



TI-SARANA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

Ti-Sarana

NEWS

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NEWSLETTER ISSUE : JAN/FEB 2012

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A THOUGHT FOR THE CHINESE NEW YEAR OF THE DRAGON

“One After Another Little by Little, Time After Time.....”

This incident happened when the Buddha was residing at Jetavana monastery. Early one morning, a Brahmin from Savatthi stopped at the place where monks used to wear their robes. This place was thickly overgrown with grass and shrubs. The Brahmin noticed that as one of the monks was trying to put on his robe, the robe was dragged towards the shrubs and the hem of the robe became wet with drops of dew from the shrubs and grass. The Brahmin was very much moved by this and determined to clear the place for the convenience of the monks.

The following day, he came to the same place with a mattock and cleared the place. He made it as clean and smooth as a threshing-floor. He did not stop there. The next day he went to the place again and having noticed that the robe of a monk which had dropped to the ground was smeared with dust, he brought sand and spread sand all over the place. One day he noticed that when monks put on their robes they were perspiring profusely due to the heat of the sun. Determined that he should put up a pavilion there, he caused a pavilion to be erected. Once again on another morning, he saw that due to the rain at night, raindrops were dripping from the robes. Then he thought that he ought to cause a hall to be built there. After all these, he was quite happy and invited the Saṅgha headed by the Buddha for alms and seated the Buddha and the monks within and outside the hall and offered them alms.

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Special Blessing Service on Chinese New Year's Eve

We will be holding a Special Blessing Service on 22nd Jan. 2012 (Sun.) to usher in the Chinese New Year of the Dragon. As most of us will be having the traditional reunion dinner with our families, the Special Blessing Service will start at 10.00 pm.

Do come with your family members and friends to participate in the recitation of Suttas and Parittas and be blessed by our Bhantes. May the coming Chinese New Year of the Dragon bring abundant love, joy, peace, harmony and prosperity to you and your family!

Programme on Chinese New Year's Eve (22nd Jan. 2012, Sun.)

10.00 pm	Invitation to the Venerables to commence the Blessing Service
10.05 pm till 12.15 am	Suttas and Parittas recitation
12.20 am	Blessings by the Venerables
12.25 am	Light Refreshment

At the end of the meal, he took the bowl from the Buddha and revealed how step by step the thought of putting up a hall was conceived in his mind. Thereupon the Buddha delivering the Thanksgiving Sermon said that the wise, who resort to do good work one after another, little by little and time after another are capable of removing the stains of his evil deeds gradually and uttered the following stanza:

“One after another, little by little, time after time, the wise should blow away his own impurities, even as a smith blows away the dross of silver.” – Dhammapada 239

The commentary glosses that a silversmith is incapable of removing the dross from the silver in a single attempt. He has to heat up the lump of silver ore again and again and hammer it again and again repeatedly to remove all impurities from it gradually. This reminds us the old English sayings: **“Many a little thing makes a mickle”** and **“Many a mickle makes a muckle.”** A mickle is a larger quantity and muckle is still a much larger quantity.

The Dhamma message given in this story is worthy of all of us to consider at the dawn of the Chinese New Year of the Dragon. In Greek mythology, the dragon symbolizes evil and bad luck. In Indian mythology, it is also a mythical animal made of several bodily parts of real animals and considered as auspicious and used for decoration. But strictly speaking, in Chinese and Japanese mythologies, it symbolises benevolence and munificence. In the New Year let us be reflectively enthusiastic and try to find time to do good even though it is insignificant and comparatively small. In this way, your small attempts will help the Dhamma live long.

The Buddha in explaining an issue raised by Venerable Mahākassapa said in the **Samyutta nikāya** that true Dhamma would not disappear all at once in the way a ship sank. The Commentary explaining it says that unlike a ship crossing the water, which sinks when receiving goods, there is no disappearance of true Dhamma by being filled up with learning, etc. For; when learning declines, the practice declines and when the practice declines achievement declines. But when learning becomes full, persons rich in learning fill up the practice, and those filling up the practice fill up achievement. Thus learning etc., is increasing and the dispensation keeps on thriving just as the new moon. As described in the discourse there are five detrimental things for the decay and disappearance of the Dhamma. Namely; when monks and nuns, and also both male and female lay followers live without reverence and deference -

1. towards the Teacher
 2. towards the Dhamma
 3. towards the Sangha
 4. towards training and
 5. towards the Concentration of the mind,
- then the dispensation would decline and disappear.

And also according to the **Anguttara nikāya**, there are five advantages of listening to the Dhamma. Namely;

- (a) listening to the Dhamma one hears things not heard before
- (b) gets clarified what was heard before
- (c) gets his doubts cleared
- (d) makes his view straightened and
- (e) he gets his mind pacified

Therefore to have a fresh start in your life's journey, listen to the Dhamma, bear in mind and determine to practise the Dhamma one after another, little by little, time after time during the forthcoming New Year.

A very happy and prosperous Chinese New Year to all!

Ven. Dr. P. Gnanarama Anu-nāyaka Mahāthera

80th Birthday Celebration of Bhante Gnanarama

We like to thank all the Venerables, members and devotees of TBA, and members of the Buddhist and Pali College Alumni who rejoiced with us on 26th Nov. 2011 to celebrate the 80th birthday of Bhante Dr. P. Gnanarama Mahāthera. Collections received for Dāna on that day were donated to Bhante Gnanarama's Purvarama Buddhist Temple in Sri Lanka.

Below is Bhante Gnanarama's note of sincere thanks and gratitude.

"Before I see the Felicitation Volume let me express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Ven. Ratanasiri and Ven. Ānanda, Management Committee, members and devotees of TBA, the president, secretary and members of the BPC alumni for the celebration you organized jointly to celebrate my 80th Birthday. It was very grand and at the same time very decent, joyful and memorable.

I never expected a festive occasion of that kind. It was only on that day did I realize how much all of you have troubled and laboured to make the event a success. The entire day's programme was enjoyed by all.

All in one and one in all
Made me young with feelings so dear
Until I get the final call
I carry its memory for ever and ever!

My sincere thanks and gratitude to all of you.

May the blessings of the Triple Gem be with you always!"



Bro. Khemaka invites Bhante to Shrine Hall



Songs by Dhamma School Students



A student presenting a gift to Bhante



A section of the guests



Cutting the Birthday Cake



Congratulatory greetings from everyone



Photos with Bhante Gnanarama

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUNDAY DHAMMA SCHOOL

Resumption of Classes

The Sunday Dhamma Classes will commence on Sunday, 12th Feb. 2012. Bhante Ānanda and the other volunteer teachers are looking forward to see all the students of YMBA (Young Men's Buddhist Association) Buddhist Studies at 9.00 am after the break of more than two months. Morning Pūjā for the pre-YMBA classes will start at 10.15 am. We look forward to your presence.

Annual Speech Day

Our heartiest congratulations to all the students who took the YMBA Buddhist Studies Examination in June 2011! The results are out and all of them have done well. The Dhamma School will hold its Annual Speech Day on 19th Feb. 2012. Please encourage your friends and relatives to sign up for the new Pre-YMBA or YMBA Classes which will start in July 2012. The structured course will give you a good understanding of the Life of the Buddha, His Teachings and the Suttas that we recite daily.

Programme on 19th Feb. 2012 (Sun.)

- 11.00 am Buddha Pūjā
- 11.45 am Vegetarian Lunch
- 12.30 pm Opening Address by Principal, Bhante Gnanarama
- 12.40 pm Address by the President, Ti-Sarana Buddhist Association
- 12.45 pm The year in focus
- 12.50 pm Presentation of Certificates
- 1.00 pm Testimony by Students
- 1.15 pm Closing Address by the Vice-Principal
- 1.20 pm Blessings by Bhantes
- 1.25 pm Photograph Sessions with the volunteer Teachers and Bhantes

Launch of Felicitation Volume on 4th Dec. 2011

A group of TBA members witnessed the official launch of the Felicitation Volume, "Ñānappabhā" on 4th Dec. 2011 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo. The Felicitation Book was published by Ti-Sarana Buddhist Association to celebrate the 80th birthday of Bhante Dr. P. Gnanarama Mahathera. Once again the Management Committee wish to express our grateful thanks to our Resident Bhantes, Bhante W. Ratanasiri, Bhante R. Ānanda, the Editors of the Felicitation Book, Bhante Dr. R. Chandawimala, Prof. Chandima Wijebandara for compiling and producing the Book, the 34 eminent scholars and Venerables from more than 11 countries who contributed articles, members of the Academic Board of the Felicitation Volume, the proofreaders, the Book designer and page setter, Ms Aosi Mak (Hong Kong), the Cover designer, Mr Somachandra Peiris (Sri Lanka), and everyone who have helped in the production of this Book to honour Bhante Gnanarama.



Arrival of Bhante



Welcome reception for Bhante



Honoured Guests



Bro Khemaka lights the oil lamp



Bro. Khemaka presents the Felicitation Book to Bhante



Distributing the Felicitation Book



A photo with some of the Bhantes

WELFARE ACTIVITIES

Mettā Youth Centre

3 volunteers from Ti-Sarana visited the children at Mettā Youth Centre on 28th Nov. 2011. They spent five wonderful days with the girls conducting enrichment classes for them. The younger ones enjoyed the English reading and role playing sessions with Sis. Seok Wah while the older girls were taught art and craft. All the children, except for 9 teenagers who were busy preparing for their “O” Levels Examinations, thoroughly enjoyed the fun learning activities. The girls treated the volunteers to delicious cookies they learnt to bake from Sis Subodhā Evelyn Tan when she was there in late Sept. 2011. The scrumptious “Ayubowan (May you live long!)” cookies, baked without adult supervision, were served during the afternoon tea break.



Sis. Seok Wah reads and role-plays with the girls



Sis. Seok Wah & Sis. Mun Cheing with some of the older girls



Computer class



Baking cookies for the guests



Play time



MYC children having fun with the swing, the slide and the “spin-around”

BLESSING SERVICES AT TI-SARANA

Blessing for Expectant Mother

Our heartiest congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Phua Tian Peng on the birth of their second son on 11th Nov. 2011. Sis. WeiQi came with her family and parents, Mr & Mrs Ng Kee Beng on 7th Nov. for blessings by Bhante Ānanda for a safe delivery of her child.

Birthday Blessing

Bro. Asoka Melvyn Song came with his family on his birthday in Nov. to offer Dāna to Bhante.



Expectant mother, Sis WeiQi being blessed by Bhante



Bro. Asoka on his birthday



Inauguration of the Pagoda Lamps of Blessings

We will be holding the annual Inauguration of the Pagoda Lamps of Blessings on 31st Jan. 2012 (Tues.), the ninth day of the Chinese New Year. Our Bhantes will recite Suttas and Parittas for good health, peace, happiness and success for all members and devotees. Come and join us to experience the efficacy of Paritta chanting and feel the joy, confidence and overall sense of well-being.

We appreciate the annual contribution of \$40 for a niche on the Pagoda Lamps by our members and devotees. All funds collected are used for the welfare of the Bhantes, Sunday Dhamma School activities, maintenance of the Association premises, Sangha Abode and welfare activities. Enclosed with this newsletter is the form for renewal/new application for placement of names in the niches of the Pagoda Lamps of Blessings.

Every Tuesday evening at 8.00 pm, names of donors whose birthday fall during the week will be read out for blessing before the recitation of Suttas/Parittas from the Great Book of Protection. All members and devotees are encouraged to participate in the recitation, invoking the blessings of the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha for yourself and all sentient beings.

Programme on 31st Jan. 2012 (Tues.)

7.30 pm	Evening Pūjā
8.00 pm	Suttas and Parittas recitation by the Venerables at Buddha Relic Chamber
9.00 pm	Blessing by the Venerables
9.10 pm	Distribution of Blessed Rice Packets, Oranges, Blessed Threads and Blessed Water
9.15 pm	Gilānapaccaya for the Venerables
9.20 pm	Light refreshment for members and devotees

“Lo Hei” on 5th Feb. 2012 (Sun.)

Come for fellowship and “Lo Hei” on 5th Feb. 2012 (Sun.). Buddha Pūjā will start as usual at 11.00 am followed by “Lo Hei” for Good Health, Long Life, Harmony, Prosperity and Success in all our endeavours.

2012 Activities at Ti-Sarana

1 Jan.	Sanghika Dāna and Blessings for members and devotees
22 Jan.	Chinese New Year’s Eve Special Blessing Service
23 Jan.	Chinese New Year
31 Jan.	Inauguration of Pagoda Lamps of Blessings
26 Mar.	35 th Anniversary Celebration of Ti-Sarana Buddhist Association
29 Mar - 4 Apr.	Qing Ming Memorial Service
6 Apr	Observance of Eight Precepts
5 May	Vesak Day
13 May	Ti-Sarana Chefs’ Day
3 Jul.	Invitation to Vassāna
25 Aug. - 31 Aug.	Ullambana Service
30 Sept.	Abhidhamma Day Observance
Oct. (date to be fixed later)	Kaṭhina and Robes Offering Ceremony
31 Dec.	Overnight chanting for New Year 2013

Ven. Dr. P. Gnanarama Mahāthera,

Ven. W. Ratanasiri Mahāthera,

Ven. R. Ānanda Thera and the Management Committee

wish all Members and Devotees A Very Blessed and Prosperous Chinese New Year!