



Giáo Hội Phật Giáo Việt Nam Thống Nhất Hoa Kỳ
Vietnamese American United Buddhist Congregation

HỘI ĐỒNG GIÁO PHẬT
CHÁNH VĂN PHÒNG

DHARMA MESSAGE Buddhist Calendar 2567

Namo Sakyamuni Buddha

Respectfully addressed to Most Venerable Monks, Nuns,
Distinguished Guests and Devoted Lay Buddhists,

It is truly fortunate and auspicious for humanity that the Great Compassionate World-Honored One, Sakyamuni Buddha, descended from the Tushita Heaven and was born into this troubled world 2647 years ago!

During this sacred and auspicious moment of celebrating the birth of our Lord Buddha, the Vietnamese American United Buddhist Congregation, along with millions of monks, nuns, and lay Buddhists around the world, sincerely pays homage and reveres the Supreme Wisdom and Great Compassion that the Buddha manifested in order to open the path of enlightenment and liberation, which has never been witnessed in the history of humanity.

Indeed, those who receive and uphold the teachings and precepts that the Buddha has transmitted will surely experience the taste of liberation from suffering and attain supreme enlightenment in this very life, as the inevitable result of using the Dharma medicine correctly to cure afflictions.

In the Agama Sutta, the Buddha instructed his disciples, both monastic and lay, to have unshakable and unwavering faith in the Buddha, the Dharma, the Sangha, as the firm foundation on the path of liberation and enlightenment. Throughout his 45 years of teaching, the Buddha was unwavering in his commitment to educating and leading beings to understand the true nature of suffering, to clearly comprehend the causes of suffering, and to attain the state of extinction of suffering through diligent practice of the Holy Teaching that he had taught. These are the Four Noble Truths that form the foundation of the Buddhist teachings. The Buddha did not resort to miracles or empty theories. He always encouraged his disciples to make every effort to practice according to his guidance. The Buddha firmly affirmed the possibility of extinguishing suffering in this very life for those who practice in accordance with his teachings. The existence and development of the Buddha Dharma from ancient India to the present day is concrete evidence of the effectiveness of the Buddhist teachings.



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In today's world full of uncertainties and upheavals, with countless natural disasters and human afflictions, the enlightenment and liberation teachings of the Buddha are a viable solution to alleviate the suffering that weighs heavily on the fragile condition of human beings. Therefore, each Buddhist should strive even more diligently to maintain and propagate the Right Dharma. This is also a way to express gratitude and repay the kindness of the Buddha, the Dharma, the Sangha, and the ancestors who have preserved and transmitted the teachings of the Buddha to us through generations.

This year's Buddha's Birthday also marks the 60th anniversary of the tragic event that occurred in Vietnamese Buddhism, with two memorable events: The suppression of Buddhism at the Hue Broadcasting Station on the night of May 9, 1963, sparked a movement demanding religious freedom and equality, and the self-immolation of Bodhisattva Thich Quang Duc on June 11, 1963, to pray for an end to the persecution awakened the conscience of humanity about the aspirations for freedom and equality of Vietnamese monks, nuns, and Buddhists.

The lesson from the 1963 tragedy and the 60-year historical journey helps us realize that if political regimes cannot control the Buddhist masses, they will use force to suppress them. Therefore, let us follow the Buddha's teaching to rely on ourselves and rely on the Dharma, not on anyone else. Furthermore, we should learn from the over two-thousand-year history of Vietnamese Buddhism, through which the key element for its survival is to live within the nation's heart. The nation here refers to the great mass of fellow citizens, not the political forces or mechanisms that govern the country. Do not mistake that Buddhism goes hand in hand with the regime, for the people are eternal while regimes are temporary.

This year's Buddha's Birthday marks 48 years since Vietnamese monks, nuns, and Buddhist followers left the country to seek freedom and build a new life in their homeland. Although the new life of Buddhist refugees has stabilized and developed, the mission of propagating the Right Dharma and promoting the traditional culture of the nation still lies on the shoulders of each Vietnamese Buddhist, whether they are monastics or laypeople.

In the radiant sunlight of the Lumbini Garden, blended with the music of the heavens and the singing of countless birds praising the day of the manifestation of the Bodhisattva Sumedho, we bow down and offer our respects to the Venerable Great Master Sakyamuni Buddha who has entered this world.



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May the blessings of the Triple Gem be with all sentient beings, bringing peace, happiness, and enlightenment to the world.

Namo Sakyamuni Buddha

Buddhist Calendar 2567, Gregorian Calendar 2023, California, USA
TM. Vietnamese American United Buddhist Congregation

Chief Executive Office



The Most Venerable Thich Thang Hoan