



***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 5

**King Brahmadata**

**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 9**

**King Brahma offered**

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

## **Day 10**

**Four Great Maharajas offered**

**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 13

**King Sunjanadi offered**

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



**lotuses. 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 14**

**King 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 -**

**Next Archive: The Seven-Branch Offering**