

Significance of POSON POYA



- The Posen full-moon day, which falls in the month of June, is of great importance and significance, especially to the Buddhists of Sri Lanka.
- According to literary sources, such as the Mahāvamsa, the Dīpavamsa, and the

Bodhivaṃsa, Arahant Mahinda, the son of Emperor Asoka of India, led a seven-member delegation to Sri Lanka in the 3rd century BCE bringing the message of the Buddha to Sri Lanka.

- Upon conclusion of the third Buddhist Council of 1000 Arahants held at Paṭālīputta in India under the aegis of Most Venerable Arahant Moggalīputtātissa Maha Thera and with full state patronage, 9 missions of a minimum of five *upasampadā* bhikkhus were sent to countries to the West, East and South of Paṭālīputta, the capital city of Emperor Asoka.
- The mission to Sri Lanka was special in that it was led by the son of Emperor Asoka and accompanied by seven members including Arahant Mahinda. They were Arahants Itthiya, Uttiya, Sambala, and Bhaddasāla, Sāmanera Sumana (novice) and a lay disciple Bhaṇḍhuka.
- They spent their whole lifetime in Sri Lanka, then known as *Lankādīpa*, and firmly established the Buddhasāsana.

- Buddhism was embraced by the inhabitants of *Lankādīpa* like a sponge absorbing water, and it transformed the lifestyle, thinking patterns, habits, art and culture and festivities of its people.
- The rich cultural heritage of Sri Lanka, which is over 2300 years, is a direct result of the coming of Arahant Mahinda. It has given Sri Lanka a unique Buddhist identity among the family of nations.



- Anuradhapura and Mihintale or Missaka Pabbata where Arahant Mahinda met the ruler of Sri Lanka, King Devānampiya Tissa, for the first time, are the primary centres of Buddhist Pilgrimage during the Posen festive season.