



Ullambana

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Ullambana is celebrated on 15th day of the seventh month as per the Chinese lunisolar calendar. The date of observance of the festival varies each year.

According to the ancient Buddhist scriptures, the word Ullambana has been derived by combining two Sanskrit words – Ullam and Bana. In Sanskrit “Ullam” means to hang upside down and Bana means “to rescue”. Ullambana therefore means to rescue from being hanged upside down or a great suffering. In present context it is a festival to rescue one’s ancestors from hell and liberate their souls.

LEGEND OF ULLAMBANA

The legend of the Ghost Festival is associated with Gautam Buddha and one of his closest disciples, Maudgalyayana. The latter was a Brahmin youth from India who later became one of Buddha’s chief disciples. When Maudgalyayana attained higher knowledge, including extra sensory abilities; he started searching for his deceased parents.