

# Life of the Buddha: Enlightenment to Parinibbana – Stories

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## The First Buddhist Missionaries

### **First : Five ascetics**

The five ascetics who were with the Bodhisatta during while he was taking the hard path became the first five Buddhist monks. We covered this under the First Sermon in the last class.

### **Second: Yasakula Putra and 54 Friends**

While the Buddha was staying in the deer park rich young man from neighbourhood named Yasa came to meet Buddha. After listening to dhamma he became a monk. Later that day Yasa's parents came to deer park looking for their son. When they came to know Yasa became a monk they invited Buddha and the six monks to their palace. Yasa had 54 friends and they also came to the palace. After they seen Yasa as a monk and listening to Buddha's teaching they all wanted to become monks.

This way within a short period of time there were 60 monks. They were advised by Buddha to go in different directions to preach the Dhamma. They became the first Buddhist missionaries.

## Buddha's Ministry

### **Ananda Thero**

Ananda thero was a cousin of the Buddha. After he became a monk, he took care of the Buddha for 25 years, until the Buddha passed away. He was a Sotapanna monk while the Buddha was alive and amongst the Buddha's many disciples, he stood out for having the most retentive memory.

He listened to the Buddha's teachings the most among the disciples. After some time from the Buddha's passing away, the First Buddhist Council was held to ensure preserving Dhamma. In the night before this council, Ananda thero attained arahantship. During the Buddhist Council, the suttas/sutras were compiled based on his memory. He lived to 120 years old.

### **Kashyapa thero**

He was a top master of ascetic training. After the passing away of the Buddha, he assumed the leadership of the Sangha, compiled the Buddha's teachings with 500 other disciples (First [Buddhist Council](#)), and became the first person who preached the Buddha's teachings directly.

### **Sariyuth Thero and Mugalan Thero**

Upatissa and Kolita were two disciples of a paribrajaka (an ascetic) called Sanjaya, in India. They were seeking for a new teacher and went on different directions, promising each other that the first one to find a teacher would let the other know. Upatissa came to the city of Rajagaha in India and met the Assaji thero (one of the Buddha's first five disciples). Listening to the dhamma and learning about the Buddha, Upatissa realized that he found the teacher who he was looking for.

Upatissa came back and went to see the Buddha with his friend Kolita and another two hundred and fifty followers of Sanjaya paribrajaka. They were ordained. Upatissa was named as Sariputta and Kolita as Moggallana. They are also identified as Sariyuth and Mugalan, respectively.

Sariyuth and Mugalan theros became the two chief disciples of Buddha's ministry. Sariyuth thero became the top master of Wisdom and the Mugalan thero became the top master of supernatural powers.

### **Rahula Thero**

Prince Rahula was the only son of the Prince Siddhartha. When Prince Siddhartha became the Buddha and went to his hometown, the Prince Rahula came after the Buddha asking for his inheritance. The Buddha asked his chief disciple Sariyuth thero to make him a monk. By this time, Prince Rahula was only 7 years old and he became the first Sāmanera in Buddha's ministry.

Rahula thero attained Arahantship and passed away before the Buddha. The Buddha declared that Rahula was foremost among the monks for his high standard of discipline and obedience. Rahula, who entered the order at the tender age of seven, is a role model for the younger members of the Noble Order through his obedience and pleasing nature.

## **Buddha's Skill at Overcoming Difficulties**

### **Devadatta Story**

Devadatta was the a cousin of the Buddha. Together with Ananda and other Sakyan princes, he entered the order of monks in the early part of the Buddha's ministry. He was unable to attain any stage of sainthood (such as sotapanna) but he worked hard for the worldly psychic powers. Later he became conceited with worldly gain and fame. As his ill-will and jealousy towards the Buddha increased, he became the greatest personal enemy of the Buddha.

Devadatta attempted to hurt Buddha several times. For example, he sent an intoxicated (drunken) elephant named Nalagiri to the Buddha. Another time, he tipped a rock from a hill to the Buddha's while the Buddha was walking. He also divided the sangha community. All these were extremely bad karma. At the last days of his life, he was fallen seriously ill and wanted to see the Buddha, to ask forgiveness. His supporters started to carry him to the monastery where the Buddha was residing but before they arrive there, he passed away and born in Niraya, one of the worst hells in existence.

### **Cinca Manavika Story**

When more and more people got attracted to the Buddha's teachings, the other religious teachers became very jealous of the Buddha. They convinced a young beautiful woman named Cinca Manavika (pronounced as Chinchā Manavika) to insult Buddha. Cinca Manavika wrapped some cloths around her belly and accused the Buddha saying that she carries a baby from the Buddha. Her attempt failed and people understood she was faking so she was condemned by the people and sent away. The Buddha was never shaken by these ill-willed attempts.