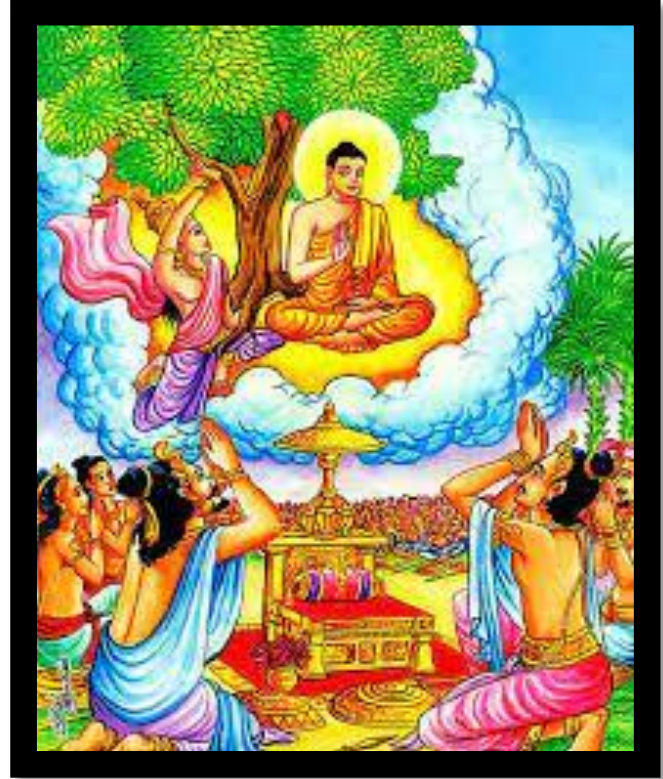




Bak Full Moon Poya

Five years after Enlightenment Gautama Buddha visited Sri Lanka for the second occasion. This visit was after His first visit to Sri Lanka to settle a dispute between **Yakkhas** and **Nagas**. Buddha's second visit to Sri Lanka was on a **Bak Full Moon Poya Day**. Nagas of Nagadeepa were divided as rivals. One group led by Naga king **Mahodara** "Big



Tummy" and the other group led by his nephew **Chulodara** "Small Tummy" were up in arms. The bone of contention was a "Mini Palanga" Gem throne- a seat made of gems. Buddha, who was dwelling in Sevath Nuwara Dewram Vehera, with His devine eye envisaged an eminent destruction in a dreadful war.

During that time the Northern and the Southern regions of this island were ruled by Nagas and the hill country by Devas. Naga king Mahodara who ruled the Northern region from Naga Deepa owned a gem throne. His sister's son



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Chulodara too claimed ownership for the throne. He too had a large number of followers and both sides were equally strong. Neither of them was willing to give in. The destruction was inevitable in case of a war between the uncle and the nephew.

Buddha contemplated and saw that only He could be of assistance to both sides and prevent a war from being waged.

Accompanied by deity **Samuddhi** Saman, the Enlightened One proceeded to Nagadeepa in a bid to prevent the Naga rulers and their followers from getting one another destroyed.

In the words of the Enlightened One craving leads to destruction. Wealth destroys the fool, and not them who seek the goal .Through craving for wealth the fool harms not only himself, but also others.

- **"Buddha saw that only He could be of assistance to both sides"**
- **"some people quarrel due to ignorance"**
- **"The Naga kings had built a shrine named "Rajayatana"**

Only Buddha was able to bring under control Choladara and Mahodara. However, it was not possible to appease them merely by preaching. Hence the Exalted One created a dense darkness to make the Nagas realise the powers of their visitor.



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Nagas including Chulodara and Mahodara were scared because they had not experienced such a situation. They realised that Buddha possessed supernatural powers. The Enlightened One thus subjugated and brought to Nagas under control and the atmosphere created by Him was congenial for Him to direct them on to the correct path. When the Nagas were ready to listen to Buddha He preached Kokalika Jathakaya to make them realize that nothing could be gained by being rivals. Buddha made the Nagas realise that hatred is never appeased by hatred. It is appeased by non-hatred. **“Esa Dhammo Sanatano”** The Exalted One also made them realise that some people quarrel due to ignorance and that they do not gain anything but perish themselves by quarreling. Buddha also made the Nagas realise that avariciousness leads to sorrow and fear. Those who have given up lust and avariciousness or extreme desire will be free from the pain of fear and sorrow.

Reconciliation

By making the Nagas realize these facts the Omniscient One was able to bring about reconciliation between the rival groups of Nagas. They became very pious and embraced Buddhism. The Nagas came to a conclusion and offered the gem throne to the Buddha.



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Reposed upon the Mini Palanga the Enlightened One preached Dhamma again. Thereupon the Nagas requested for an object for them to worship. The Exalted One gave them the Mini Palanga the gem throne which had by then become a “Paribhogika Wasthu” an item used by the Enlightened One. These circumstances paved way for Buddha’s third visit to Lanka. “Maniakkhika” was the ruler of Kelaniya. He had gone to Nagadeepa to provide support to his nephew, Mahodara in the war. He too had been directed on to the correct path by Buddha. After listening to Dhamma from the Enlightened One, Naga king, Maniakkhika too embraced Buddhism and made an invitation to the Buddha to pay a visit to his kingdom, Kelaniya. The Enlightened One accepted the invitation and visited Sri Lanka for the third and the final occasion. According to Mahavansa, the Buddha’s second visit is an important land mark in the history of Sri Lanka as it was the commencement of the civilization in this country.

The Naga kings had built a shrine named “Rajayatana” at the place where Buddha preached Dhamma. The area where the shrine was constructed was known during that time as Nagapattan. King Salendra of India too had built a Buddhist temple known as Naga Pattan. During the 1867 archaeological excavations a large number of Buddhist statues were recovered.



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Poya Day Inspirational Quotes from Buddha Dhamma Teaching

*Jayam Veram Pasavathi
Dukkham Seti parajito
Upasanto Sukhamset
Hitva Jayaparajayam*

“Victory gives rise to hatred; Those defeated lie in pain, Happily rest the peaceful, rejecting both victory and defeat”

Bak Poya Program 09th April 2023

9.00 am Administration Eight precepts

9.30 am Dhamma sermon (in Sinhala)
by **Bhante Kusala**

10.40 am Meditation session
by **Bhante Arunasiri**

11.00am Offering Buddha Puja

1.00 pm Pirith Chanting

1.30 pm Dhamma Sermon and Discussion
(in English) by **Bhante Arunasiri**

2.40 pm Tea Break

3.00 pm Evening Gilanpasa Buddha Puja
& Birthday Blessings by **Bhante Kusala**

4.15 pm Conclusion

Important Notes

- ❖ Bak Poya Sil Program will be held **09th March 2023**
- ❖ Happy New Year Blessings **14th April 2023**
- ❖ Sinhala & Hindu Happy New Year Festival **23rd April**
- ❖ Dhamma School new term will be commenced **30th April 2023**



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