

Why does Tibetan
Buddhism celebrate the
Great Festival of
Miracles? What is the
Festival of Miracles?

From the first day of Lunar New Year, Buddha Shakyamuni displayed 15 miracles for straight 15 days.

This 2019, we celebrate it from Feb 5 to Feb 19.

He did this because the six false monk teachers, led by Purnakasyapa, challenged him.

The six false monks were insulted by the Buddha's presence. So, they approached King Bimbisara to host a contest.

They said, "We will challenge the Buddha's powers. If he displays one miracle, we will display two. If he displays two, we will display four. We will prove that he is just an ordinary monk."

When the King told this to the Buddha, Buddha Shakyamuni replied, "Let them choose the place and time. It is they who want to challenge me."

When the day of the contest arrived, the Buddha left Magadha, the kingdom of King Bimbisara. He went to Licchavi, Varaci, Digyasri, Benares, Kapila (the land of the Sakya), and finally Sravasti.

All the Kings and citizens of these lands followed the Buddha and his assembly to Sravasti. The audience grew to hundred thousands of people.

In Sravasti, King Prasenajit asked the Buddha about the challenge once again. The Buddha finally accepted the challenge on the new moon day (Lunar New Year).

Day 1

Offeror to the Buddha: King Prasenajit of Sravasti



Miracle Displayed by Buddha Shakyamuni: Toothpick turned into a tree five-hundred yojanas (1 yojana is 12-15kms) in height, bejewelled, and

with the most delicious fruits. When the leaves of this tree swayed, the Dharma can be heard



Day 2

Offeror: King Udayana of Kausambhi
Two very high mountains of jewels and precious
stones with trees, flowers and lovely music; the top of
one mountain has foods of a hundred flavors where
humans ate, the top of the other mountain has grass
where animals ate

Day 3

King Socinadi of Varaci offered to the Buddha

When the Buddha washed his mouth after eating, the water droplets turned into an ocean-lake two hundred

yojanas in diameter, with jewels and five-colored lotuses as large as cart wheels



Day 4

King Indravarma offered

Eight rivers flowed out from the ocean-lake and back into it. When the rivers flowed, the voices of various Dharmas were heard: the voices taught the Five Powers, Bodhicitta, Eightfold Noble Path, Three Doors to

Liberations, Six Paramitas, Four Immeasurables

Day 5King Brahmadatta

Golden light shone from the Buddha's face and illuminated the entire Universe. The three poisons and the five obstacles were



removed from all beings and their minds were pacified to achieve the third dhyana (meditative concentration)

Day 6



The Licchavis offered to the Buddha

All were made to know everyone's thoughts – both

virtues and non-virtues. All were joyful because they saw the virtues in the mind of the Buddha

Day 7

The Sakyas offered to the Buddha
The Buddha transformed all attendees into Universal
Monarchs (Skt. *Chakravartins*), possessing the
seven

precious emblems, one thousand sons etc, and explained the differentiation of the Dharmas

Day 8

Indra, god of gods, Brahma, creator god offered

When the Buddha pressed the lion throne where he sat, the roar of an elephant and six rakshas (Skt.



man-eating legendary creature) were heard.

Then, Bodhisattva Vajrapani appeared with his flaming dorje. He waved the flaming dorje at the heads of the six false teachers. They jumped into the

water and died. Their ninety-thousand followers became monks of the Buddha.

Day 9King Brahma offered

A beam of clear white light shone to Brahma's realm. It illuminated the entire universe and all heard the Dharma.





The Buddha's body expanded up to the realm of the Four Great Kings, and filled the entire Samsara. All who saw this heard the Word of the Dharma.

Day 11

Anathapindika, the Buddha's wealthiest disciple, offered

Buddha sat on the lion throne, invisible. A light streamed forth from him and the Dharma was taught in sweet tones.

Day 12

Prince Canda offered to the Buddha

The Buddha was in meditation on love. A beam of light covered the entire universe, and the mind of compassion arose in all who were present.

Day 13King Sunjanadi offered

Two rays of light appeared from the Buddha's navel. At the tip of each ray, two Buddhas sat on two



Iotuses. Then, each Buddha shone two rays of light from their navels and two more Buddhas appeared. All these filled the entire space and taught the Dharma.

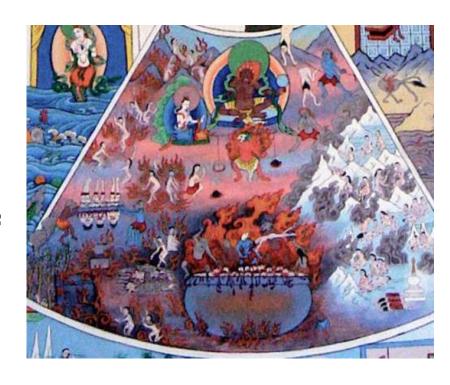
Day 14King Uddayana

The flowers that the King offered were transformed into 250 jewelled-vehicles that filled the entire Universe.



Day 15 King Bimbisara

100 containers were filled with all kinds of delicious foods that satisfied all the attendees.



Then, when the Buddha touched the ground, the sufferings of the 18 Hells appeared.

The sufferings were so painful that those who witnessed were filled with terror. They vowed to do only virtue.

We celebrate this Festival of Miracles on the final day, 15th Day after every Lunar New Year. [Feb 19, 2019]

- The End -

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