"He [Siddhartha] shivered inwardly like a small animal, like a bird or a hare, when he realized how alone he was. He had been homeless for years and had not felt like this. Now he did feel it. Previously, when in deepest meditation, he was still his father's son, he was a Brahmin of high standing, a religious man. Now he was only Siddhartha, the awakened; otherwise nothing else... Nobody was as alone as he. He was no nobleman...Even the most secluded hermit in the woods was not one and alone; he also belonged to a class of people," (Hesse 41)

I wonder how important being this lonely is to Siddhartha. It stands true that before setting off by himself, Siddhartha had more relationships. He was a well loved priest or at least a priest in training, had a father who really loved him and had a hard time letting him go, as well as a dedicated friend called Govinda. I believe that it was understandable for Siddhartha to leave behind his old life since that prevented Siddhartha from physically going on his journey. However, was it really necessary to abandon Govinda? Would it not be better to have taken on someone to discover the truth with you?

I understand that on the next page, the reader is told that all those relationships were holding Siddhartha back. However, Siddhartha himself notices that Govinda has always been one step behind him. Siddhartha could still have let Govinda follow him passively or stay out of his awareness. Was Siddhartha selfish in telling Govinda to follow his own path with Gotama's followers?

This negative trait also reminds me that Siddhartha is not a perfect person. I remember a scene where it showed Siddhartha's arrogance or his judgmental attitude. In the text, it states, "He [Siddhartha] was not very curious about the teachings. He did not think they would teach him anything new. He, as well as Govidina, had heard the substance of the Buddha's teachings, if only from second and third-hand reports," (Hess 28). Why, if he is, arrogant? How much has Siddhartha been humbled ever since he left his home?

Returning to the first quote, Siddhartha feels lonely because there is nobody else going on their own journey for knowledge. Using schema, the caste system is divided into areas of occupation. However, I do believe there was a word in the caste system for those who existed outside the caste system. Just how lonely is Siddhartha truly? Is there nobody else who went on lonely journeys? Is anyone ever truly lonely? A dictionary definition of "lonely" is to be without company. Siddhartha still has company, in the form of nature. Will Siddhartha have to abandon nature later in the book? I feel that these questions are thought provoking enough to discuss.