

NAMO BUDDHAYA!!!  
HOMAGE TO THE WORTHY ONE,  
THE ENLIGHTENED ONE!!!

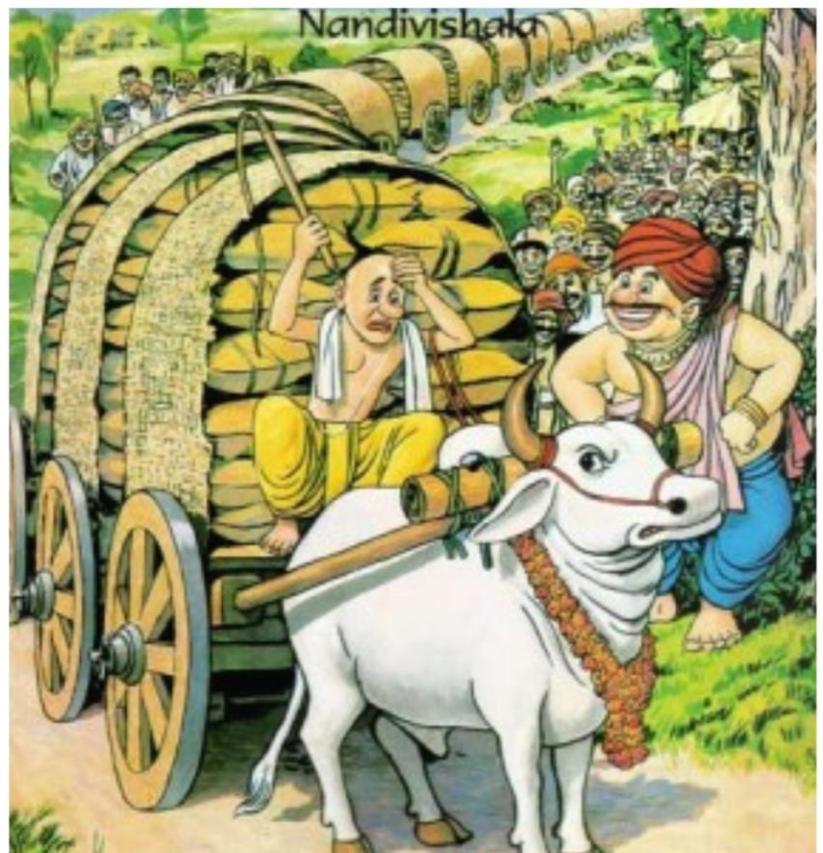
# Story of a Grateful Bull

*(Nandivishala Jatakaya)*

Once upon a time, there was a kingdom named Gandhara and its capital was Taxila. Here, our Bodhisatva came to life as a bull. When he was quite a tiny calf, his owners presented him to a brahmin who took this calf home. The brahmin called it Nandi – Visala (Great Joy), and treated it like his own child, feeding the young creature on rice and rice-gruel.

When, Nandivishala, the Bodhisatva, grew up, he thought like this to himself, “This Brahmin took lot of pain and trouble to bring me up like this and now, I have become the strongest bull in the whole Indian continent. How can I repay his kindness and love? How can I show my gratitude to him? Thinking so, one day he said to the brahmin “Go brahmin, find some merchant who is very rich and make a bet with him for thousand pieces that your bull can draw a hundred loaded carts.” So, the brahmin went his way to a merchant and got into a discussion with him as to whose oxen in the town were the strong. “Oh, so-and-so’s, or so-and-so’s,” said the merchant. Then the Brahmin said, “There are no oxen in the town which can beat mine for real strength.” He said, “I have a bull that can pull a hundred loaded carts.” “That’s nonsense, where such a bull can be found?” laughed the merchant. “I’ve got him at home,” said the brahmin. “Make a bet.” said the merchant. “Certainly,” said the brahmin, and made a bet for a thousand pieces of gold. Then he loaded a hundred carts with sand, gravel, and stones, and joined them together. This done, he bathed Nandivisala, gave him perfumed rice to eat, offered a garland around his neck, and tied to the front most cart. The Brahmin then took his seat on the cart, and he happened to shout at the bull, waving his stick in the air, in front of all, “Now, you bull! Pull them along, you nasty thing!”

Then the bull wondered what has happened to this brahmin and thought to himself “why he blame me and insult me like this?”. He was crossed and did not move an inch. Brahmin lost the bet and lost all his money too.



His money gone, the brahmin took his bull out of the cart and went home unhappily. He laid down on his bed in pain and grief but, couldn't sleep. Then the Nandivisala, the intelligent bull, walked in and talked to his master "why are you sleeping at this odd time". Then Brahmin said "What else can I do when I have lost everything I had?" Then the bull said, "O' Brahmin, all this time I have lived in your house, have I ever broken a pot, or squeezed up against anybody, or made any messes?" "Never, my child" brahmin said. "Then, why did you call me so mean in front of everyone at that time? What wrong have I done to you for that?" asked the bull". Brahmin then understood it was all his mistake.

Then Nandivisala said to the Brahmin, "Don't be mean and talk to me like that again. Now, please go and make a bet to the same merchant, this time, double the bet money, two thousand gold pieces. I will pull it, this time, without any hesitation". Then the Brahmin went to the rich merchant again and made a bet. The merchant was more than happy to make the same bet again thinking of sure win. Then brahmin loaded a hundred carts like before, and joined them together for the draw. This time he softly asked Nandivisala, "Now my dear child! Pull them along and show you are the strongest, go my child!" With a single pull the Bodhisatva tugged along the whole hundred carts till the last cart came to where the first cart was before. The rich merchant paid up the two thousand pieces to the Brahmin. People who came to see, too gave large sums to the Bodhisatva, and the whole money went to the Brahmin. Thus did he gain greatly by the kindness of the Bodhisatva.

### Buddhism was brought to Sri Lanka on this month of Posen (June)

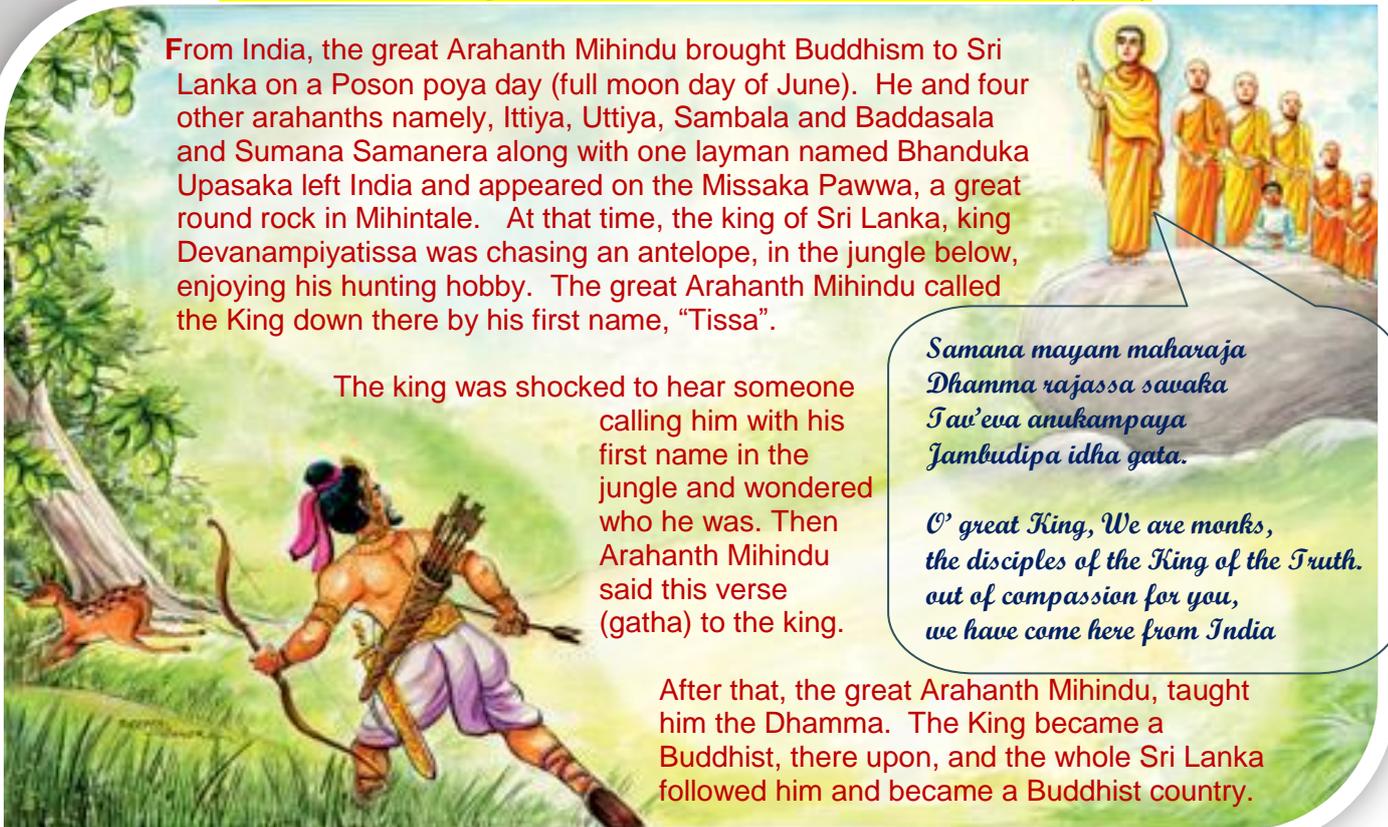
From India, the great Arahant Mihindu brought Buddhism to Sri Lanka on a Posen poya day (full moon day of June). He and four other arahants namely, Ittiya, Uttiya, Sambala and Baddasala and Sumana Samanera along with one layman named Bhanduka Upasaka left India and appeared on the Missaka Pawwa, a great round rock in Mihintale. At that time, the king of Sri Lanka, king Devanampiyatissa was chasing an antelope, in the jungle below, enjoying his hunting hobby. The great Arahant Mihindu called the King down there by his first name, "Tissa".

The king was shocked to hear someone calling him with his first name in the jungle and wondered who he was. Then Arahant Mihindu said this verse (gatha) to the king.

*Samana mayam maharaja  
Dhamma rajassa savaka  
Tav'eva anukampaya  
Jambudipa idha gata.*

*O' great King, We are monks,  
the disciples of the King of the Truth.  
out of compassion for you,  
we have come here from India*

After that, the great Arahant Mihindu, taught him the Dhamma. The King became a Buddhist, there upon, and the whole Sri Lanka followed him and became a Buddhist country.



Next Kids Program will be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011 at the same place. Till then,

Theruwā Sarānāi !!!

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