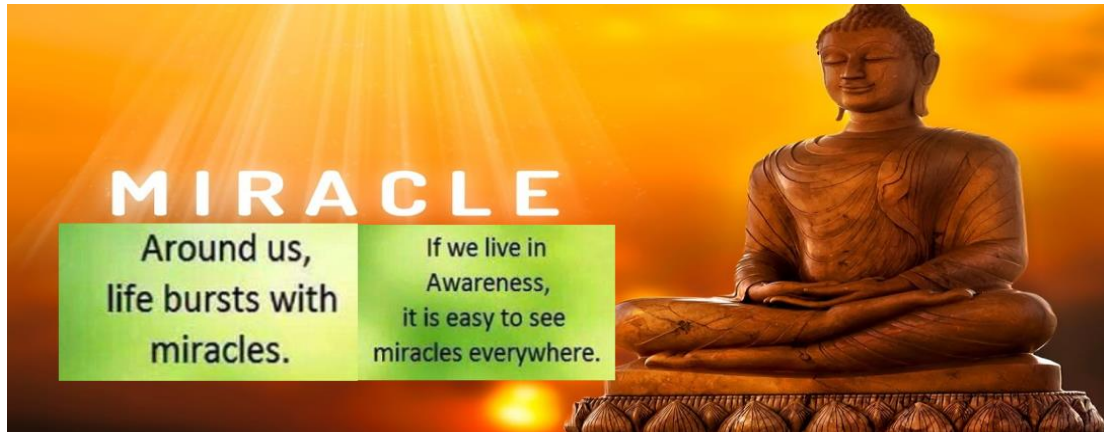


## MIRACLES 奇蹟



A miracle is an act or occurrence contravening the known laws of nature and which is believed to have a divine cause. The most commonly reported miracles include sudden non-medical healings, the appearances of deities, messages from deities, etc. While the Buddha accepted the possibility of miracles, he had a rather skeptical attitude towards most of the supposed miracles reported to him. Once, somebody asked him to perform a miracle so that 'even more people will have faith in you'. The Buddha replied that there were miracles which thoughtful or skeptical people would have doubts about. There was, however, a miracle that all could have confidence in, what he called 'the miracle of instruction'. This miracle consisted, he said, of teaching morality, acceptance, peace of mind and meditation. The Buddha summed up his attitude to miracles when he said: 'Whether miracles are performed or not, my purpose in teaching the Dhamma is to lead whoever miracles?'

From the Buddhist perspective, being able to perform a miracle is no proof of moral or spiritual perfection. And lastly, unusual occurrences, if genuine, are much more likely to be due to an individual's psychic abilities than they are to divine power. This, at least, is the Buddhist position. The Buddha and some of his disciples were sometimes

attributed with miraculous powers. Some people believe the stories about the Buddha's miracles to be literally true, while others see them as having an allegorical meaning or even being a later addition to the scriptures. Either way, attaining enlightenment does not depend on believing in miracles and none of the central doctrines of Buddhism are of a supernatural or miraculous nature.