Last Chapter: Govinda. Govinda heard rumors of an old ferryman being a sage who was still seeking for answers. He went to the river and went on a ferry ride. Govinda asks the ferryman for advice on his quest to seek out answers, but the ferryman says something profound: "When someone is seeking...it happens quites easily that he only sees the thing that he is seeking; that he is unable to find anything." The ferryman then reveals himself to be Govinda's old friend, Siddhartha. The two exchange greetings, catch up, and Govinda stays the night in the hut.

He questions Siddhartha the next morning about any doctrines Siddhartha still follows. His answer is that he follows none. Siddhartha also reveals that he believes the old ferryman to have been a holy man. Govinda than questions Siddhartha about any piece of knowledge that has helped him live. Siddhartha says something profound again, that wisdom is not communicable. It is something a person has to experience themselves. Siddhartha believes that words can only express "only half the truth; it all lacks totality, completeness, unity." This is may reference Gottama telling Siddhartha that cleverness with words may backfire. Siddhartha then goes on a rant that sums up to that opposing forces, such as good and evil, suffering and bliss, and abstract concepts, such as time, are illusions. Siddhartha says that all that exists is good and explains that he needed a period in his life where he sinned "in order to learn to love the world, and no longer compare it with some kind of desired imaginary world."

Siddhartha uses a stone as an example for Govinda. The stone will become soil, which eventually becomes a plant and other things, which must mean the stone is everything. Siddhartha also shares this belief with the river. Siddhartha expresses love for earthly things with knowledge that the world is an illusion, thoughts and wisdoms do not describe reality sufficiently.

Govinda notices that Siddhartha looks like a holy man. Siddhartha asks for Govinda to kiss him on the forehead. Govinda has an intense vision, of Siddhartha's faces becoming many other faces, animals, and other things in life, which culminates in Govinda breaking down into tears. Govinda bows, and realizes that Siddhartha's holy smile reminds him of everything holy and of value in his life.