: BlessFu.

Full source link and caregiver guidance: companion booklet.

