

BUDDHA FESTIVAL

The ritual of bathing began the great festival of Sambuddha Jayanti, in which Ceylon celebrated the 2,500th anniversary of Buddha's death. At six in the early morning ~~a~~ hundred thousand devoutly assembled at Anuradhapura in prayer before the high priest. From all parts of Ceylon the pilgrims journeyed for this sacred meditation. With many the devotion was so complete they seemed as though in a trance. Ceylon is the central home of Buddhism. Temples abound in which the faithful seek guidance and inspiration from the spiritual presence of the Fully ~~the~~ Enlightened One. At Kandy the temple of the Sacred Tooth was visited by many of the pilgrims in the afternoon. <sup>in India</sup> Buddha was born/more than 500 years before Christ. He was a Prince but renounced the world to seek Enlightenment, which he eventually obtained. His faith spread. Today it numbers ~~450,000~~ <sup>p</sup> 500,000.

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