



## The Hotel Palace

Once upon a time a famous and wise Buddhist teacher approached the palace of the king. It was late at night, but the guards did let him in and showed him the way to where the king was seated. The king sat on his throne and recognized the master.

“Welcome, master. What is it that you want from me?” the king asked.

“I would like to sleep in this hotel tonight,” said the teacher.

The king laughed, “This is not a hotel! This is my palace!”

The teacher smiled and politely asked the king, “Dear king, if I may ask, who owned this palace before you?”

The king laughed again and said “My father, the predecessor, of course! He is dead now.”

“And who lived here before your father?”

“My grandfather, of course. He died as well.”

“And before your grandfather?”

“My great grandfather, of course, how dumb are you?”

“This building where people live for some time and go away, did you say it’s not a hotel?”

### Questions about the story:

1. What does the last question of the story mean for you?
2. Why do you think the Buddhist teacher does not just tell the king straight away about change and impermanence?
3. Can you come up with more places or other ‘things,’ such as a hotel, in which people come and go?
4. Name 3 people who were in your life, but are not anymore? (e.g., they have passed away or moved to another country, or are simply not your friends anymore)
5. What is the good thing about people coming and going?
6. How would you live your life differently if you always remembered that things will change?