Chapter 5: Amongst the People. Siddhartha searches for the merchant, Kamaswami. The two engage in a conversation where Kamaswami tries to find some sort of value in a Brahma like Siddhartha. Kamaswami is pleased by Siddhartha's writing ability and the things he has to say, so Kamaswami invites Siddhartha over for dinner and to live with him. The two form a relationship where "he [Siddhartha] was never servile to the merchant, but compelled him to treat him as an equal," (66). Eventually, Siddhartha starts learning a bit about business and takes part in the business. He visits Kamala daily and the merchant has Siddhartha do more for him.

However, Siddhartha was "indifferent about business," (67). Whether Siddhartha made or lost money, he did not care much. Siddhartha enjoys travelling not because of business, but because he enjoys making friends with people. However, Siddhartha still feels very different because he had been a Samana. As a result, he thinks of people differently and reacts to events differently. During the night, Siddhartha also hears the return of his inner voice, albeit quiet, complaining about his current life. He also continues to learn from Kamala and copulates with her.

Chapter 6:Samsara. Siddhartha has grown a bit tired of his life. He has "tasted riches, passion and power, but for a long time he remained a Samana in his heart," (75). Many years later, Siddhartha has become very rich while still following the teachings he has learned as a Samana, such as moderation. Siddhartha seems to have become accustomed to the rich person's lifestyle, but still looks down at other people "with that disdain which a Samana always feels towards the people of this world," (77). As Siddhartha feels his personality being permeated by the lives of ordinary people and the rich lifestyle, he also feels a weariness that grows on him as time passes by. Then, he develops a gambling addiction because he loved the anxiety that came with it.

One night, Siddhartha has a dream that makes him realize how old he and Kamala have become. Siddhartha has another dream about a dead songbird that makes him feel some sort of dread. He goes under a mango tree in his garden to gather his thoughts, and has an epiphany. Siddhartha returns to being a Samana and immediately sets off. Sometime after he disappears, Kamala finds out she is pregnant with Siddhartha's son.