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Sarnath—The first preaching place of the Buddha

2558 B.E.

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*With best wishes on the Occasion of the
150th Birth Anniversary of
Bodhisattva Anagarika Dharmapala*



The Importance of Sarnath :

- Preaching of the First sermon by the Sākyamuni Buddha to His first five disciples "*Dhammacakka-pavattana Sutta*".
- Second sermon of the Sākyamuni Buddha, "*Anatta Lakkhana Sutta*".
- First disciple Attains "Sotāpanna" (Konḍañña Thera).
- Arahathood of first five disciples after hearing the Second Sermon.
- Ordination of Yaśa Kula-Putra.
- Emerging of first followers of the Triple Gem : The Buddha, Dhamma and Saṅgha.
- Sākyamuni Buddha Sending sixty Arahats to propagate His Dhamma.
- Sākyamuni Buddha spending the first rainy season.
- Beginning of the holy word "Sadhu" with veneration to the Sakyamuni Buddha.

From the Founder

I welcome you to this hallowed spot, sacred to the Buddhists of Asia as the place where the Devatideva Sakyamuni preached the first Discourse known as the. Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta to the five Bhikkhus 2520 years ago.

★ ★ ★

The time has now come to elevate India to a state of progress. No progress is possible if internecine quarrels continue. The ancient Buddhist Bhikkhus followed the path of renunciation when they carried the sociological ethics of Aryan civilization to Japan, Korea, China, Siam, Cambodia, Burma and Ceylon. What happened to the wonderfully sublime literature that existed in India in the Buddhist period? No trace of it is found in India; but fortunately the whole literature exists in its fulness in Buddhist lands. Europeans study Pali, Sanskrit, Chinese, Mongolian, Tibetan in the hope of re-discovering the forgotten teachings of the Samma Sambuddha, which saw the light first in India 2520 years ago. But the sons of India have no idea of the wealth that exists in the wonderful Buddhist literature and very few sons of the soil think of discovering the gems that are embedded therein.

★ ★ ★

After an exile of 800 years the Buddhists have returned to their own dear Holy Isipatana. It is the wish of the Maha Bodhi Society to give to the people of India without distinction of caste and creed the compassionate doctrine of the Samma Sambuddha. I trust that you would come forward to disseminate the Arya Dhamma of the Tathagata throughout India.

★ ★ ★

(Anagarika Dharmapala 11.11.1931 on Opening Ceremony Day
of the Mulagandha Kutty Vihara)

Sep 03, 2014

MESSAGE

The Maha Bodhi Society of India (MBSI) is celebrating a year-long celebration on the occasion of the founder Ven. Anagarika Dharmapala's 150th Birth Anniversary which falls on 17th September 2014.

Since 1935, '*Dharmadoota*' Journal has been a publication of the MBSI Sarnath center. This center is the flag-ship of MBSI.

The Dharmadoota Magazine was initiated by *Devapriya Valisinghe* the pupil and successor of Anagarika Dharmapala. With the demise of Ven. Anagarika Dharmapala (Ven. Devamitta Dharmapala) the responsibility of shouldering the position of General Secretary MBSI was on Devapriya Valisinghe. The main focus of the publication has been the local public. The articles published over the years have created much enthusiasm and helped to propagate the Buddha's teaching and the way of life among the common man.

My sincere blessing to the Dharmadoota publication for the cause of Humanity and World peace.

Bhavatu Sabba Mangalam.



Prasanna Jayasuriya
President
Maha Bodhi Society of India

The Managing Editor's Note

The Maha Bodhi Society is going ahead with plans to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of its founder Bodhisattva Anagarika Dharmapala. It has started *Maha Bodhi International Publication and Media Division* through which it has planned to regularly publish books, journals and pamphlets on Buddha and Buddhism, Anagarika Dharmapala and other related subjects. The mission of Anagarika Dharmapala was to spread the message and teachings of Buddha all over the world. The society has also started to organize monthly dharma discourse/ discussion programme on Buddha at its all Centres. We earnestly hope that those who are interested in the cause of Buddhism would extend their fullest cooperation in fulfilment of the aim of our founder. We wish all the success in this noble task.

Bhavatu sabba maṅgalaṃ.

Ven. P. Seewalee Thero
General Secretary
Maha Bodhi Society of India
&
Bhikkhu-in-Charge
Maha Bodhi Society of India
Sarnath Centre, Varanasi.

The Editor's Note

It is with much pleasure as we are associated with a noble cause initiated by Ven. Anagarika Dharmapala and also with the celebration of his 150th birth anniversary. Maha Bodhi Society of India has decided to celebrate this function in a befitting manner. It has decided to bring out a Special Volume of *Dharmadoot Journal* on his 150th birth anniversary scheduled to take place on 17th September, 2014. Our sincere thanks go to the present management of the Maha Bodhi Society of India particularly to Ven. P. Seewali Thero, General Secretary and Managing editor of the *Dharmadoot* for reposing their trust on us in bringing out the Special Volume of the *Dharmadoot Journal*. The publication of this Special Volume is a part of the celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of late Anagarika Dharmapala. The Society has also decided to confer the *Anagarika Dharmapala Pali Samman* to the distinguished Pali Scholars who have contributed for the development of Pali language and literature in India on this occasion. It will also honour some of Dharma Propagators who have done excellent works for the cause of the development of Pali and Buddhism.

I am glad that this Special Issue of *Dharmadoot Journal* has been brought out before the lovers of Buddhism to mark this great celebration. I am also grateful to all the contributors for their research papers of this special issue of the *Journal* in time and hope that the scholars will continue their cooperation in the future and share their knowledge with the rest of the world.

Date : September 17, 2014.

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