Vesak Aspirations

by Piya Tan

Vesak Blessings of long life, beauty, happiness and strength to you.

Please join me in reflecting on the Buddha's advice to his chief lay donor, Anathapindika, and other lay followers like ourselves, not only to do works of merit, but also to spend some time in self-cultivation:

(Anaathapi.n.dika) Piiti Sutta (A 5.176)

1 Then, the householder Anatha,pindika, with a retinue of some five hundred laymen approached the Blessed One.
Having approached the Blessed One, they saluted him and then sat down at one side.
Seated thus at one side, the householder Anatha,pindika said this to the Blessed One:

2 "You, householder, have supported the order with robes, almsfood, lodgings, and support for the sick and medical requisites.
But, householder, you should not feel satisfied just by the thought,
'We have supported the order with robes, almsfood, lodgings,
and support for the sick and medical requisites.'
Therefore, householder, you should train yourself thus: [207]

3 'Come now, let us, from time to time, attain and abide in the bliss of solitude.'
Thus, householder, you should train yourself." (A 5.176/3:206 f) = SD 44.10

Having given dana in a generous, mindful, respectful, and timely manner, we earn great merit, which, *if we aspire so*, can become a support for our mental cultivation, which in turn brings about wisdom that frees us from suffering in this life itself.

TMC BUKIT BATOK PREMISES CLOSING DOWN

We are sad to inform you that The Minding Centre (TMC) will be vacating its current Bukit Batok premises due to the expiration of its lease, which we are not renewing due to high rental.
It is especially sad when the TMC attendance is growing in an encouraging manner.

We hope you could propose suitable new premises for TMC so that we can carry on our activities.
The TMC is unique or at least different from other Buddhist centres in the following ways:

(1) SUTTA TRANSLATION, RESEARCH & TEACHING by Piya Tan, and serving as resource centre on Early Buddhism.
(2) Running weekly and monthly courses in MEDITATION, BUDDHIST PSYCHOLOGY, COUNSELLING, PSYCHOLOGY OF EMOTIONS, PALI etc.
(3) Provides Buddhist COUNSELLING & MEDITATION THERAPY for people from all religions or no religion. See (4).
(4) As a NON-RELIGIOUS BUDDHIST CENTRE, we get people from different religions attending our courses & classes.
(They include Catholics, Evangelicals, Methodists, Presbyterians, Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Daoists, atheists, and various kinds of Buddhists.)

(5) Our classes and courses are also attended by TERTIARY & INTERNATIONAL (incl Western) students and adults.
(6) TMC serves as an INTERDENOMINATIONAL Buddhist education centre providing them with a strong grounding in early Buddhism.
(7) TMC envisions a MISSIOLOGY leading up to a truly Singaporean experience of the Buddha Dharma, focussing on mental health of the individual and society.

We need to relocate to new premises and the suggested criteria are:
(1) Ideally, near an MRT station in the West (esp Jurong East) with parking lots nearby.
(2) Premises could be a bungalow (ideally) or second-story office/shop lot.
(3) Affordable rent or better, regular sponsors for the rental; or ideally, free premises.
(4) The current TMC floor space is about 130 sq m (the Dharma Hall is about half that space).

The point is that if TMC does not have its own non-religious premises,
we will effectively have to end all ministry and people-helping to non-Buddhists who approach us for spiritual help.

MY VESAK ASPIRATION

By all the good I have done, by my total faith in the Buddha, the True Dharma, and the Sangha of Saints, may I be able to complete an annotated translation of the early Suttas, in the letter and in the spirit, within this life or by the next, despite all odds. May I see all such distractions as the ripening of my karma passing away in this life itself, giving way to ideal conditions. By all this good, may my mind be adorned by the True Dharma and easily focus into samadhi so that in this life itself I will attain streamwinning.

May you too be a part of this aspiration.

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