



The Buddha and Maha Pajapati Theri

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Present

The Voices and Activities of Theravada Buddhist Women

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But now I've seen the Blessed one!
This is my last compounded form.
The on-flowing of birth has expired.

Mahapajapati, Therigatha 6.6

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Alliance for Bhikkhunis'

1st Annual International Bhikkhuni Day



Maha Pajapati's Parinibbana, Doi Inthanon

Pledge-A-Thon

*Join us in honoring and
celebrating our women
monastics and teachers!*

What is International Bhikkhuni Day?

It is a day we pay respect to the Bhikkhuni Sangha and acknowledge its essential role in preserving and spreading the Dhamma. We also remember prominent laywomen and their contributions.

When is International Bhikkhuni Day?

In 2011, it is on September 17, 2011. In the future, it will be on the full moon Saturday in September or on the first Saturday immediately following the full moon.

Why this date?

The first bhikkhuni, Bhikkhuni Mahapajapati Theri, the Buddha's stepmother and aunt, ordained during a full moon in September, the occasion marking the start of the Bhikkhuni Sangha.

What do we do on International Bhikkhuni Day?

We honor bhikkhunis and all of our women teachers through the sharing of stories about their inspiring actions and accomplishments. In so doing, we protect this invaluable feminine spiritual history for future generations.

What else do we on this day?

- Raise funds for bhikkhunis.
- Meditate and study the Dhamma.
- Protect the history of bhikkhunis and laywomen.
- Send love and compassion to heal conflicts in our families, communities, and the world.

How you can raise money for bhikkhunis.

Be a part of organizing a retreat at your local temple, center, or sitting group. Ask family members, friends, and fellow practitioners to sponsor your day of meditation and sharing. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Go to AfB's [Firstgiving](http://www.firstgiving.com/87481/Event/1st-annual-international-bhikkhuni-day) site at <http://www.firstgiving.com/87481/Event/1st-annual-international-bhikkhuni-day> to join this meditation pledge-a-thon. At the bottom of this page, click on the link **Raise Money** to create a personal page where your sponsors can donate online to your day of meditation and reflection.

Here, you can also join an existing team. It takes only minutes to generate a page and become a vital part of the global Buddhist community which will be devoting September 17, 2011 to celebrating women's spiritual legacy.

What else can you do?

Please send us stories about the remarkable women who have and continue to inspire you. These will be compiled in our digital Library.

Also consider becoming an AfB volunteer.

How the Alliance for Bhikkhunis will assist you in creating an informative and enriching day.

- ❖ The AfB will have downloadable brochures on the event as well as on AfB itself. These can be given to individuals and corporate sponsors.
- ❖ The AfB site will offer bhikkhuni Dhamma talks that can be broadcast during the retreat.
- ❖ A first person recounting of Mahapajapati Theri's life can be downloaded from the AfB site and read aloud. This chronicling of her extraordinary history can be a catalyst for discussions about women's spiritual potential.
- ❖ The site will suggest a list of questions a facilitator can use to lead a discussion about remarkable women who have illuminated the way for us.
- ❖ Pledging money will be easy and safe via our Firstgiving site.