

Magha Puja Day (Buddhism): March 23rd, 2016

Description:

In an effort to create more awareness about world faiths and philosophies, the Office of Internal Affairs and International Initiatives would like to notify campus community members about dates of significance within several world religions. This message relates to Magha Puja Day which is observed on March 23rd this year.

Magha Puja day, also called Sangha Day or Fourfold Assembly Day, in most countries is observed on the first full moon day of March. The day commemorates a time when 1,250 enlightened monks, disciples of the historical Buddha, spontaneously came together to pay respect to the Buddha. This festival honors the Sangha, or the Buddhist community and offers a chance to the people to reaffirm their faith and commitment to Buddhist practices and traditions. The Sangha or the spiritual community is extremely important in Buddhism because it is one of the three jewels of Buddhism apart from the Buddha and the Dharma.

This festival is a chance for the community to come together and carry out meetings to discuss various aspects of the Buddha's teaching, indulge in group meditation and listen to talks given by senior members of the community. People sometimes gather at temples, usually in the morning, bringing with them offerings of food and other items for the monastics. Magha Puja observations usually feature processions, sometimes by candlelight. Observers walk around a shrine, Buddha image or through a temple three times, once for each of the Three Jewels – The Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha.

***This information was drawn directly from a variety of sources:**

<http://buddhism.about.com/od/buddhistholidays/a/maghapuja.htm>

Prairie View A&M University acknowledges and embraces the diversity of our students, faculty, and staff. Due to the great number and diversity of viewpoints, this resource is not able to provide an exhaustive list of significant dates for all faith and philosophical traditions. Likewise, the practice of special dates may differ based on region, denomination or generational differences.