



BODHI BULLETIN

DHARMA NEWS FROM BODHI MONASTERY • APRIL 2003

Vesak at Bodhi Monastery

On May 17th this year, for the first time, Bodhi Monastery will celebrate the international Buddhist holiday of Vesak, the day commemorating the birth, Enlightenment, and Parinirvana (passing away) of Lord Buddha. According to the Southern Buddhist tradition, these three events all occurred on the full-moon day of the Indian month Vaisakha (April-May). Though the Northern Buddhist tradition assigns the Buddha's

THE EIGHT PRECEPTS

1. To abstain from killing any living being
2. To abstain from taking that which is not given
3. To abstain from all sexual activity
4. To abstain from false speech
5. To abstain from taking intoxicants
6. To abstain from untimely meals
7. To abstain from entertainment and personal adornments
8. To abstain from high and luxurious beds and seats

Enlightenment and Parinirvana to different calendar days, the World Fellowship of Buddhists has designated Vesak the major Buddhist holiday. It is a day when Buddhists of all affiliations should express their homage and dedication to the Supreme Teacher whose appearance in this world opened up the gates to the highest happiness and peace. *So mark this date on your calendar now.*

The Vesak schedule at Bodhi Monastery will feature a number of special events. We will begin at 9 am with the administration of the Three Refuges and the Five Precepts. This will be followed by a talk on the significance of Vesak by Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi. After his talk, the monks will conduct a ceremony of initiation into the Buddha Dharma for those among our friends and well-wishers who have never before formally taken the Refuges and Precepts and would like to do so. *If any of our readers wish to participate in this ceremony, please inform us as early as possible.*

In the Buddhist tradition, on days of special religious significance, lay disciples commonly undertake to observe, for a full day and night, a more stringent set of eight precepts, modeled on the disciplinary code of a novice monk or nun. The first five corre-

spond to the usual Five Precepts, except that the third precept is changed from "abstinence from sexual misconduct" to "abstinence from all sexual activity." The others are: (6) to abstain from untimely meals (i.e., from twelve noon until the following dawn); (7) to abstain from dancing, singing, instrumental music, and shows, and from the use of jewelry, cosmetics, and beauty lotions; and (8) to abstain from the use of high and luxurious beds and seats. All those who would like to undertake the Eight Precepts for the twenty-four hour period are encouraged to do so; those who take the Three Refuges and Five Precepts earlier that morning may also take the Eight Precepts. The Buddha himself highly praises this practice as a pristine observance of the noble ones. *If you would like to take the Eight Precepts, please inform us in advance.*

After lunch, Ven. Jen-Chun Fa-shih will give a talk on the meaning of Vesak. Then, at 2 pm, Mr. Michael Roehm will deliver the keynote address on "Buddhism in America: Its Prospects and Role in the Future." Mr. Roehm, interim director of the English Language Institute at The American University in Washington, has been a Buddhist for close to forty years. He was a monk in Sri Lanka and Korea and for many years has been the teacher and director of the Sutta Study Group in Washington D.C. The program will end with readings from the Buddhist scriptures and a transference of merit ceremony.

To contact us about Vesak please call 973-940-0473. Email correspondence is preferred. Email us at info@bodhimonastery.net and type "Vesak" in the subject box.



AJAHN AMARO
TO GIVE
DHARMA TALK

Date: Wednesday,
April 30th, 2003

Time: 7-8 pm

Topic:

Rebirth and
Enlightenment

What is rebirth? What is enlightenment? Practitioners continually ask these questions, and reflection on them can inform and transform our practice. To better understand what these questions point to, we will explore one of the Buddha's most important teachings: dependent origination (paticca-samuppada).

Author's Note: Ven. Ajahn Amaro was ordained as a monk in Thailand under the late meditation master Ven. Ajahn Chah. He spent many years as a resident monk at the Amaravati Buddhist Monastery in England and since 1996 has lived at the Abhayagiri Buddhist Monastery in northern California where he is co-abbot.

BODHI MONASTERY
67 Lawrence Road
Lafayette, NJ 07848

973-940-0473
info@bodhimonastery.net

metta



April Saturday Dharma Talk Schedule

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi will be giving Dharma Talks through April. While Ven. Master Jen-Chun is in Taiwan we will be listening to recordings of his Talks.

SAT., APRIL 5TH

10:00am-10:35am	Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi Dharma Talk
10:45am-11:30am	Monthly Ceremony (Circumambulation, chanting, offerings)
11:35am-12:00pm	Lunch/Free time
12:00pm-1:00pm	Merit Gathering (volunteer chores)
1:15pm-2:00pm	Ven. Master Jen-Chun Dharma Talk

SAT., APRIL 12TH, 19TH & 26TH

10:00am-10:45am	Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi Dharma Talk
11:15am-12:00pm	Lunch/Free time
12:00pm-1:00pm	Merit Gathering (volunteer chores)
1:15pm-2:00pm	Ven. Master Jen-Chun Dharma Talk

Sign Up for the Spring Course: Introduction to Buddhism and Meditation

Begins: Saturday, May 3, 2003 and continues for five Saturdays through June 7.

Time: 10:00am-1:00pm. A vegetarian lunch is included.

Registration Deadline: April 26, 2003

Fee: None. \$30 donation suggested

This course is designed for people who are relatively unfamiliar with Buddhism and who wish to know more about our religion. Participants will learn about: (1) the basic teachings of the Buddha, (2) basic meditation practices, (3) ceremonial practices at Bodhi Monastery, and (4) a brief history of Buddhism. The course is generally conducted by lay practitioners. However, participants will also have opportunities to ask questions of senior members of the monastic community.

Call or email to register. Email correspondence is preferred. If emailing, please type "Intro Course" in the subject box.

BODHI BRIEFS

APRIL SUTTA STUDY:

Bhante's class on Majjhima Nikaya, Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:00 pm (in English only)

In April, Bhante will continue his talks on the Majjhima Nikaya by discussing suttas that pertain to Buddhist ethics. These will include: four contrasting ways of life (MN 46), the law of karma and its fruits (MN 57, MN 135), and the path to a higher rebirth (MN 41, MN 120).

The course will be ongoing for approximately the next two years. There is no fee. Newcomers are welcome at any time. Previous exposure to basic Buddhist teachings is recommended but not required.

If you are unable to attend on

Tuesdays, you can make an appointment to listen to the recorded classes at your convenience.

The course syllabus is posted on our website. If you have any questions please call the monastery or email us at info@bodhimonastery.net and type "Sutta Study" in the subject box.

DHARMA:

Shifu's Lectures on Madhyamaka philosophy, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9:00-10:00 am (in Chinese only) are cancelled through April. They will begin again on May 6th.

Pali Language Class, Saturdays, 2:30-4:00 pm. Though it is too late for anyone to enter the class now, you can catch up by using the recordings.

MEDITATION:

Basic meditation instruction will be given by Ven. Adam on April 5th from 9:30-11:00 am. Instruction is given on the first Sunday of every month. Please inform us that you are coming and leave contact information.

All are welcome to join our ongoing sitting and walking meditation group guided by Bhante and Shifu. We meet every Sunday from 9:30-11:00 am in the Buddha Hall.

JULY DHARMA RETREAT:

The Bodhi Monastery week-long 2003 Dharma Retreat will be held this summer from Friday, July 18th - Friday, July 25th. We will post more information in a future bulletin.