

NĀLANDĀ TRANSLATION COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Shambhala International Calendar Planners
FROM: Larry Mermelstein
RE: Fire Dog Year (2006-2007) Calendar
DATE: 8 December 2005

We have just received from India our copies of the new Tibetan calendar for the coming year of the Fire Dog. Below are all the specific dates for feasts, Jambhala, *Sādhana of Mahāmudrā*, and *Werma Sādhana* practice. In accordance with the Tibetan lunar calendar, we practice the feast for Padmākara, Chakrasaṃvara, or Vajrakīlaya on the 10th day and Vajrayoginī on the 25th day; Jambhala sādhana is practiced on the 8th and 28th days; *Sādhana of Mahāmudrā* is practiced on the full (15th) and new (30th) moon days; and the *Werma Sādhana* is practiced on the protector days (9th, 19th, 29th).

The Tibetan calendar that we have is not corrected for North American or European time zones, so dates are perhaps not as accurate for us as they are for India. The only times that can be easily checked are the new and full moon, and it is suggested that we **follow Western sources for our practice of the *Sādhana of Mahāmudrā***, rather than what is given below.

Due to a lunar day being of different length than a solar day, sometimes the Tibetan calendar omits a solar date or has two of the same-numbered solar day. This accounts for why an occasional protector day might occur on the same day as a Jambhala practice day, why a Chakrasaṃvara feast day might occur on a protector day, or why there seems to be an extra day between any of these noted celebrations. Also, some years have an intercalary month. Different lunar calendrical systems may choose different years to insert this extra month, which is why the Chinese New Year can be a month off from the Tibetan New Year.

A day that has a plus sign following it is the second of two same-numbered days in the Tibetan calendar. This is the preferred day on which that practice should occur; however, either of the same-numbered days can be used. Thus, for example, the protector day on March 19, 2006 can be celebrated on March 18, if you wish. Days with minus signs following them indicate that the numbered day in question is missing and is thus celebrated on the previous day. For example, there is no 25th day in the fourth Tibetan month, so that feast day falls on the 24th (June 20).

FIRE DOG YEAR

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Calendar of Practice Days

Shambhala Day: 28 February 2006

Milarepa Day: 13 March 2006

2006	Sādhana of Mahāmudrā	Heruka feast	Ḍākinī feast	Werma	Jambhala
Mar.	14, 29	9	24	8, 19+, 28	7, 27
Apr.	13, 27	8	23	7, 17, 26	6, 25-
May	13, 27	7	22	6, 17, 26	5, 25

Vaishākha Day—birth, enlightenment, and parinirvāṇa of Buddha Shākyamuni: 11 June 2006

June	11, 25	6	20-	5, 15, 24	4, 23
July	11, 25	6	20	5, 14, 24	4+, 23
Aug.	9, 23	4	18	3, 13, 22	2, 21
Sept.	7, 22	3	17	2, 11, 21	1, 20, 30
Oct.	7, 22+	2, 31-	16	1, 10, 20, 31	19, 30
Nov.	5, 20	30	15	9, 19, 29	18, 28
Dec.	4, 20	29	15	8, 19, 28	18, 27-

2007

Jan.	3, 19	28	13	7, 18, 27	17, 26
Feb.	2, 17		12	6, 16	15

Shambhala Day: 18 February 2007, Fire Pig Year