

Sacred Bodhi Tree Tour

What is this tree?

This tree is a descendant of the tree that the Supreme Buddha sat under when he attained enlightenment.

Why is it so important?

The sacred Bodhi Tree provided shade and protection while the Supreme Buddha was working hard to attain enlightenment.

How did it get here?

A branch from the original Bodhi Tree in Bodhgaya, India, was brought to Sri Lanka over two thousand three hundred years ago by the Arahant Nun Sanghamitta. That tree is growing in Auradhapura in Sri Lanka. This tree here has grown from that tree.

Why are there these flowers and lamps on the table below the tree?

When people offer flowers, lamps, and water to a sacred Bodhi Tree, it is like they are giving gifts to the Supreme Buddha himself. This is a very powerful good karma that can even help us on the path to enlightenment.

What is the proper way to make offerings like this? Can I offer these things?

We can place flowers on a tray like this and sprinkle some water on them. We can also fill a bowl with pure water. While we do this we can remember the qualities of the Supreme Buddha and all the ways he has helped us through his teachings.

If there are old, wilted flowers on the alter, we can remove them. Then we can place our offerings on the alter. After that, we can bow by placing our knees and forehead on the ground.

Are there other things people do at a Bodhi Tree like this?

Often people like to chant the Buddha's teachings or verses that remind us of the Supreme Buddha's qualities. You can also sit and meditate.

Also, people love to clean and tidy the area around the Bodhi tree. This is another way to collect very powerful good karma.