



TI-SARANA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

Ti-Sarana

NEWS

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“CARANTI BĀLĀ DUMMEDHĀ AMITTENEVA ATTANĀ”

(The Foolish Half-witted Act as Enemies to Themselves - Dhp.66)

Buddhism is a religion which shows the way to Supreme Bliss. Particularly, until one arrives at the goal of Supreme Bliss, one is expected to lead a happy, peaceful and beautiful life here and in successive lives. The Buddha, being a very conscientious teacher, made use of every opportunity to inculcate virtuous conduct by disseminating Dhamma in accordance with the mental capacity and temperaments of individuals. Throughout his missionary career, he devoted his time to address the people from all walks of life through numerous sermons and dialogues.

Broadly speaking, the Buddha followed four ways of delivering discourses. Namely; delivering a discourse on his own accord; or as an explanation of an issue by knowing the intention of the person in front of him; or as an answer to a question put to him; or according to the circumstance that has arisen. In his discussions and sermons, he illustrated his explanations with numerous similes and parables for clear and easy understanding.

He always stressed the fact that life is to be lived well; for which one has to be thoughtful and energetic. The attractions in the world should not distract one's attention from what is beneficial and wholesome.

As stated in the Dhammapada, rust that springs from iron eats itself away, therefore, one should not be foolish to be doomed by one's unwholesome deeds.

The Dhammapada commentary relates a story of a millionaire's son who squandered his great wealth. He and his wife eventually became beggars. His wealthy parents did not educate him in any vocation, art or craft. He had been taught only to sing and play musical instruments to while the time away. In the same city, there was another wealthy family who had only one daughter. Her wealthy parents too, only taught her to dance and sing for her own entertainment.

When the boy and the girl reached the proper age, they were married off in accordance to the customary ceremonies. In the course of time, both their parents died and the young couple inherited the huge wealth of the two families. One day, a company of drunkards thought to tempt the young millionaire to their ways for their advantage. They prepared a strong drink and roast meat. While drinking they said to the young man who was returning from attending the Buddha, “**Live for hundred years, master millionaire's son! With your help may we be able to eat and drink to our heart's content!**”

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They repeated the same words for several days when he returned from the monastery. Their ruse worked and the young man became interested in their drink and roasted meat. Soon he fell prey to the drunkards and became a habitual drinker. The drunkards flocked to him and their number increased gradually. The young millionaire arranged all kinds of parties frequently in his house and entertained his guests with strong drinks, food and perfumes. He hired singers, dancers and players of instrumental music.

Soon he squandered not only his wealth but his wife's as well. Now, becoming older than his age, he had to sell the family home. The person, who bought the house, straight away evicted the couple and occupied the house himself. The penniless couple had no choice but to take lodgings behind the walls of other people's buildings and beg for a living. One day, the young man went to the refectory with a broken potsherd in his hand to get some food for himself and his wife. When the novices were serving the food to him, the Buddha recognized him and explained to the monks what would have been his destiny if he had not been an enemy to himself:

“In the prime of life, if this man had not squandered his wealth, but invested in business, he would have become the first millionaire in this city. If he had retired from the world and become a monk, he would have attained Arahantship. His wife would have been established in the state of Non-returner. If in the middle of his life he had not squandered his wealth and invested in business, he would have become the second millionaire in this city. If he had retired from the world and become a monk, he would have attained the state of a Non-returner. His wife would have become a Once-returner. If in the latter part of his life he had not squandered his wealth, but invested in business, he would have become the third millionaire in this city. If he had retired from the world and become a monk, he would have been established in the state of Once-returner. His wife would have become a Stream-entrant.”

The Buddha concluded the sermon saying;

“Those who have not led a moral life and have not earned wealth in their youth, keep on brooding in the old age just like a worn out heron at a muddy place where there are no fish”.

- Dhp. 155

Ven. Dr. P. Gnanarama Mahathera

Snapshots of Vesak Celebrations



Inviting Bhanter to start the Blessing Service



Blessing by Bhante on Vesak Day



Ti-Sarana's President leads the Buddha Relic Procession



The Sacred Buddha Relic Procession

Activities of the Sunday Dhamma Classes

Vesak Day Celebrations

On Vesak night the Sunday Dhamma Classes' Students staged a performance that they had been rehearsing for the past few Sundays. Members and devotees were treated to several song and dance routines which showcased their versatility and precocious talent. The children remained earnest and energetic despite having participated in the Sacred Buddha Relic Procession from the premises of the Association to Duku Lane earlier in the evening.



All ready for Procession



Bhantes leading the way



Sunday Dhamma Class Students during Procession



Students from YMBA Senior Part I Class



Singing the Jayamañgalagāthā



Performances by the Sunday Dhamma Class Students

Parents' Day Celebration on 11th July 2010 (Sun.)

As part of the Sunday Dhamma Classes' activities, a Parents' Day Celebration will be held on 11th July 2010 (Sun.) at 12.30 pm.

This special day has been set aside for all of us, young and old, to remember and express our gratitude for all the wonderful things our parents have done for us. We are all truly indebted to our parents for bringing us up, providing for our material well being and guiding us in our formative years.

According to the Aṅguttara Nikāya, the only way to repay one's parents is to "(i) encourage one's unbelieving parents, settle and establish them in the faith; (ii) encourage one's immoral parents, settle and establish them in virtue; (iii) encourage one's stingy parents, settle and establish them in generosity; and (iv) encourage one's ignorant parents, settle and establish them in wisdom – having done so, one would have more than repaid one's parents for what they have done."

So, members/devotees, come join our Parents' Day Celebration. Better still, come with your parents to attend Dhamma classes (see YMBA Dhamma Class details below) and send your children to our Sunday Dhamma Classes.

YMBA Dhamma Classes

A new YMBA Junior Part I Class will commence on 4th July 2010 (Sun.) at 9.00 am. Dedicated Dhamma teachers/Venerables are looking forward to share their knowledge of the Dhamma with you.

Please see Bro. Asoka Song or Sis Sim Lian if you are interested to sign up for the course.

Sunday Dhamma Talk/Discussion

The following are the scheduled Dhamma Talks / Discussions for July / August 2010:

- 4th Jul. 2010 - What should a Buddhist do in the event of a life crisis? By Ven. Rathanasara
- 11th Jul. 2010 - No Dhamma Talk (Parents' Day Celebration)
- 18th Jul. 2010 - A Guide to a Proper Buddhist Funeral by Ven. R. Ananda
- 25th Jul. 2010 - Significance of Vassana by Ven. R. Ananda
- 1st Aug. 2010 - The Buddhist Way to Harmonious Living – 4 Brahma Viharas (1) – Metta by Ven. R. Ananda
- 8th Aug. 2010 - Buddhism & Sects – Recorded talk by Ajahn Brahm
- 15th Aug. 2010 - Dhamma Discussion led by Ven. Ananda – What should a Buddhist strive for?
- 22nd Aug. 2010 - Sharing of Merit with the Departed Ones by Ven. R. Ananda
- 29th Aug. 2010 - Video Presentation on Life of the Buddha

Tree of Aspirations

During Vesak, many members and devotees wrote their aspirations on “Bodhi Leaves” and tied them onto the “Tree of Aspirations”. We conduct Special Blessing Services every Sunday at 1.30 pm (after the Dhamma Talk) aimed at the fulfillment of their aspirations. Come and participate in the Service where we chant the Mangala Sutta and the Atthavāsati Paritta. Chanting and listening mindfully to the Sutta and Paritta can help to build one’s confidence in achieving one’s aspirations. This Service will run till 25 July (Sun.) just before we commence observation of the Vassana period.

During the Vassana period from 26 July the Special Blessing Service will be held nightly after the Evening Pūjā Service. On Sundays, the Service will be at 1.30 pm. after the Dhamma Talk/Discussion. The Mahā Kassapatthera Bojjhaṅgaṃ, the Mahā Moggallanatthera Bojjhaṅgaṃ, the Mahā Cundatthera Bojjhaṅgaṃ and the Jaya Paritta will be recited to invoke the blessings of the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.

We look forward to your presence.



*Tying the
“Bodhi Leaves”
to the Tree*



The “Tree of Aspirations”



*Special Blessing Service
in session*



*Blessing by Bhante
After the Service*

Come and listen to the Dhamma Talk on Sundays and participate in the Special Blessing Service to ward off fear, illness, anxiety, malice and other kinds of obstacles. Have confidence and faith in the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha for the fulfillment of your aspirations.

Ullambana Service **(Dedication of Merits to Departed Beings) on** **22nd Aug 2010 (Sun.)**

The Buddha taught us to shower our parents, relatives and friends with gratitude and love when they are alive. When they pass away, we continue to show our love for them by performing meritorious deeds in their memory and dedicating the acquired merits to them.

Traditionally, during the Festival of the Hungry Ghosts [Zhong Yuan Jie], elaborate offerings are prepared and later burnt to appease unfortunate departed beings who are reborn in the woeful realms.

Here in Ti-Sarana, instead of burning elaborate offerings, members and devotees are encouraged to offer Dāna and participate in the Ullambana Service to dedicate merits to their departed relatives and friends. Donations collected are used for Dhamma propagation, maintenance of the premises and welfare of the Venerables.

We will hold a Sanghika Dāna on 22nd Aug 2010 (Sun.) as part of our Ullambana Service. You are all invited to participate in this meritorious deed and dedicate the acquired merits to your departed relatives and friends.

Programme on 22nd Aug 2010 (Sun.)

- 11.00 am Buddha Pūjā
- 11.30 am Offering of essential requisites to the Venerables
- 11.35 am Recitation of Tirokudda Sutta and dedication of merits to all departed beings
- 11.45 am Blessings by Bhante
- 11.50 am Sanghika Dāna for Venerables
- 11.55 am Vegetarian lunch for members and devotees
- 12.30 pm Dhamma Talk on “Sharing of merit with the departed ones” by Ven. R. Ananda
- 1.30 pm Special Blessing Service to invoke the blessings of the Triple Gem for the fulfillment of aspirations
- 2.00 pm Blessings by Bhante

Enclosed is the form for members and devotees to offer Dāna and participate in the Ullambana Service. The donors and the names of their departed loved ones will be posted on the notice-board in the Shrine Hall during the Ullambana Service. Come and participate in the Sanghika Dāna where Venerables from other Buddhist organizations will also be present.

Welfare

Metta Youth Centre, Matara, Sri Lanka

To celebrate Vesak the 60 children at the Centre designed and made their own lanterns which were displayed at the Centre. Many neighbouring villagers came by to admire the beautifully lit lanterns in the evenings. The children attended a special pūjā at Vesak and later enjoyed a delicious dinner.

We are pleased to report that the children are faring reasonably well in their studies. In their leisure time, the children grow vegetables, red onions, long beans, green chilies and tomatoes in garden patches around the Centre.



Vassana Invitation Ceremony (26th July 2010, Mon.)

This year, the 3-month Vassana will commence on the Full Moon Day of July 26. Sis. Sumana Helen Mei and Bro. Lau Kim Koon will represent the Ti-Sarana Dhamma Community to formally invite our Bhanteres to observe Vassana at our premises.

The Programme is as follows:

7.30 pm	Evening Buddha Pūjā
8.00 pm	Invitation to Venerables to Vassavasa
8.15 pm	Sermon by Venerable
8.30 pm	Recitation of the Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta
9.30 pm	Blessing to members and devotees
9.45 pm	Gilanapaccaya for Venerables
9.50 pm	Light Refreshment for members and devotees

Please come to express your appreciation and gratitude to the Bhanteres for their support and guidance accorded to us.

Vassana Cultivation from 27th Jul. to 30th Oct. 2010

Once the Bhanteres are invited to observe Vassana on 26th July 2010, the Vassana cultivation programme for members and devotees will start with the Special Blessing Service and a short meditation session nightly after the Evening Pūjā Service.

Daily Evening Programme

7.30 pm	Pūjā Service
8.00 pm	Special Blessing Service / Recitation of Parittas
8.30 pm	Meditation session
8.45 pm	Blessing by Bhante

(Evening Pūjā Service on Saturday and Sunday starts at 6.30 pm. The Sunday Special Blessing Service is conducted at 1.30 pm)

The following Parittas will be recited :

27 th July to 24 th Aug	- Mahā Kassapattthera Bojjhaṅgaṃ and The Jaya Paritta
25 th Aug to 22 nd Sep	- Mahā Moggallānatthera Bojjhaṅgaṃ and The Jaya Paritta
23 rd Sep till Kathina Eve	- Mahā Cundatthera Bojjhaṅgaṃ and The Jaya Paritta

Come and participate in the Special Blessing Service during the Vassana period. The above three Bojjhaṅgaṃ are usually recited for good health and speedy recovery of patients from illness. The Jaya Paritta is chanted for protection, security and victory in our endeavours. Reciting these Parittas will imbue us with confidence to accomplish our aspirations and give us the sense of security and well-being.

The Management Committee looks forward to the participation of all members and devotees in the Special Blessing Service during the 3-month Vassana period.

By the strength of the Truth of the Dhamma, may all your aspirations be fulfilled!