

Key Events In Buddha's 20 years of Ministry (Chp 12)

- 1st yr: Benares (Deer Park at Isipatana) → Dhammacakka sutta to his 5 disciples & Yassa conversion
- 2nd , 3rd & 4th yr: Rajagaha
 - The Buddha visited King Bimbisara as promised; King Bimbisara offered Bamboo grove & the Buddha and His disciples spent 3 rainy seasons here
 - The Buddha's return to Kapilavatthu to see King Suddhodana (see Chp 8)
- 5th yr: Vesali → Pinnacle Hall at Mahavana. The Buddha visited King Suddhodana's death bed; preached Dhamma & the king attained Arahantship.
 - Bhikkhuni Order was founded at Maha Prajati Gotami's request via the intervention of Ven. Ananda
- 6th yr: Kosambi at Mankula Hill → Twin Wonder to convert his alien followers
- 7th yr: Tavatimsa Heaven → The Buddha preached Abhidhamma for 3 rainy seasons to Queen Maha Maya born as a deva in Tusita Heaven. His mother deva attained 1st stage of sainthood upon hearing this. The Buddha returned to earth daily to give a summary of his sermon to Ven. Sariputta.
- 9th yr: Kosambi → Magandiya harboured grudge against the Buddha and sought an opportunity to dishonour him.
- 10th yr: Parileyyaka Forest → The Buddha spent a rainy season away from the two quarrelling monks; an elephant and monkey ministered to his needs (Dh. 6)
- 11th yr: Ekanala Brahmin village in Magadha → The Buddha expounded the Kasibharadvaja sutta (in Sutta-Nipata) to the brahmin farmer, Bharadvaja (analogy: the ploughing of fields, sowing of seeds and reaping the fruits).
- 16th yr: city of Alavi → the conversion of the demon, Alavaka who feasted on human flesh (Alavaka sutta in Sutta-Nipata). Alavaka asked the Buddha 14 questions on the Dhamma, threatened to throw him into river Ganges for failing to answer.
- 20th yr: Rajagaha → the conversion of Angulimala (Finger-wreathed), the notorious murder – his original name Ahimsaka (Innocent) (Angulimala sutta in Majjhima Nikaya).
- The Buddha spent the remaining 25 years of his life mostly at Savatthi, the Jetavana Monastery built by Anathapindika & Pubbarama built by Visakha.

Queen Consort Magandiya's grudge on the Buddha → 9th yr of His ministry

- The Buddha was surveying the world, He perceived that the spiritual development of Magandiya's parents, brahmins are ready for the path of sainthood. So out of compassion, He visited them.
- Magandiya was a beautiful maiden and his parents had not agreed to give their daughter's hand in marriage to any of the prospective suitors as they are not worthy.
- When Magandiya's father who was tending to the sacred fire saw the Buddha, he was fascinated with the Buddha's physical beauty. He requested that the Buddha to stay for a while. Magandiya's father hurried home to bring Magandiya to meet the Buddha.
- When they came back to the same spot, Magandiya's mother, conversant in signs saw the footprint that the Buddha left behind and remarked to the husband that He's a pure person who has eradicated all passions. But, Magandiya's father ridiculed at this remark.
- Noticing the Buddha at a distance, Magandiya's father hurried up to him and offered his daughter to Him. The Buddha described how he has overcome passion. He remarked that having seen the 3 daughters of Mara, Tanha, Arati & Raga, He had no pleasure for pleasure of love. This (reference to Magandiya's) body filled with urine and dung that He would not be willing to touch with His foot.
- The two brahmins gained Anagami after hearing the Buddha's remarks but Magandiya was offended, enraged and conceived a hatred towards Him. An evil thought arose due to her pride that by virtue of her birth, lineage, social position, wealth and the charm of her youth she possessed, she would obtain a husband of her equal and then, she would know what ought to be done to the monk Gotama.
- Magandiya was given as a consort to the King of Udena. She seized the opportunity to bribe and instigate the people of the city to revile and drive the Buddha out of the city.
- The Buddha tolerated with the filthy abuse from the people and advised Ven. Ananda to practise patience when he suggested to the Buddha to leave the city.
- The Buddha advised that when difficulty arose, it should be settled right at the place and the man who was disciplined surpassed all those who were not and who could endure the abuse. The Buddha added further that a difficulty encountered by the Buddhas lasts no longer than seven days.

Conversion of Demon Alavaka → 16th yr of Buddha's ministry

- The Buddha was dwelling in the residence of yakkha Alavaka near the town of Alavi. (Alavaka is a human-flesh eating and wicked demon).
- Alavaka three times ordered the Buddha to get out and come into his residence. Each time the Buddha did as he was told until the third time when He refused to obey the demon's orders to come in.
- The demon threatened to tear the Buddha's heart out and throw Him to river Ganges if he failed to answer his questions (about 14).
- Alavaka asked 5 mundane questions with what ... best possession/wealth (***Buddha's ans: confidence***), good practice that brings happiness (***ans: well practised Dhamma***), sweetest of all tastes (***ans: Truth***) and kind of living of noblest kind (***ans: living with wisdom***)?
- Asked 4 questions on samsara with how ... cross the flood of recurrent birth (***Buddha's ans: by confidence***), cross the sea of existence (***ans: vigilance***), transcend unhappiness (***ans: strenuous effort***) and one gets purified (***ans: wisdom***)?
- Asked another 5 worldly questions with how ... one acquires knowledge (***Buddha's ans: by reposing confidence and listening to the Dhamma of the arahants for the attainment of Nibbana, being diligent & attentive***), one obtains wealth (***ans: one who's hardworking***), one attains fame (***ans: by truth***), one gains friends (***ans: one who gives***) and one not repent passing from this world to the next (***ans: a confident householder/layperson with 4 virtues – truthfulness, good morals, courage & liberality***)
- The Buddha asked Alavaka to double-check with other ascetics and Brahmins on whether there are any qualities higher than truth, self-control, generosity and patience.
- Alavaka was finally convinced that the Buddha has provided answers that meant well for his future well-being. He also knew that the Buddha has purposely come to his residence for his own good.
- The demon promised the Buddha that he would pay his respect to Him and the Dhamma from village to village and town to town.

Significance of Alavaka sutta: The Buddha, Himself enlightened, he persevered his best to enlighten others and liberate them from the ills of life. As a rule, he goes in search of the vicious and the impure (Angulimala & Alavaka), but the pure and the virtuous (Visakha, Anathapindika, Sariputta and Moggallana) come in search of him.