

## Medin uposatha (March)

A month becomes important according to the special events that occurred in its time.

In the life of Buddha there are various descriptions of happenings that are related to the month of *Medin*. It is recorded that the pilgrimages to the holy peak which start in the month of *Unduvap* show the greatest number of pilgrims in the month of *Medin*.



After *Medin* comes the month of *Bak*, which is also the month of the new year, April. It may be the understanding that it is beneficial to join in a pilgrimage as a meritorious deed before the new year begins. It is also easy to walk along when there is less rain. Unlike in the modern times, for pilgrimages and other modes of travelling a period of no rain had to be selected. In farm life the month of *Medin* is regarded as the middle month between *Yala* and *Maha*.

It is recorded in the Buddhist history that after the enlightenment the Buddha first set foot on *Sakyan* Kingdom or among his relatives on a *Medin poya* day.

The proud Sakyans were of opinion that the Buddha who was younger to them should not be saluted by them. So the supreme Buddha suppressed their pride by showing the great Twin Miracles. This too was done on a *Medin* full moon day. King *Suddhodana* admiring his son went down on his knees filled with faith and reverence and worshipped the *Buddha*. This is the third of such reverence paid by him to the *Buddha*.

On the *Medin poya* day on Lord Buddha's advent to *Kimbulwatpura* many more important events took place.

- To praise princess *Yasodhara*'s love for her husband the proclamation of *Chanda Kinnara Jātaka*.
- Preaching of *Vessantara Jataka*.
- Ordination of prince *Nanda*.
- Ordination of prince *Rāhula* who walked to the monastery, asking the Buddha for his inheritance.



When prince *Siddhattha* was very young, Queen *Pajāpati Gotamī* looked after him as his own mother. To direct her to the path of *Nibbāna* the Buddha uttered the doctrine and she attained the third stage of Sanctity.

Supreme Buddha showed his gratitude even to the forest groves that rendered him a little service. He helped his loving parents, brothers, sisters, faithful queen *Yasodhara*, son *Rāhula* and other relatives to cross over this sorrow strike *saṃsāra*. From this journey to *Kimbulwatpura* and the Buddha's directing all of them on the right path, we as human beings have to learn many lessons. To be grateful to a person who

has done even a little help is a noble human moral precept.

This should be understood by the occurrences of *Medin pohoya*. The Buddhists go to temples clad in white clothes with flowers, oil and perfumes in their hands because they are grateful.

### **Gratitude**

*Young I was then  
My mother loved me  
Fed me, morals she taught me  
May merit be hers*

*Young I was then  
Loved me my father  
To the temple  
On Medin pohoya day  
Of Budu Hamuduruwo  
He told me  
May merit be his.*

*Budu Hamuduruwo  
His parents he cared  
Happy was I  
Thinking of great Buddha  
May merit be his.*

Source: Duruthu pohoya; Soma Jayakody.