



TI-SARANA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

Ti-Sarana

NEWS

90, DUKU ROAD, SINGAPORE 429254. TEL: 6345 6741 Fax: 6348 0844

Email: tisarana@singnet.com.sg Website: www.tisarana.org.sg

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Buddha, the Light of the World

Scholars in the world agree that the Buddha who lived in the 6th century B. C. was the greatest man who ever lived on our planet earth. Referring to the purity and magnanimity of his character, wisdom and intellectual acumen, compassion and devotion to enlighten others, Sir Edwin Arnold wrote in the introduction to his classic "Light of Asia" about one hundred and fifty years ago:

*"... the Buddhistical books yet agree in the one point of recording; nothing - no single act or word - which mars the purity and tenderness of this Indian teacher, **who united the truest princely qualities with the intellect of a sage and the passionate devotion of a martyr.**"*

Ending his fascinating work which is overflowing with captivating poetical diction he wrote:

*"Here endeth what I write
Who love the master for his love for us.
A little knowing, little have I told
Touching the Teacher and the Ways of Peace.
Forty-five rains thereafter showed he those
In many lands and many tongues, and gave
Our Asia Light, that still is beautiful,
Conquering the world with spirit of strong grace."*

When Sir Edwin Arnold composed his poem, it was a time when most of the original Buddhist works had not been rendered into Western languages. But with the passage of time, by the end of the last century, almost all the important texts of Buddhist scriptures had been made available in a good number of languages in the world. Remarkably it is this breakthrough that facilitated the study

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and the spread of the Buddha's teaching among numerous people living all over the globe. Buddhism, not being a religion of forced conversion by unethical means or proselytizing zeal, spreads slowly but steadily all over the globe. Its ethics, philosophy and psychological analyses embracing the entire human race, address crucial questions which man has been facing perennially. It is well-known that its system of meditation has been integrated into psychotherapeutic methods practised by leading psychotherapists in the US and UK. As the trend of appreciating and embracing Buddhism is ever increasing the time has come to recognize that the light of the Buddha is not confined to Asia alone. He sheds light all over the world and truly he is the **Light of the World**.

The thrice-sacred day of Vesak celebrating the Birth, Enlightenment and Passing Away of the Buddha was recognized as a sacred day by the United Nations in its General Assembly resolution of 1999. In accordance with the resolution, Vesak was celebrated for the first time at the United Nations' headquarters in 2001. Well over half a century, Vesak has been celebrated in Singapore. During the British period, David Marshall the Chief Minister, granting the request of the Buddhist community, declared on 15th June 1955 Vesak Day a public holiday in Singapore. In this regard, it is worth quoting what David Marshall stated in his reply to the Buddhist community in Singapore. Expressing his appreciation of Buddhism as a great civilizing force of humanity he stated unreservedly:

"... I am indeed happy to have been able to assist a large body of loyal peaceable and worthy citizens in achieving their legitimate claim. I am particularly happy on 2500th anniversary of the founding of a noble culture which has been one of the great civilizing influences of humanity. Buddhists in Singapore will be able to enjoy a proper recognition and full holiday."

Let all of us join together to celebrate the thrice sacred day of Vesak of 2552 BE./ 2009 CE. with the rest of the world.

Happy Vesak to all!!

Venerable Dr. P . Gnanarama Maha Therā



SUNDAY DHAMMA CLASSES

TBA is pleased to inform all members and devotees that with effect from 22 March 2009, there are new Sunday Dhamma classes available for children below 13 years old who are keen to learn about Buddhism. The classes for the children will commence at 10.15 am, starting with the “Children Pūjā”.

The Sunday Dhamma Classes have two sections – YMBA and Pre-YMBA. The class schedules are as follows:

YMBA (Young Men’s Buddhist Association)

(For Adults and Youth from age 13 onwards)

9 am to 10.45 am Classes
11am to 11.45 am Buddha Pūjā

Pre-YMBA Dhamma Classes

(For Children from age 4 to 12 years)

10.15 am to 10.45 am Children’s Pūjā
10.45 am to 12.15 pm Classes

The YMBA programme follows the Sri Lankan YMBA syllabus to prepare our students to sit for the Colombo YMBA Examinations on Theravada Buddha Dhamma. Please note that new YMBA classes will only commence from the new academic year which begins in July 2009.

The pre-YMBA classes for children follow prescribed books prepared specifically for the teaching of Theravada Buddhism for children. The children will then be able to study for the YMBA syllabus when they are older. This graduated course should give the students a good understanding of Theravada Buddhism.

We have a group of qualified and enthusiastic volunteer teachers who are able to impart their knowledge of the Buddha Dhamma. You are all encouraged to enroll your children for the Sunday classes to learn more about the Buddha and his teachings! To sign up, please leave your name and contact details with any TBA committee member.

Testimonial by Sunday Dhamma Classes students during Speech Day

Through the course of learning and preparing for our YMBA examinations, we have gained much. Not only in terms of our knowledge in the Dhamma but also in improving ourselves and striving to be better individuals. We have learnt many valuable lessons that serve as our guide in life.

For that we have our teachers to thank. They have sacrificed their Sundays and had taken time from their busy schedules to prepare the lessons and to impart their knowledge to us.

Also, we would like to thank Ti-Sarana as well as to our parents for giving us this valued opportunity to learn the Dhamma.

We hope to strive for better results in the upcoming examination and may we never be complacent, always aiming for the best!

We convey our best regards to the students in the other classes and wish them all the best for the upcoming YMBA exams.

Above testimonial by
Amara, Anoja, Ranani & Kalpana (current students of YMBA Class, Junior II)

Eight Precepts Observation (10th April, Fri.)

The 8 Precepts Observation is an opportunity for students and teachers of the Sunday Dhamma Classes to touch base with their inner self as it provides a practical experience to Abhidhamma studies. Of course it is also a welcome break from the stress of daily life.

Time: 7.30 am to 7.00 pm

Preceptors will have to be attired in white.

Mindfulness On The Unique Qualities Of The Buddha Gives One Protection Against Evil and Danger

Once in Rajagaha, a woodcutter went into the woods with his son to cut some firewood. On the way home in the evening, they stopped near a cemetery to have their meal. They took off the yoke from their two oxen to enable them to graze nearby, but the two oxen wandered away. The woodcutter went to the town to look for them, leaving his son with the cart of firewood. It was getting late when the father returned and the city gate was closed. The young boy had to spend the night alone underneath the cart.

The woodcutter's son, though young, was always mindful and was in the habit of contemplating the unique qualities of the Buddha. That night, two evil spirits came to frighten and harm him. When one of the evil spirits pulled his leg, he recited, "Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato Samma Sambuddhassa" ("Honour to Him, the Blessed One, The Worthy One, the Fully Enlightened One").

Hearing these sacred words, the evil spirits got frightened and they took great care of the boy. One remained near the boy, guarding him from all dangers. The other went to fetch some food from the King's palace. The two evil spirits fed the boy as if he were their own son.

Hence, many of our problems are caused by the mind itself. When the mind is constantly mindful of the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha, it can help us to overcome our disturbances, fear of evil spirits and even loneliness. Our minds will be calmed and self-confidence is restored, and the answer to our problems will become evident, as if by a miracle.

Above article contributed by Sis Subha Teo

Speech Day held on 22 February 2009



Amara, Anoja, Ranani & Kalpana giving their testimonial



Aruna receiving his certificate from Bhante Gnanarama



Students performing their musical item



Proud students of YMBA Classes with their certificates



Sunday Dhamma Classes students with Bhantes and their teachers



Sunday Dhamma Classes student Daryl Chua participating in cake cutting during TBA's Anniversary

The Library at TBA

The library at TBA is well stocked with many books on Buddhism written by eminent Venerables and scholars. Members, devotees and especially students of the Sunday Dhamma Classes or the Buddhist and Pali College of Singapore are welcome to make use of the library. There is also a section designated for children with comics and Buddhist story books written specially for them.

Members and devotees who are interested to borrow a book or two can contact Bro Christopher Lim, Sis Arlene Tay or Sis Cindy Chung.

Sunday Dhamma Talks

- 5th Apr, 11.45 pm - "Are you Happy?" by Bro Leong
- 12th Apr, 12.30 pm - "Why participate in Vesak preparation?" by Ven. Gnanarama
- 19th Apr, 11.45 - "Buddhist Concept of Destiny & Karma" by Sis Helen Ong
- 26th Apr, 11.45 - "How Feng Shui affects us" by Sis Helen Ong

Vesak Celebrations

This year's Vesak activities will start on 7th May (Thurs.) with the Blessing of bottled water. The Venerables will be invited to recite Suttas and Parittas, to bless the bottled water, after the Evening Puja Service at 7.30 pm. All are welcome!

Vesak Day celebrations on 9th May (Sat.) will commence with the hoisting of the National and Buddhist Flags at 7.00 am. The Sacred Buddha Relics will be unveiled for veneration from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm. Members and devotees are invited to pay homage to the Buddha Relics. They can also come for blessings by the Venerables, throughout the day. In the evening, the Buddha Relic Candlelight procession will start at 6.15 pm followed by Buddha Puja and performances by the Sunday Dhamma Classes students and their parents. Do come and rejoice together on this blessed day of Vesak.

Directions to TBA



Car Parks & Public Bus Service

There are very limited car parking facilities at Duku Road where TBA is located. On Vesak Day, to avoid traffic congestion and inconvenience for the residents around 90 Duku Road, devotees are advised to park at Tembeling Road or Eunos MRT Station public car parks.

The public bus from Eunos MRT Station towards Still Road is service number 13. Devotees are to alight at the second bus-stop from Eunos MRT Station. From there, it is a short walk towards Duku Road from Lorong Nangka and Pulasan Road.

The road map on this page shows the locations of the public car parks.

Blessing of bottled water for Vesak (7th May, Thurs.)

7.30pm	Evening Buddha Pūjā
8.00pm	Gilanapaccaya For Venerables
8.05pm	Light Refreshment For Members & Devotees
8.20pm	Invitation Of Sacred Buddha Relics To Shrine Hall
8.30pm – 10.00pm	Recitation Of Suttas & Parittas By Venerables

Vesak Programme (9th May Sat.)

Morning

7.00am	Hoisting Of The National & Buddhist Flags
8.00am	Unveiling Of Sacred Buddha Relics
8.30am	Blessing For Vesak Helpers
9.00am	Invitation To Pay Homage To The Buddha Relics
9.30am	Distribution Of Blessed Water To Members & Devotees
10.45am	Buddha Pūjā
11.30am	Dāna For Maha Sangha
11.35am	Vegetarian Lunch For Members & Devotees

Evening

6.15pm	Assemble For Buddha Relics Candlelight Procession
6.30pm	Invitation Of The Buddha Relics For Candlelight Procession
6.45pm	Candlelight Procession
7.45pm	Buddha Pūjā
8.30pm	Dhamma Talk
8.45pm	Performance by student of Sunday Dhamma Classes
9.05pm	Performance by Parents of Sunday Dhamma Classes students
9 15pm	Gilanapaccaya For Venerables

Preparation for Vesak

Members and devotees who wish to volunteer their time to assist in the pre-Vesak preparations and on Vesak Day are welcome. To volunteer, please complete the attached form and submit to TBA.

Donation For Vesak Celebration

Donations from members and devotees are welcome for the Vesak Celebration.

To donate, please fill up the enclosed form and submit it together with your donation to the Honorary Treasurer.