

The Maha Pucha Visakh Day--A Significant Religious Day of the World

Thai Buddhists and Buddhists all over the world hopefully and joyfully look forward to celebrating the Maha Pucha Visakh Day because it is a meaningful day for Buddhist expression. It is the day to commemorate the date of birth, the date of enlightenment and the date of death of Lord Buddha. Annually, the day falls on the full moon day of the 6^{th} lunar month or "Visakh Month".

The obvious reason why Thais and others all over the world worship Lord Buddha is that they appreciate the virtues and omniscience of the Buddha, who is the Greatest Teacher for all human beings. His benevolence, kindness and purity of the spirit showered onto the world have helped the world to be in peace and the peoples to live peacefully until now.

Certainly, some Buddhists were lucky enough to visit three important holy sites: Lumbini (now located in Nepal), Bodh Gaya, Kushinagar and Pa I-sipattana Marue-Kathayawan at Sarnath, the place where Lord Buddha delivered his first preaching after his enlightenment. It is generally believed that being present at these four holy sites in Buddhism is an auspicious act, especially when one pays homage to the places in person. Other Buddhists had a great opportunity to visit Chetawan Maha Viharn, Khao Khit Chakut and other places related to the life of Lord Buddha. Buddhists should make an effort to visit these places to make merits, so that they will enjoy life with luck and prosperity.

However, even when such an opportunity does not exist, if one abstains from evil acts, performs good deeds and keeps a virtuous mind, it means that the person has already paid respect to and demonstrated an act of deep worship of Lord Buddha.

Dr. Keerath Sanguansai President of Walailak University 1 May 2013