

GREETING FROM SAGAING HILLS,
MYANMAR
ON
THE GREAT OCCASION OF THE BUDDHA,
THE GREATEST TEACHER OF
MEN AND GODS



In commemoration of the Buddha's day, which falls on the Fullmoon Day of May (Kason), known as Vesakha Punnama, I am very glad to take this opportunity to convey my sincere wish, pure love and deep compassion to you and to all beings.

This 'Threefold Sacred Day' is the most significant and auspicious day for the Buddhist world since Siddhattha Gotama was born at Lumbini Park in Kapilavatthu, attained Enlightenment and became the Buddha under the Bodhi-tree at Uruvela-forest near Gaya; and passed into Parinibbana at Sala Grove in Kusinara on this very Fullmoon Day.

On this Threefold Sacred day of the Buddha, I sincerely would like to deliver the following three sacred utterances of the Buddha.

1. B.C. 623, on the Full-moon Day of May (Kason) when Siddhattha Gotama was born,

He uttered this wonderful announcement:-

- A. Aggohamasmi lokassa
I am most supreme in the world.

- B. Ayamantimā jāti
This is my last birth.
- C. Natthi dāni punabbhavo
Now there is no more rebirth.

2. On the full moon day of May, in the year of 588 B.C., Siddhattha Gotama sat in deep meditation of insight, under the Bodhi-tree on the bank of river Neranjara in the Uruvela forest, near Gaya (in the modern Bihar of India). On the even of this full-moon day of May, during the earlier part of the night, He obtained the mental power of seeing His past lives in detail. In second watch of the night, He obtained the power of Divine Eye. In the last watch of that very night, Siddhattha Gotama eradicated defilement totally without exception and penetrated the four noble truths

by His own way. Unaided and unguided by any supernatural agency, solely relying on His own efforts and wisdom, He conquered the process of the becoming and continuity of birth and death. Ignorance was dispelled and wisdom arose, darkness vanished and light transpired. He attained the Supreme Enlightenment and became Buddha, the greatest teacher of men and gods.

At that moment of attainment of Buddhahood, the Buddha uttered the following joyful words:

- A. I had been seeking the builder of the house (body), failing to attain enlightenment which would enable me to find him, had wandered through innumerable births in the continuous process of becoming. To

- B. Oh! house builder, you have been seen and you shall build no more house for me again. All of your rafters are broken and your roof tree are destroyed. My mind has reached the unconditioned Nibbana, and I have attained the cessation of craving.

Those were the first words of the Buddha.

3. B.C. 543 on the Full moon Day of May (Kason), when the Buddha passed away, He urged His disciples as this:

'Vayadhammā Saṅkhārā; Appamādena Sampādettha = All of mental, physical formations are of the nature of constant flux, disease, decay and death; Be endowed with mindfulness.'

This is the last word of the Buddha.

The members of the Buddhist community all over, observe this Full moon Day in May (Kason) as "the Buddha's day" with grand celebrations.

May the teaching of the Buddha prevail in every corner of the world.
May all beings be Happy, Peaceful and Harmonious.

Yours in the Dhamma

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The Birth, Enlightenment and Parinibbāna of the Buddha, 2635.