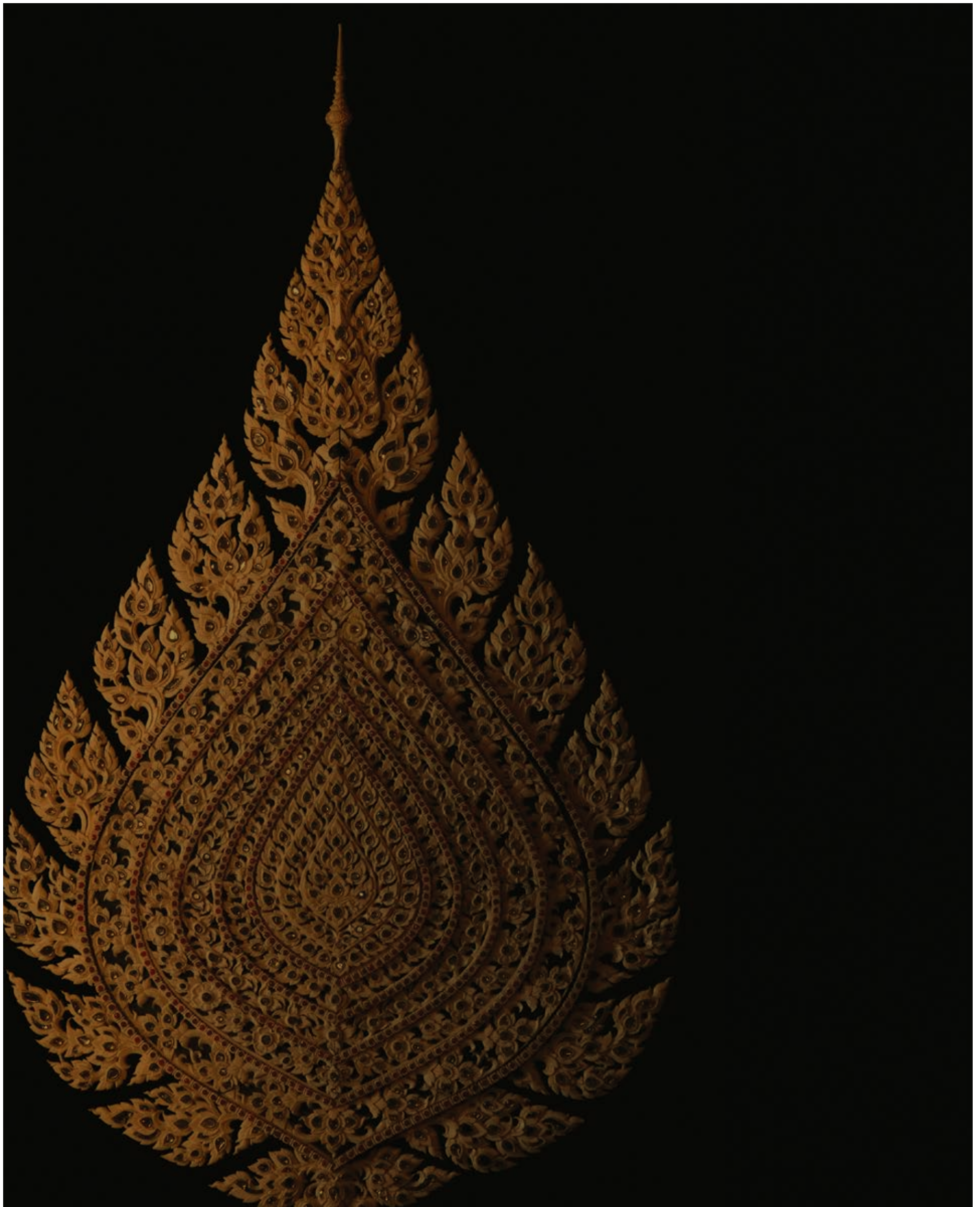


THE PEOPLE'S PATRIARCH

Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara: A Biography

THE PEOPLE'S PATRIARCH

A Biography of
His Holiness
Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara,
the 19th Supreme Patriarch
of the Kingdom of Thailand



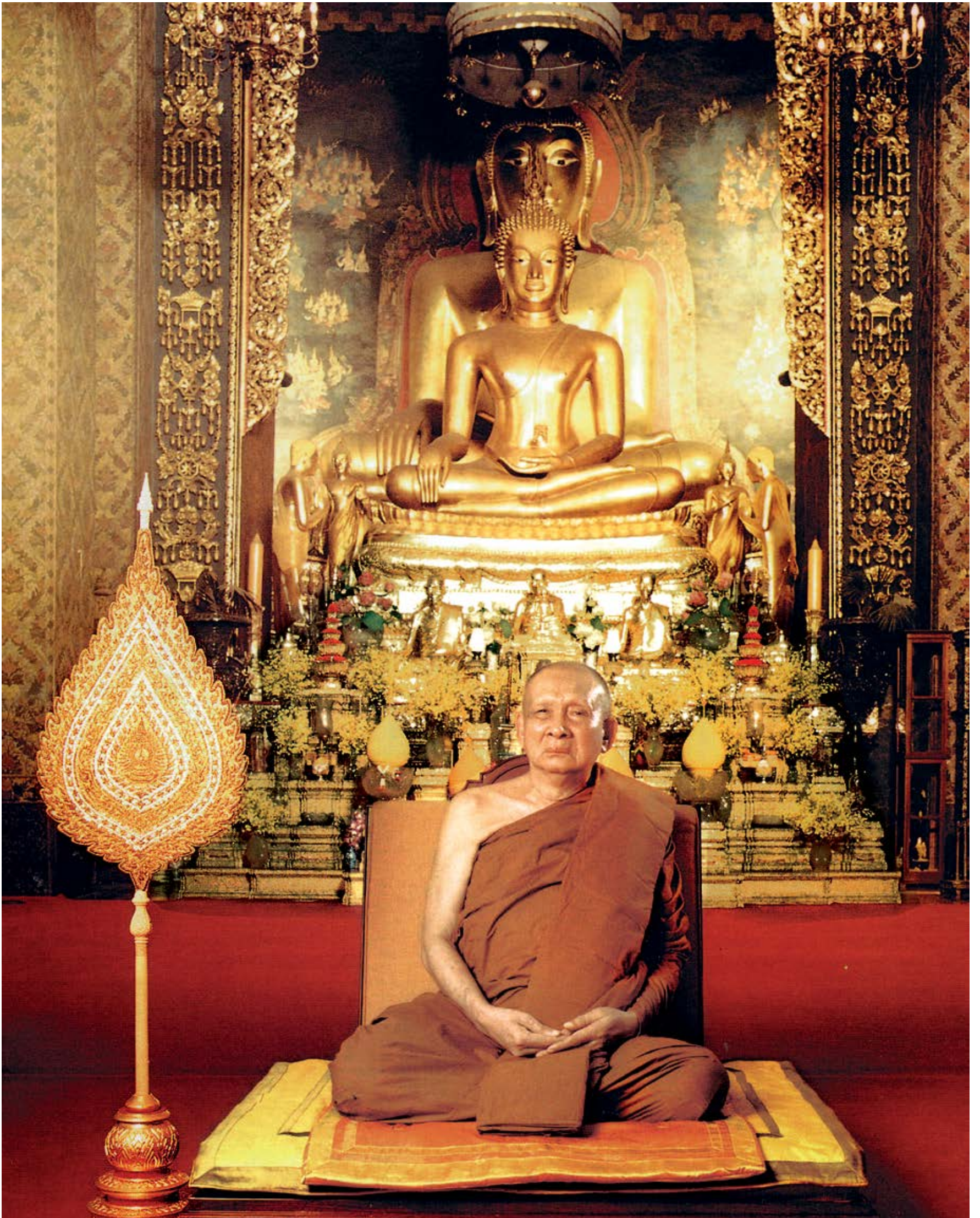
Sd. Phra Nyanasamvera













His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara,
the 19th Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand
(3 October 1913-24 October 2013)

FOREWORD

The World Fellowship of Buddhists (W.F.B.) is immensely grateful for the compassion of His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara (Chareun Suvaddhano), the 19th Supreme Patriarch of Thailand. His Holiness had contributed to the W.F.B. from its inception period in many forms. His Holiness had always accepted to teach and lecture in the headquarters office and attended in several important events organized by the W.F.B. since the headquarters was first established at the Buddhist Association of Thailand on Phra Arthit Road, Bangkok. Once His Holiness was appointed as the Sangharaja or the 19th Supreme Patriarch of Thailand, he gave his patronage to the W.F.B. His Holiness was always kind to deliver his goodwill messages for every general conference of the W.F.B. He supported the W.F.B. in announcing every 6th of August as the World Meditation Day. His Holiness also fully supported and presided over the establishment and inauguration of the World Buddhist University under the W.F.B.

Regarding His Holiness' contributions, the late Professor Ananda W.P. Guruge, former Vice President of the W.F.B. stated: 'Under His Holiness' leadership, the Thai Sangha has become vibrantly active catalysts in the promotion of Buddhism in the world today. The international Dhammaduta missions of the Thai Sangha have resulted in setting up Thai Buddhist temples in all continents. Far more impressive is what the Thai Sangha has contributed to the Buddhist community by developing, publishing and teaching knowledge on how Buddhism can guide us to human well being in today's worldly society.'

Recollecting the late His Holiness' compassion and contributions towards the World Fellowship of Buddhists and also his innumerable contributions for the benefit and good of all Buddhists both in Thailand and abroad, the W.F.B. is publishing His biography in English entitled "*The People's Patriarch: A Biography of His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the 19th Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand*". This publication is a tribute and a contribution from the W.F.B. to add to the royal merit-making ceremony from His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Kingdom of Thailand on the occasion of the royal cremation of the late His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the 19th Supreme Patriarch of Thailand on Wednesday, 16th December 2015 at the Phra Meru Royal Crematorium at Wat Thepsirindravas, Bangkok.

By Reading this book, the readers can clearly understand how His Holiness fulfilled all his duties and activities towards mankind with loving-kindness and compassion regardless of races, nations, religions and social classes. Instead, His Holiness performed his every tiny activity towards people with equality and impartiality. His Holiness indeed lived up to his conscience as he had always said that 'I am a people's monk.'

The World Fellowship of Buddhists would like to thank every individual who piously dedicated their hard work to translate, edit, design and proofread the book to its completion. May all merit gained by this publication of "*The People's Patriarch: A Biography of His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the 19th Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand*" be bestowed upon His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara for the kind deeds he had left in this world.

*Phan Wannamethee
President, the World Fellowship of Buddhists
16 December 2015*

PREFACE

Despite the Buddhist world's recognition as the 'Supreme Holiness of World Buddhism,' His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the 19th Supreme Patriarch of Thailand during the Rattanakosin era, was known as the "People's Patriarch" to his close followers, to the multitude of ordained monks, to the daily worshippers and to all the Buddhist people of Thailand.

Perhaps the most familiar image of His Holiness was that of an ordinary monk who walked about greeting people from all walks of life, accepting invitations to big and small events alike, but barely had time for himself. Often His Holiness was on the move for the entire day yet he never uttered a word of complaint or expressed his exhaustion to others.

His Holiness always insisted that, "When one gives one's word, one must keep it, otherwise people will be upset and damage is done."

On one occasion, when he still went by the title of Phra Sasanasobhana, His Holiness was invited to the inauguration of a preaching pavilion in Yasothorn, a north-eastern province in Thailand. He gladly accepted without a moment of hesitation. On the day of the event, he fell ill and had to be admitted to King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital. Despite his doctor's advice against traveling, His Holiness insisted on keeping his promise. He travelled all night by car and reached Yasothorn at the break of dawn. When the ceremony was over, he promptly returned to the hospital and resumed treatment.

The full extent of the righteous nature of the "People's Patriarch" was known only to a few people. His Holiness had dedicated himself throughout his life to the selfless pursuit of loving kindness, compassion and humanity. His Holiness was a living example of insight and resourcefulness. His saintly behaviour will provide lifelong lessons for us all.

To show our deepest gratitude to His Holiness' lifelong benevolence, considerable efforts have been expended in researching for this book and to the gathering of hundreds of rarely seen photographs which, together with the many personal recollections attesting to His Holiness' greatness, now grace and enrich the content of this book.

On the whole, when looking at His Holiness' lifetime achievements, one can imagine the forward-looking vision, the exemplary piety, the above-average energy, the unfailing dedication, the perseverance, the unwavering tenacity which propelled him to a hundred year life of intense activities in so many different fields. He was undoubtedly a beacon of light which had inspired millions of people in all continents of the world to be guided by the noble teachings of Lord Buddha. May we all wish that his example, influence and advice continue to stimulate us to emulate His Holiness in all aspects of our lives.

His Holiness demised peacefully just 21 days after his enriching 100th year birthday anniversary on 24 October 2013. This made him the oldest and the longest reigning Supreme Patriarch in Thai history.

Beyond the mark he left in the world of Buddhism, His Holiness will no doubt be remembered by many as the 'People's Patriarch,' one who travelled everywhere in his early years and who had to be wheeled to the altar in later years but had always been there for those seeking his refuge. His Holiness had lived each chapter of his patriarchy before the eyes of the world.

Over two years of daily funeral ceremonies under the royal patronage, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej made a royal decision to hold the royal cremation for His Holiness on the 16 December 2015 at the Phra Meru Royal Crematorium at Wat Thepsirindravas, Bangkok.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone involved in this publication: authors; translators; designers; coordinators; computer graphic designers; publisher and many more. Without their pious dedication, this publication would not be possible.

May we, with great veneration, dedicate all our merits gained by this publication to the departed Holiness: Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the 19th Supreme Patriarch of Kingdom of Thailand.

The light moves on, the brilliance stays.

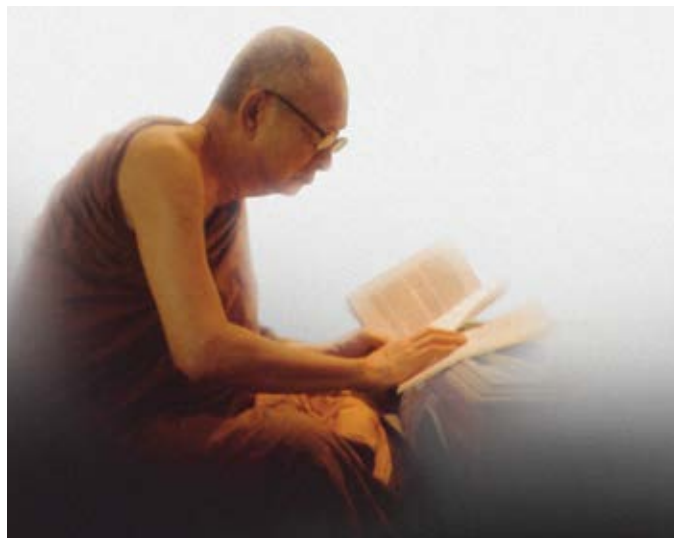
*Venerable Phra Shakyavongvisuddhi (Anil Sakya)
Editor*



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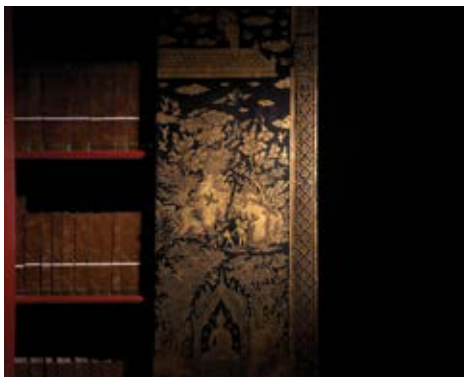


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The Light Moves on, The Brilliance Stays

PERFECTLY PROSPEROUS

“Ajita, as long as waves of tanha (craving) exist, use sati (mindfulness) to intercept them. Mindfulness thus guards against those waves. The Wisdom by which one stills the waves of craving is called Nyanasamvara.”

Commentary of Mulapariyaya Sutta, MN#1



PHOTO BY NARONGCHAI WISAWAVETEE



ust over a century ago in Baan Nuea, a small village situated on the shores of the scenic River Kwai, in Mueang District, Kanchanaburi Province, on the fourth waxing moon of the eleventh month of the Year of the Ox (3 October 1913), a boy was born to the Gajavatra family.

At that time, no one had yet to realise that this small child was destined for greatness and would become the 19th Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand. His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the Supreme Patriarch, was given the name 'Chareun'. He was the first-born son of Noi Gajavatra, the Assistant District Chief of Amphawa district in Samut Songkhram Province. Noi's family line could be traced back to Ayudhya and to the noble 'Na Takuathung' family from the south of Thailand. Kimnoi, the boy's mother, who worked as a tailoress, came from the Rungsawang family, which came from both Chinese and Vietnamese ancestries.

His Holiness was born at the Rungsawang's family home on Pakphraek Road, the same house where his two younger brothers, Jamnian and Samut, and his cousins were born. As a child, he was surrounded by much love and kindness and was being looked after by family members and other relatives living nearby.

Though His Holiness was fortunate enough to be brought up in a loving and stable environment, he suffered from poor health throughout his entire childhood. Once, when he was seriously ill, adult family members prayed for his recovery, vowing that he would be ordained as a Buddhist novice (samanera) should he recover.

After his father passed away, when His Holiness was just 9 years old, the family struggled to cope financially. He was sent away to live with Aunt Kimheng, his mother's elder sister.

Though he missed his family, Aunt Kimheng's warm heart and tender loving care brought joy and warmth to the boy's life. He became very dear to her, and was always found at his beloved Aunt's side.

The Rungsawang's family home was situated near three temples: Wat Devasangharam (Wat Nuea – the north temple), Wat Chaichumpholchana-Songkhram (Wat Tai – the south temple) and Wat Thavornvararam (Wat Yuan – Wat Khanthoetue). Being devout Buddhists, Aunt Kimheng and the boy's mother regularly attended ceremonies and festivals at the nearby temples, and always took His Holiness along with them so that he was introduced at a young age to the religious faith that he would embrace. During the Vassa or Rains Retreat – the three-month long annual retreat observed by Theravada Buddhist monks – young His Holiness would sit listening to a Dhamma sermon every evening at Wat Nuea. This shows that His Holiness had become familiar with the Buddha's teachings ever since he was a young boy.

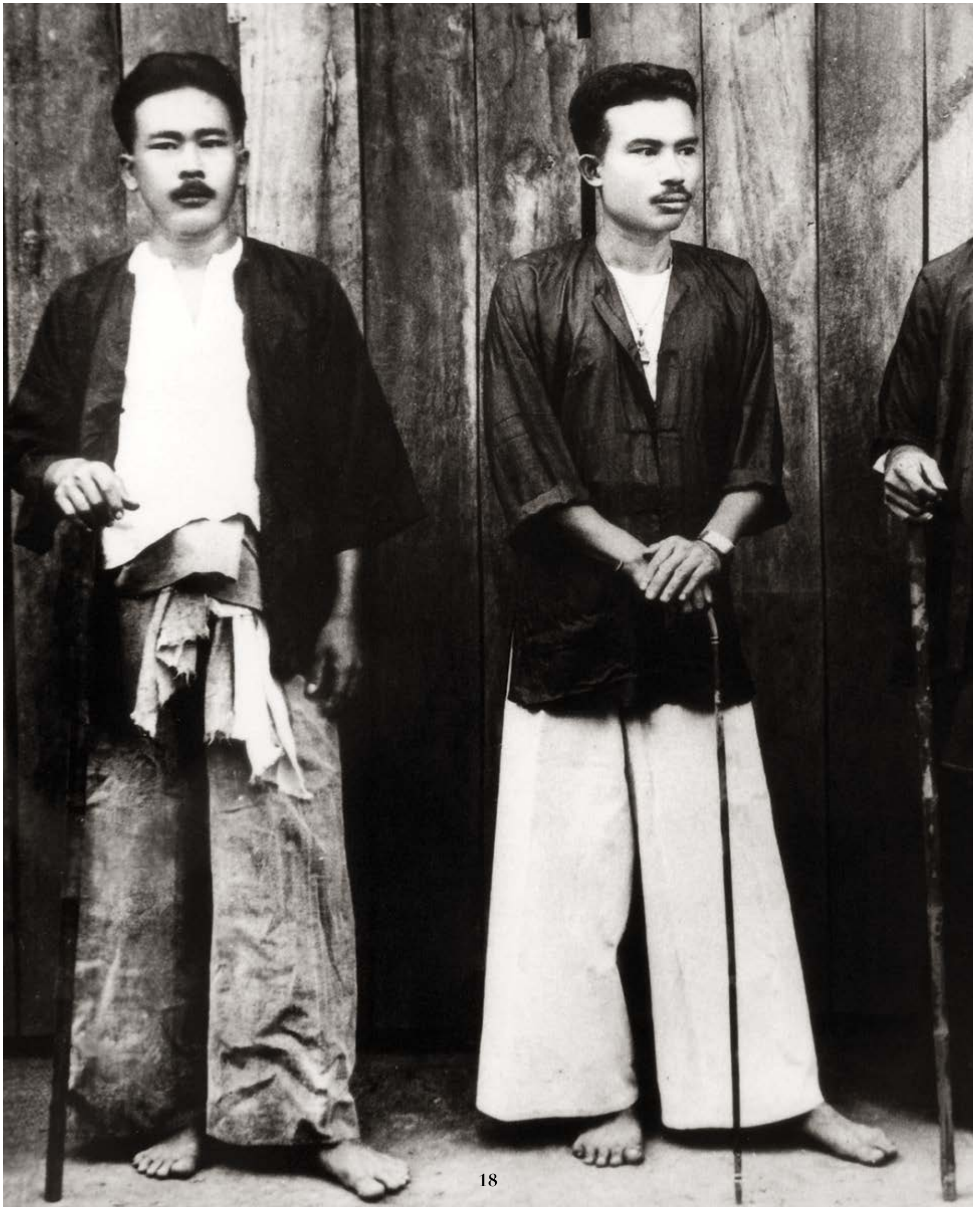
Being a playful young boy with an active mind, he recalled what he had observed at the temple and used his imagination to play games that recreated something of the religious ceremonies he had attended. He liked to pretend to be a monk giving a Dhamma discourse, holding up an elongated palm leaf in place of a talipot fan – a Thai Buddhist ceremonial handheld fan – just like he observed at the temple.



**(LEFT) Mr. Noi Gajavatra,
(RIGHT) Mrs. Kimnoi Gajavatra,
(BELOW) Aunt Kimheng Rungsawang**

Another one of His Holiness' favourite games was called the 'Throw Baskets,' referring to a yearly ritual in which food and other necessities were offered to those in need. The merit derived from those good deeds was dedicated to suffering hungry spirits (peta). He asked other children to play with him, laying out a piece of cloth in the way monks traditionally receive such offerings.

The Rungsawang and the Gajavatra family members would often said that "He was meant to be a monk since he was a child" and they would frequently reminisced about the "monk games" that His Holiness enjoyed playing.





Younger brothers of His Holiness' mother: (from left) Siam, Term, Thaem and Thongdi Rungsawang.



The Rungsawang and the Gajavatra were kind, generous and very devout families. They usually went to make merit at temple ceremonies and to listen to Dhamma. Chareun was very fond of listening to the Jataka (Tales of Lord Buddha's past lives) during the 3-months period of the Rains Retreat, so he always asked his aunt, "Please Auntie, let's go to listen to the stories." Accompanying Aunt Kimheng and his mother to the temples became a way of life; and both ladies willingly took the boy with them. There were many temples near to where they lived, so Chareun's life was closely tied to the monasteries. He was surrounded and raised by Dhamma.



ILLUSTRATED BY RUJIPHAT SUWANASAI

Chareun's everyday life was entwined with that of his Aunt Kimheng. He would emulate everything she did and always kept himself near to her. When Aunt Kimheng awoke before dawn, so did the boy. Aunt Kimheng knew that her nephew would not go back to sleep, so she lit a candle. The boy sat up gazing at the flickering flame playing in the breeze. This was so entrancing that it became his daily habit while waiting for the sun to break through the dawning sky.



When Chareun was about five years old, he asked his uncles to engage in role playing. The child would beg them to listen to his “preaching”. He used whatever he could find as props: uncle’s pha-khao-ma (all-purpose cloth) made do as monk’s robe; incense sticks and candles found in his home; a leaf substituted for a ceremonial handheld fan; and a rice bowl to collect alms. His younger brothers were summoned as his audience listening to his preaching. Chareun, with the pha-khao-ma draped over his shoulder, would sit on a stone mortar, holding the traditional Dhamma leaves, and spoke the words of Dhamma that he had heard when visiting the temples with Aunt Kimheng.



ILLUSTRATED BY RUJIPHAT SUWANASAI

As they reminisced about the “monk games” Chareun loved to play, the Rungsawangs and the Gajavtras would say, “He was meant to be a monk since he was a child.” While playing as the preacher, he would fashion an imaginary miniature world of “Phapa” (forest) trees using tamarind sticks, and make believe gibbons made from towels hanging from the branches. Or sometimes he would imagine it as mountains and caves, with a pagoda perched atop wooden, and a tiny statute of Yama, the god of death, made out of folded paper. These recreations originated from his experiences at the temple ceremonies accompanied by Aunt Kimheng and his



**(LEFT) With novice friends and his two younger brothers (His Holiness was the tallest in the back row).
(RIGHT) The street in front of His Holiness' home (on the right side).**



A

s part of her daily routine, Aunt Kimheng would wake early to set off for work. Before leaving, Aunt Kimheng would light a candle for her boy to play with. His Holiness would then sit gazing at the flickering flame until dawn broke and the first ray of sunlight appeared over the horizon.

Looking back, it became obvious to everyone that these activities had foretold that His Holiness would spend his life wearing the sacred yellow robes of a Buddhist monk.

His Holiness had a gentle heart and a docile nature. He was never naughty. As the eldest child, he took care of his younger brothers and the other children in the family.

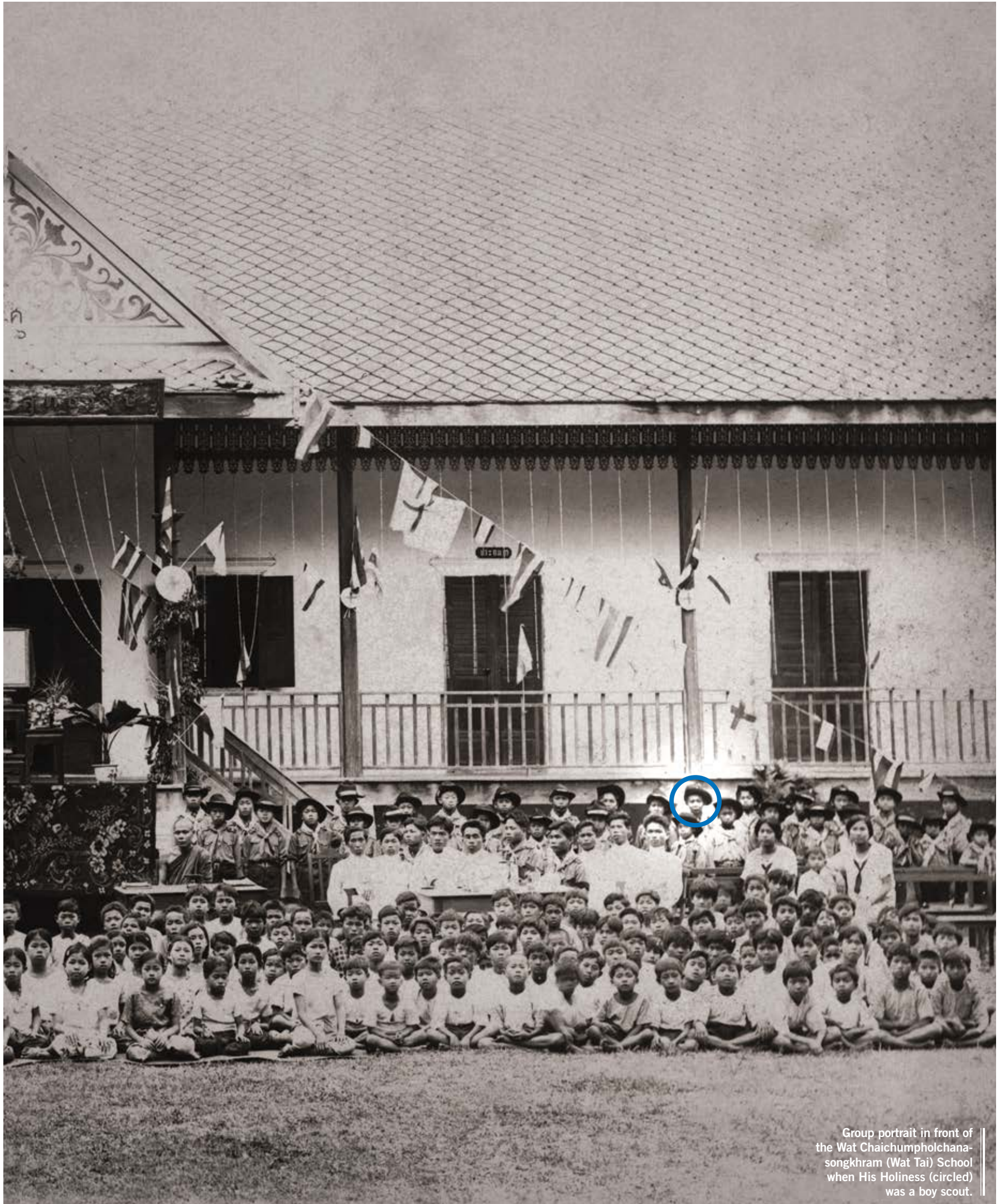
When he was eight years old, His Holiness went to study at a school in the near by Wat Devasangharam. He completed his elementary education at the age of 12 in 1925.

Throughout his childhood, His Holiness was greatly influenced by the warmth of his close-knit family and by the simple country life that nurtured him to be compassionate, patient and honest. All these qualities nourished the growth of Dhamma (spiritual truth) within him and produced a great spiritual and philosophical master whose compassion had touched the hearts of many throughout the world. He who would later become "His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the 19th Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand."





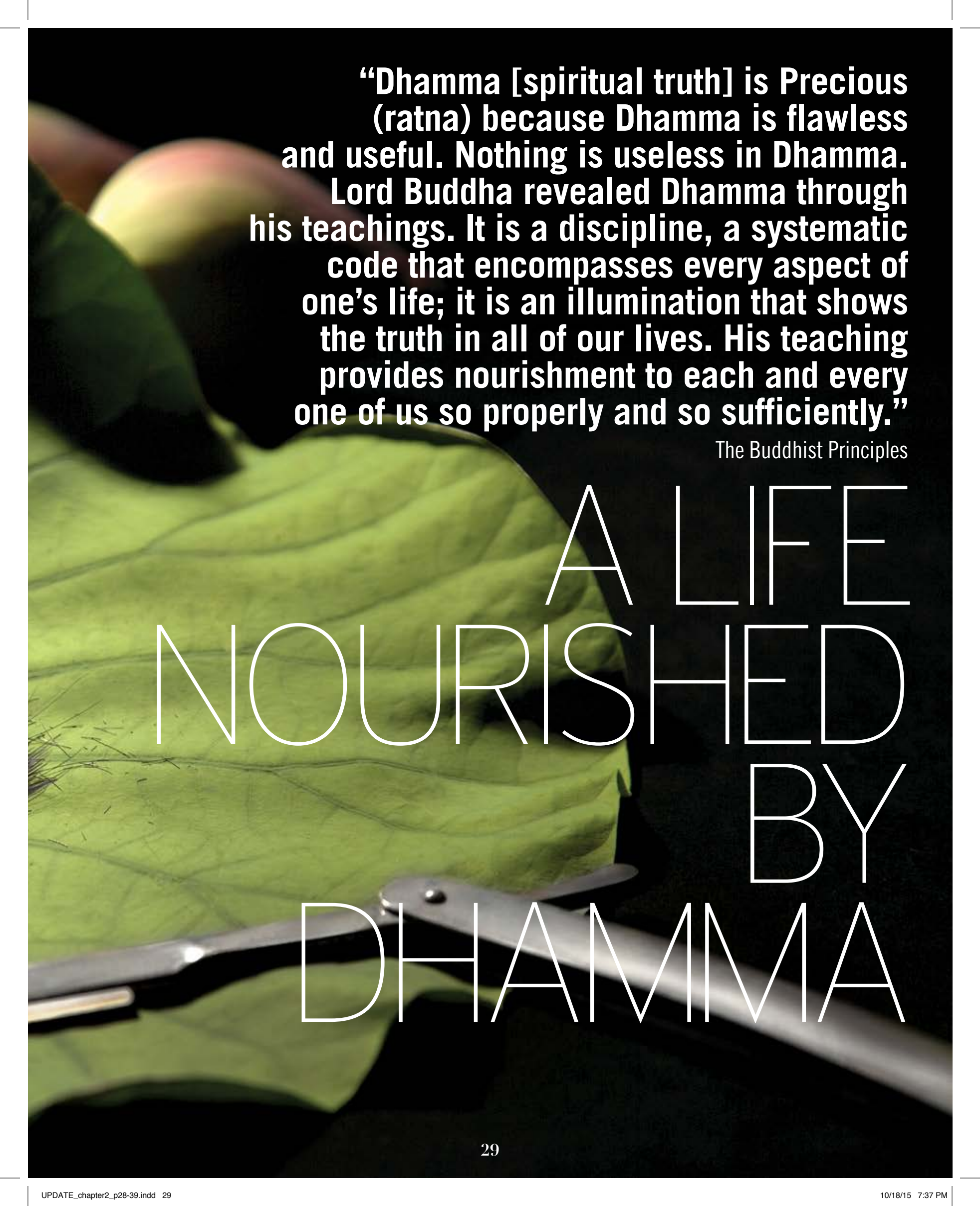




Group portrait in front of the Wat Chaichumpholchana-songkhram (Wat Tai) School when His Holiness (circled) was a boy scout.



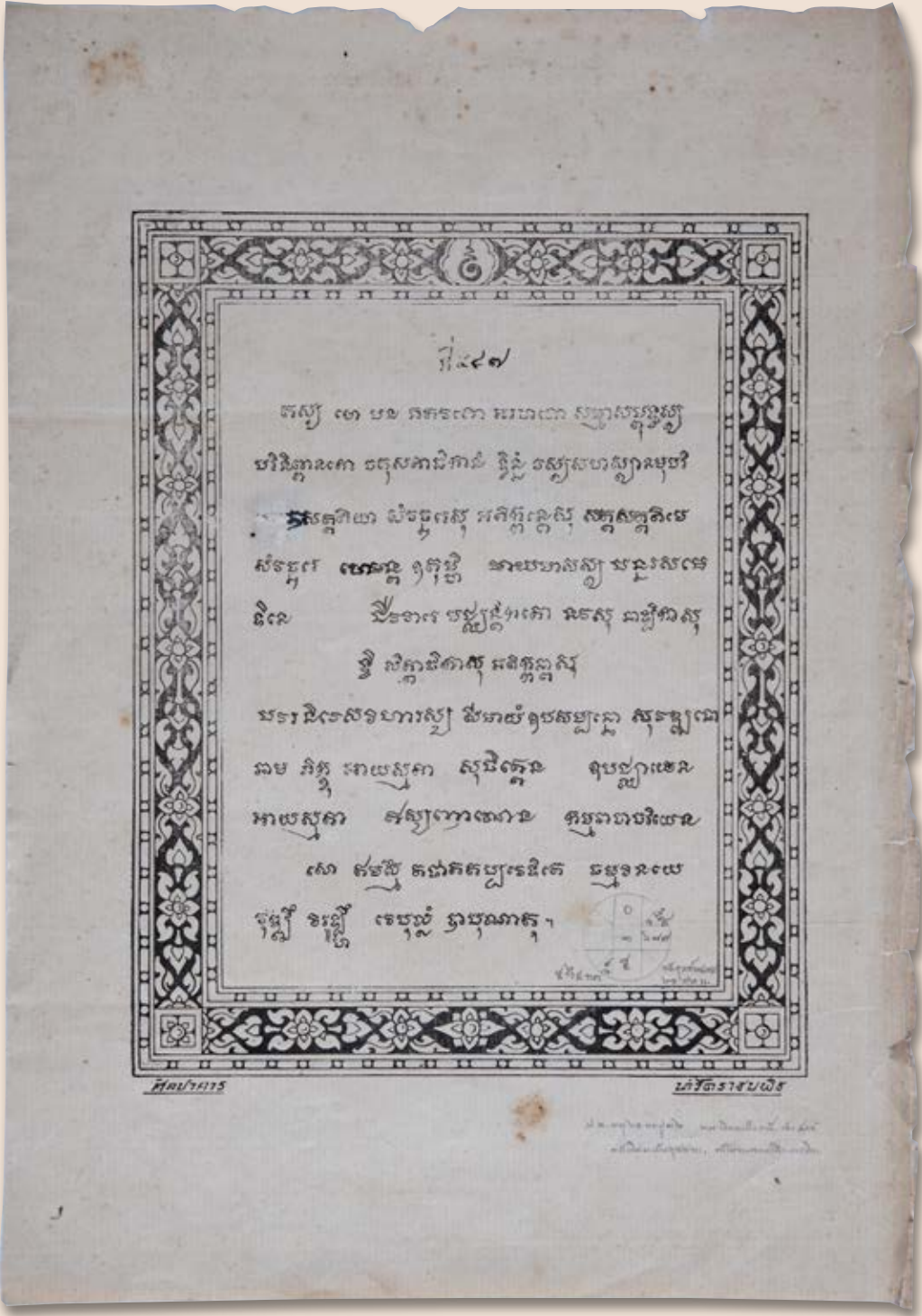
PHOTO BY NARONGCHAI WISAWATETEE



“Dhamma [spiritual truth] is Precious (ratna) because Dhamma is flawless and useful. Nothing is useless in Dhamma. Lord Buddha revealed Dhamma through his teachings. It is a discipline, a systematic code that encompasses every aspect of one’s life; it is an illumination that shows the truth in all of our lives. His teaching provides nourishment to each and every one of us so properly and so sufficiently.”

The Buddhist Principles

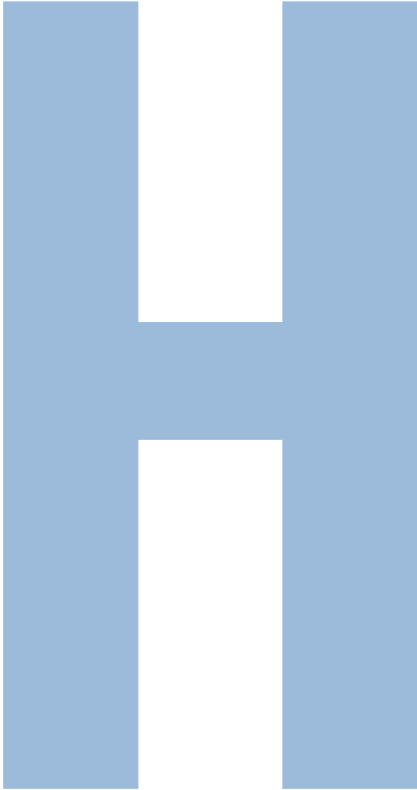
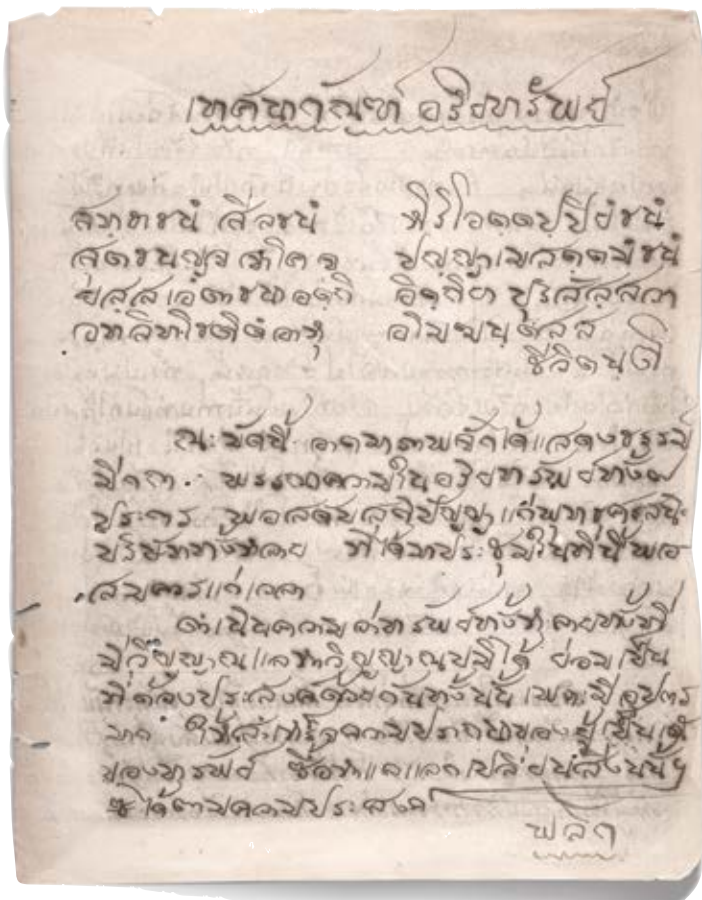
A LIFE NOURISHED BY DHAMMA



His Holiness' chayapatra in Khmer letters when he was re-ordained at Wat Bovoranes Vihara.



(LEFT) The 10th Supreme Patriarch, Somdet Phra Mahasamana Chao Krom Phraya Vajiranyanavarorasa, used to visit the provincial Sangha of Kanchanaburi in 1915. During his stay at Wat Devasangharam, he allowed the officials as well as the villagers to bring their small children to him. Noi Gajavatra brought his two-year-old eldest son, His Holiness, to pay respect to the Supreme Patriarch, who gave the boy a memorial coin. (BELOW) His Holiness' first Dhamma sermon, when he was still a novice.



is Holiness Somdet Phra Nyana-samvara, the Supreme Patriarch renounced lay life for the path of Dhamma when he was 14 years of age.

In 1926, when two of His Holiness' uncles, Thaem and Thongdi, were about to be ordained at Wat Devasangharam, his mother and Aunt Kimheng urged him to enter the monk-

hood as a novice, fulfilling the vow taken many years before upon his recovery from ill health. He had just completed his primary school education at this time and so he consented.

His Holiness' preceptor was Phra Khru Adulyasamanakij (Dee Buddhajoti), popularly known as 'Luang Phoe Wat Nuea', abbot of Wat Devasangharam. Phra Khru Nivitsamajarn (Rian Suvannajoti), abbot of Wat Sri Upalaram, conferred the sarana on the boy, in which he was asked to seek refuge in the 'Triple Gem' (the Buddha, the Dhamma teachings and the Sangha of the ordained community). This was followed by the undertaking of sila, the Buddhist moral precepts.

From this moment in his life, His Holiness followed the Path of Dhamma and never returned to the secular life.

During his first year as a novice, His Holiness studied hard and practised all he had learned, including chanting. He also attended to the needs of his guardian teacher, Luang Phoe Dee. At night, Luang Phoe would recite the Dhamma, making the novice learn by heart all of the teachings. Luang Phoe would recite one part, and then continued every night until the whole chapter was covered. This traditional method of bestowing Dhamma has been practised since ancient times.

Ariya Dhana (Noble Treasures) was the first chapter Luang Phoe taught His Holiness, which he memorised in a very short time. Having mastered the methodology, he was able to give sermons in the first year of his monastic life. He preached fluently and with great conviction. Every word of his first sermon was recorded in his personal diary.

He may have begun his life as a novice just to fulfill a vow made by his relatives, yet he went on to wholeheartedly embrace the Buddhist faith and flourished as a monk. In 1927, Luang Phoe Dee sent him to study Pali with Phra Khru Samvornvinaya (Arj), abbot of Wat Senha in Nakhon Pathom Province. Luang Phoe Dee decided that he should train as a teacher. Luang Phoe Dee then built a religious school, Phra Pariyattidhamma, while awaiting the return of his student from study.

Life far away from his birthplace was not a lonely existence as His Holiness was quick to make friends. He cherished the camaraderie he enjoyed with dozens of monastic friends, monks and novices at Wat Senha. Many photos captured the happy, shared moments and were aptly captioned and neatly kept in his photo albums.




As a student at Wat Senha, His Holiness did so well that Phra Maha Phak Sakchaleum recommended that he enroll in a programme of higher learning at Wat Makutkasattriyaram. Phra Maha Phak Sakchaleum was a scholar monk from Wat Makutkasattriyaram in Bangkok, and encouraged His Holiness to follow in his footsteps. After seeking the advice of Luang Phoe Dee, His Holiness was advised to pursue his higher studies at another temple in Bangkok, Wat Bovoranives Vihara, which was located near the former residence of Luang Phoe Dee. There was also an influential connection with the 13th Supreme Patriarch, Somdet Phra Sangharaja Chao Krom Luang Vajiranyanavangsa, whom he, Luang Phoe Dee, had known for many years. After another year of study at Wat Senha, he accompanied his teacher to Wat Bovoranives Vihara. In 1929, Luang Phoe Dee and His Holiness as Samanera (Novice) Chareun boarded a train for the journey from Kanchanaburi to Bangkok.

His Holiness the 13th Supreme Patriarch, who had been awarded the rank of Somdet Phra Vajiranyanavangsa, was abbot of the royal monastery, Wat Bovoranives. The 13th Supreme Patriarch readily accepted His Holiness into the temple, relying on Luang Phoe Dee's endorsement.

Throughout the first twenty-days of his stay at Wat Bovoranives Vihara, His Holiness complied with all the temple's rules and regulations so diligently that the Abbot conferred a new monastic name upon him, Suvaddhano, the 'cultivated one'.

At this institution of higher learning and amongst the Sangha (community of ordained monks and novices), His Holiness thrived and matured. He studied with great dedication and accomplished Grade 3 (top level) of Dhamma study and Grade 4 of Pali studies (there are 9 grades of Pali studies). At 20, he returned to Kanchanaburi and asked his preceptor at Wat Devasangharam to ordain him into monkhood.

After his ordination as a monk, which coincided with the Vassa or the three-month annual Buddhist retreat, His Holiness stayed on to help his preceptor in teaching Dhamma at the newly opened religious school as of the wish of his teacher.

On 15 February 1933, His Holiness returned to Wat Bovoranives in Bangkok to be re-ordained by His Holiness the 13th Patriarch. Phra Ratnadhajamuni (Ju Issaranyano) who was then His Holiness' teacher. From that day forward, His Holiness, also known by his new monk's name, Suvaddhano Bhikkhu [Bhikkhu is a Pali honorific for a fully ordained Buddhist monastic], would devote his entire life to Dhamma, a vocation that he embraced whole heartedly. It was also a calling that greatly benefited society. A life-long devotion to Lord Buddha, to Dhamma, and to the Sangha has ensured that His Holiness remained self-effacing, gentle and respectful to his elders, teachers and benefactors. Nourished by Dhamma and true to the meaning of his Bhikkhu name, his character flourished and matured. 



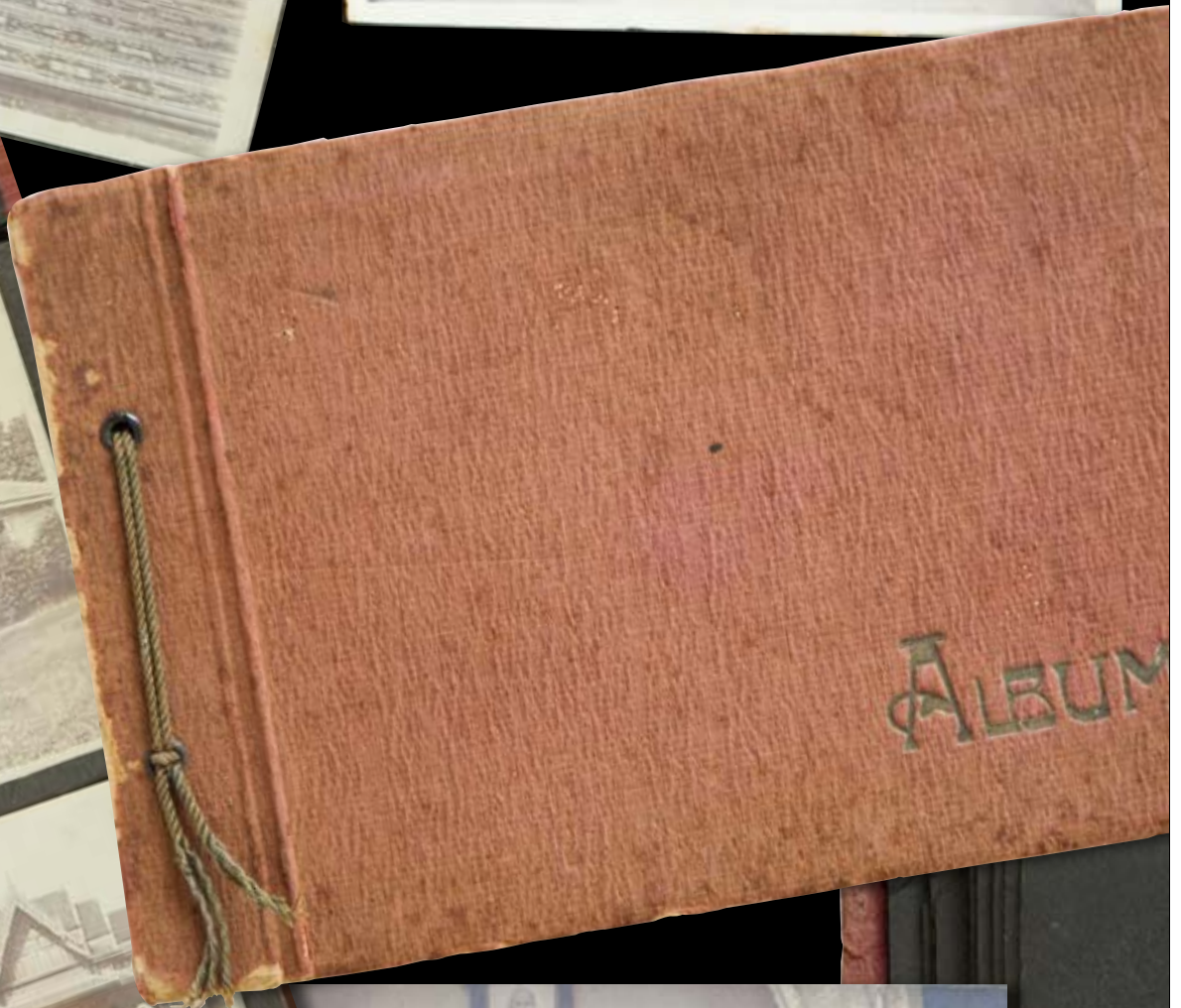
(LEFT) 17 February 1966, His Holiness was sponsoring a funeral rite for his mother, His Holiness took care of his mother by himself by having her living next to his residence at Wat Bovoranives Vihara for many years. It is unusual to have a woman living in the compound of monks in the royal monastery of Wat Bovoranives Vihara but she was an exceptional case as His Holiness wished to take care of her by himself even he was the abbot of the monastery.

(ABOVE) The 13th Supreme Patriarch, Somdet Phra Sangharaja Chao Krom Luang Vajiryanavangsa.

(BELOW) From left, Phra Khru Adulyasamanakij (Dee Buddhajoti), the abbot of Wat Devasangharam, the preceptor of His Holiness as a novice and then a monk, and Phra Khru Nivitsamajarn (Rian Suvannajoti), the Abbot of Wat Sri Upalaram, who gave His Holiness the refuges and precepts when he was ordained as a novice; he was also his Act-Announcing Teacher when he was ordained as a monk at Wat Devasangharam.



Some old photographs of places, of himself as a novice, and of some monastic friends, from His Holiness' personal albums.

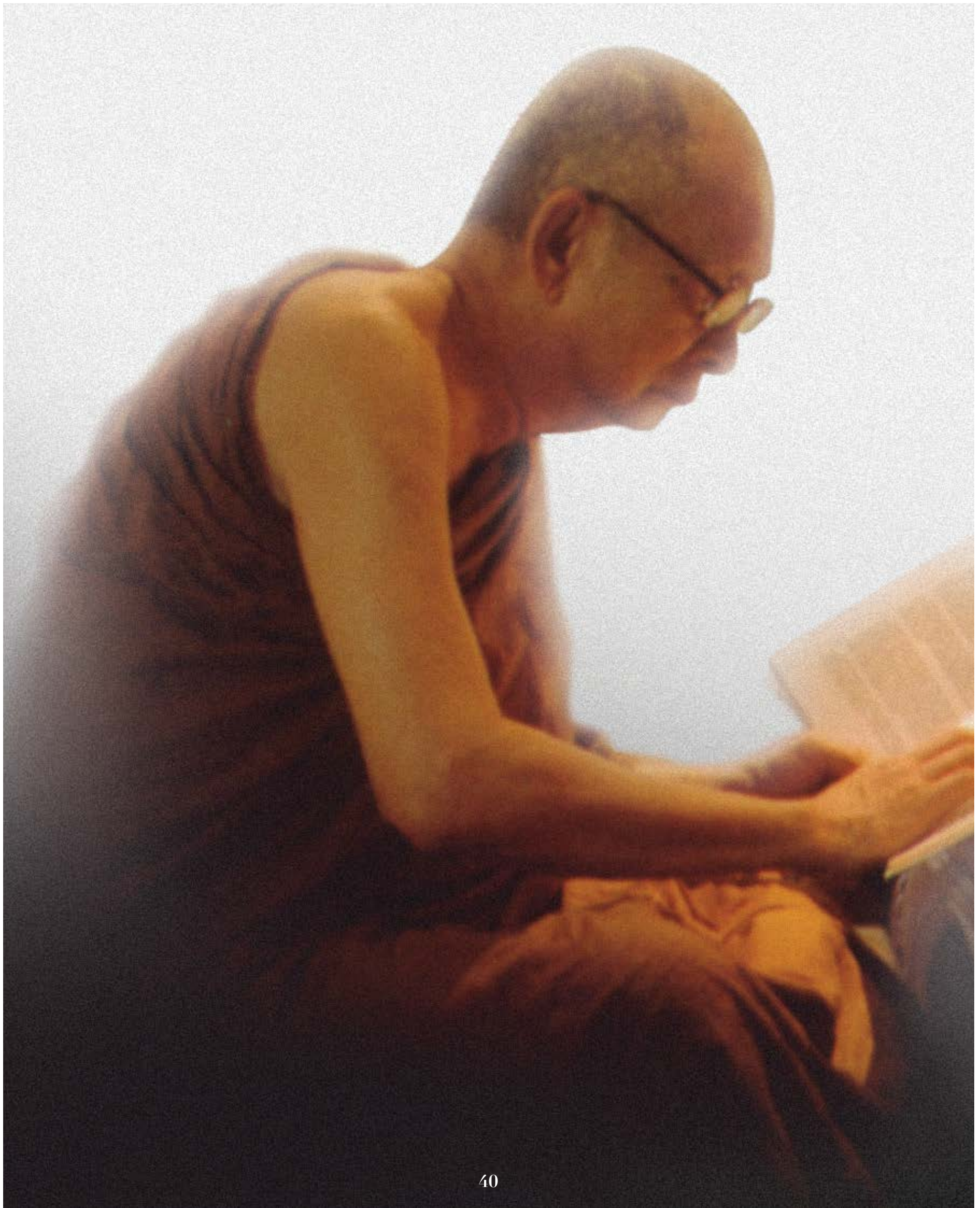








The new Uposatha Hall of Wat Devasangharam; part of the old one appears at the far lower left corner of the photo.



A MONK WHO TREASURED EDUCATION

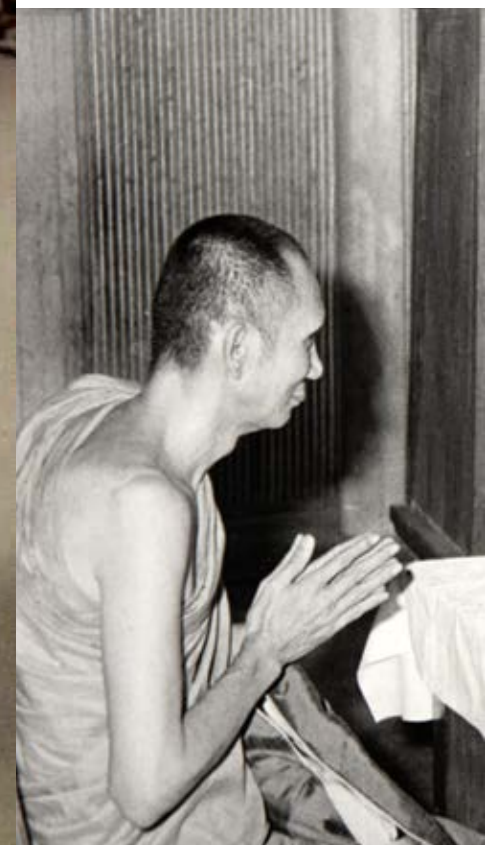
“Education is first and foremost to cultivate knowledge and skill in working and socializing; second, to foster humane qualities.

The first objective is, in itself, obvious. The second objective means that to be born a human, to possess a human body, is not yet to be considered truly human. Only when conscience is genuinely integrated or fused with one’s personality will humanity truly arise. When one actually possesses humanity, one can truly be called a ‘human’.”

Principles of Buddhism



(LEFT) His Holiness as Phra Sasanasobhana, with Phra Dhamma Visuddhi Mangala (Luang Ta Maha Bua Nyanasampanno) at Wat Pa Baan Tat.
(BELOW) His Holiness, at the basement of Luang Kampanathsanyakorn Building, with foreign monks who had ordained to study Dhamma at Wat Bovoravives Vihara. The constant visits of foreign students gave His Holiness opportunities to revive and strengthen his English, since he had to prepare the curriculum in English.
(RIGHT) After becoming Phra Sasanasobhana, His Holiness travelled to meditate at forest temples in the North East of Thailand at the end of every year. These photos were taken during his visit to Luang Pu Fan Acaro, Wat Tham Kham in Sakon Nakhon, while he was having a meal with the monks there.





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With a passion for research ingrained in his spirit, His Holiness was an eager and determined student and practitioner of Dhamma, languages and other knowledge. All these attributes would become enormously useful in his future activities.

On his path to enlightenment, Chareun was blessed to have many outstanding teachers who were a great influence on his spiritual development and maturity. While he was studying as a novice at Wat Bovoranives Vihara, Somdet Phra Vajiranyanavangsa (the future 13th Supreme Patriarch) entrusted young His Holiness to the care of Phra Khru Buddhamonpricha. His Holiness – subsequently known as Suvaddhano Bhikkhu – later spoke of his teacher as a gentle and kind person, but also as someone who knew exactly what one should and should not do. Phra Khru Buddhamonpricha was a competent and effective administrator in supervising the monks and novices under his charge. He had good judgment and, if he had any doubt about someone's abilities, he would not hesitate to withhold responsibility for fear of harming the student. Though tough on his students, he was quick to facilitate and encourage a student's accomplishments.

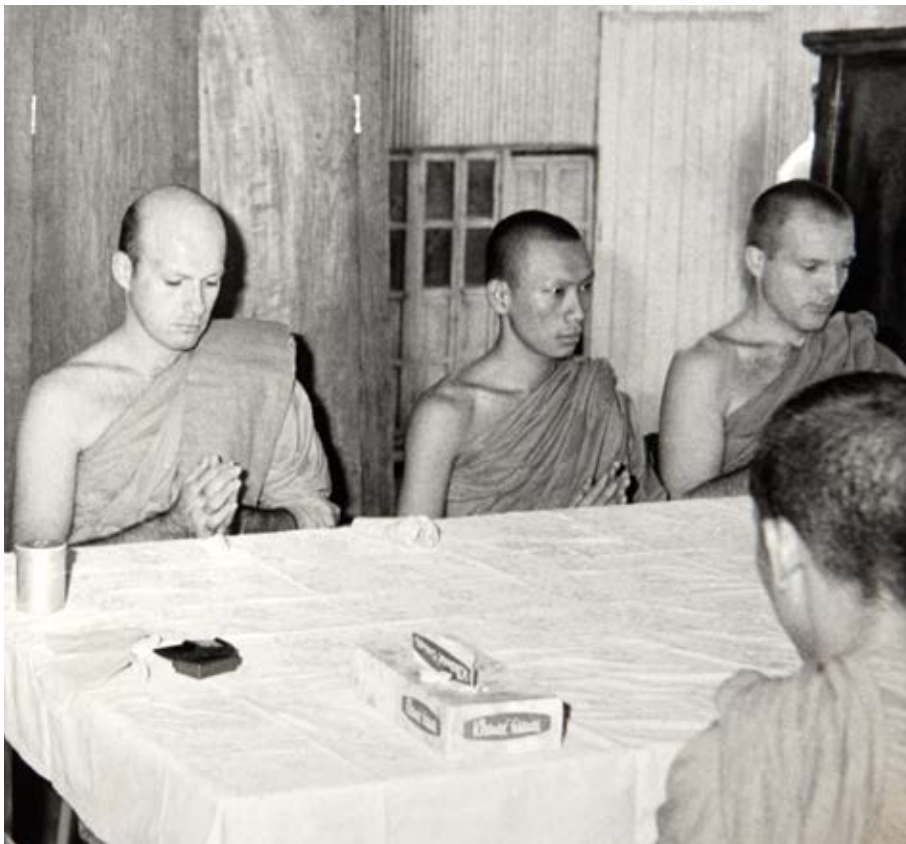
Somdet Phra Vajiranyanavangsa liked His Holiness and personally taught him many things. His teaching style was so stimulating that the diligent novice became more analytical, inquisitive and thoughtful. He was the novice's first meditation teacher. When he was first at Wat Bovoranives Vihara, Somdet summoned the novice to his residence and said, "I hear that you are very diligent. Don't be too studious. Be sure to find time to meditate, too."

His Holiness had great admiration and genuine affection for all of his teachers, and respected them as role models in his life.

Despite his poor health, His Holiness made good progress and excelled in his studies. By applying mind over body in pursuit of his education, he was able to overcome his fragile health. At times, when he was ill, His Holiness refused to be bedridden and would wrap a thick woollen cloth around his chest to keep warm and continue with his studies and assignments.

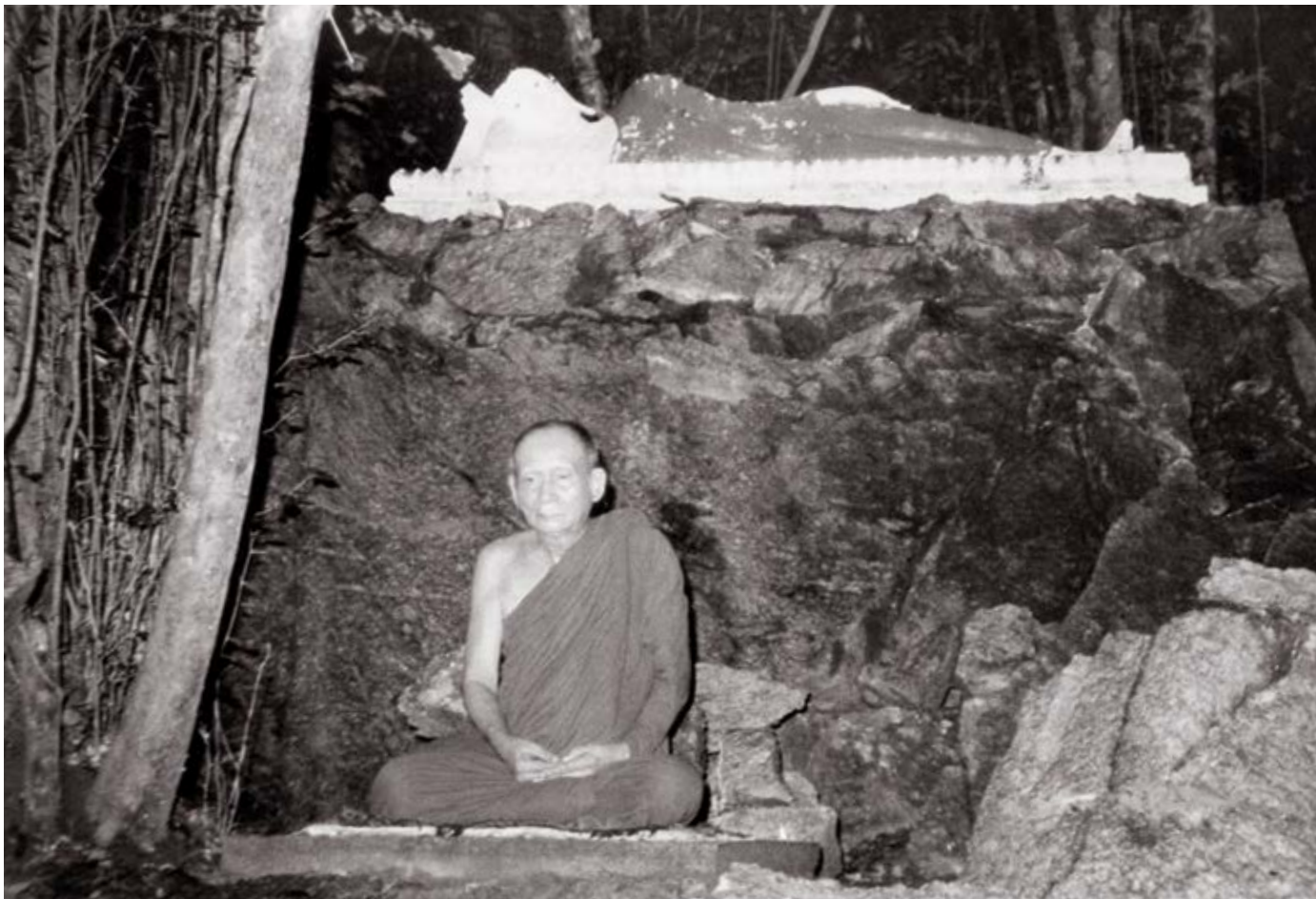
On one occasion he failed to pass a Grade 4 Pali examination. He felt sad and discouraged. On reflection, he concluded that it was excessive pride in his knowledge that closed off his mind to new ideas, thoughts and learning. He took the course and the examination a second time and never allowed himself to make the same mistake again. With a revised mind-set and applied perseverance, he eventually attained Grade 9 of his Pali Studies in 1941.

From the time he completed his Grade 5 Pali Studies, His Holiness taught Dhamma and Pali at Wat Bovoranives Vihara Institute. He taught himself Pali Grade 6-7 in 1932. That year, Professor Swami Satyanandapuri Vedantapradipa, an Indian expert in Hinduism, Sanskrit and English, opened an educational exchange centre opposite Wat Bovoranives Vihara called Dhammashram. Over a period of two years, he spent as much time as he could spare from his teaching and studying to learn from Swami Satyanandapuri.





(ABOVE) His Holiness was chanting in veneration to the Buddha in front of Sukarakhata Cave on Gijjhakuta Mount during his pilgrimage in India. Nine months after his enlightenment, the Buddha taught Dhamma here. It was also the dwelling place of the Great Disciple Sariputta.
(BELOW) Meditation retreat on Mount Chi-On near Wat Nyanasamvararam.





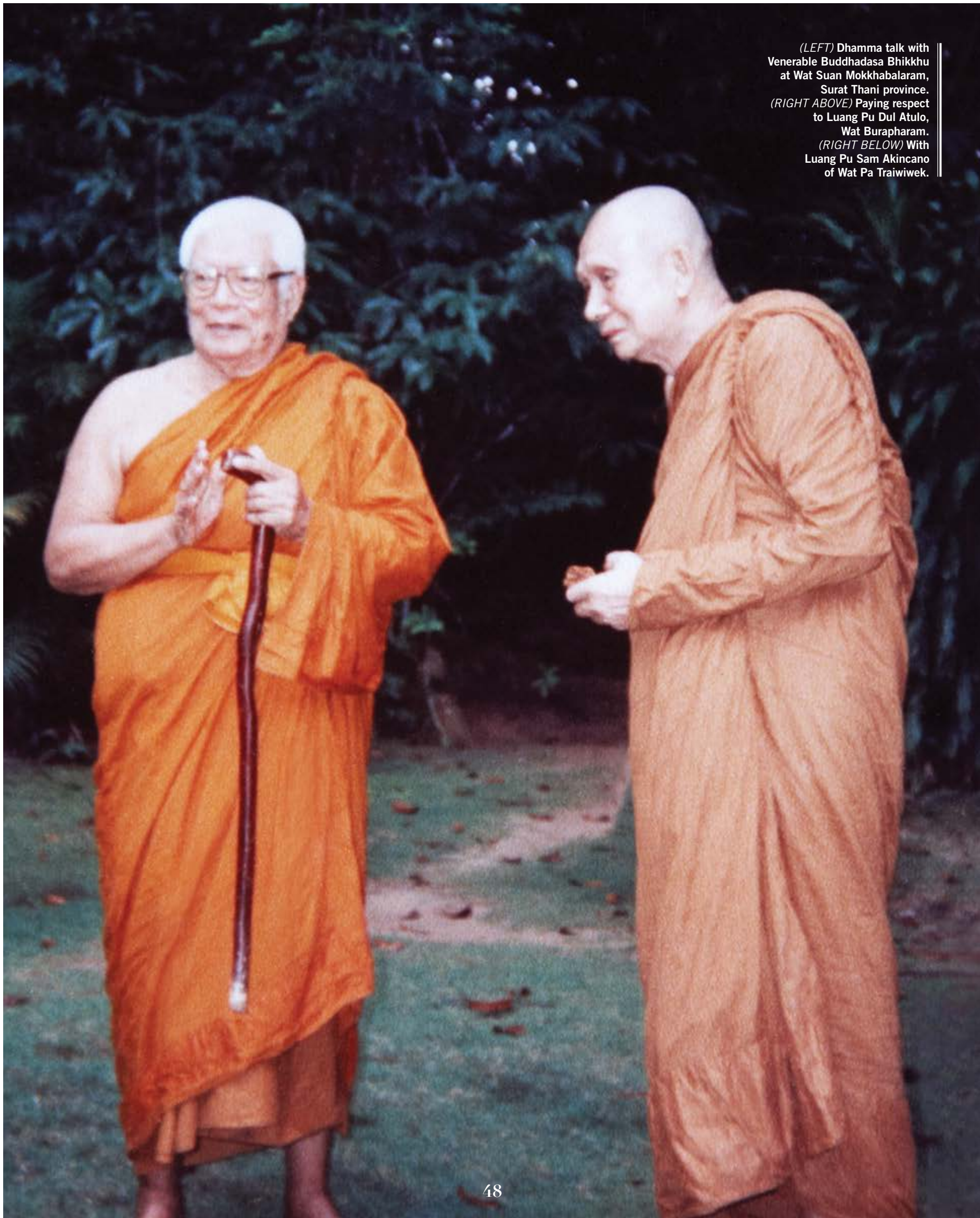
Morning alms-round
at Wat Pa Baan Tat,
Udon Thani province.

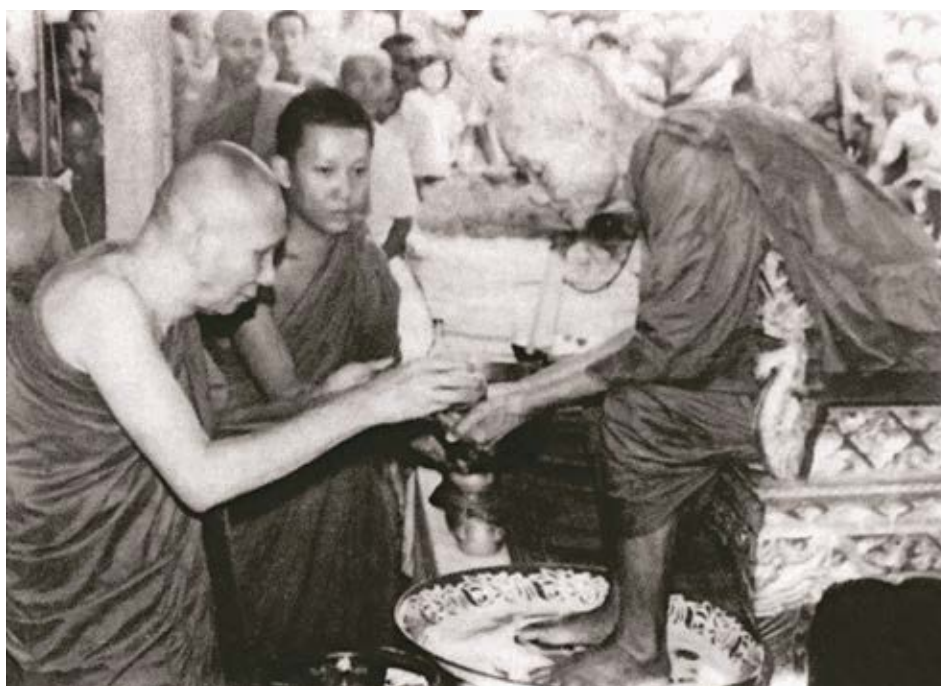


(LEFT) With Professor Swami Satyanandapuri Vedantapradipa (dressed in white, seated in the middle), an Indian expert in philosophy and linguistics, who taught English to His Holiness (standing front row, first on the left) during 1934-1935 while the latter was still studying Pali.

(RIGHT) His Holiness' Sanskrit notes while studying with Professor Swami Satyanandapuri.

(LEFT) Dhamma talk with
Venerable Buddhadasa Bhikkhu
at Wat Suan Mokkhabalaram,
Surat Thani province.
(RIGHT ABOVE) Paying respect
to Luang Pu Dul Atulo,
Wat Burapharam.
(RIGHT BELOW) With
Luang Pu Sam Akincano
of Wat Pa Traiwiwek.





This period became the foundation and beginning of his self-education. Through self-learning he was able to acquire English language skills, becoming fluent in speaking, reading and writing the language. He followed this accomplishment by developing an interest in other languages including German, French and Chinese. His linguistic skills, combined with an inquisitive mind, helped develop an intellectual sharpness that allowed him to condense, clarify and communicate Dhamma. He was able to express himself fluently and effectively when teaching and in writing many books, both in Thai and in foreign languages.

His linguistic studies were curtailed as he gradually took on more and more responsibilities as a Buddhist educator.

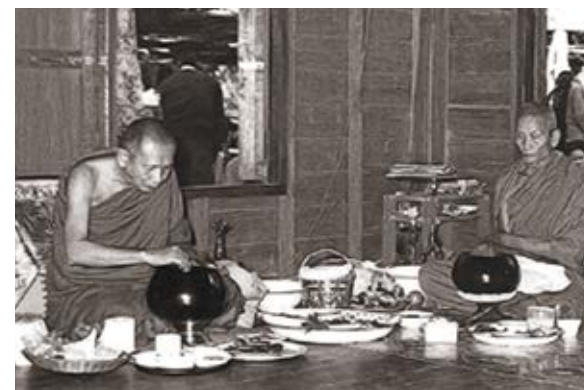
- For example, in 1941 he became the director of the Wat Bovoranives Vihara Institute, supervising the curricula for monks and novices alike;
 - And in 1945, he became a teacher at the Mahamakut Buddhist University and a committee of the Educational Council. In the same year, he became a member of the Ecclesiastical Judicature under the Sangha Supreme Council;
 - Over a period of 20 years, he established a master's degree course for monks.
- He also supported the endorsement of scholarships for monks and novices, including a great number of secular students at various institutes.

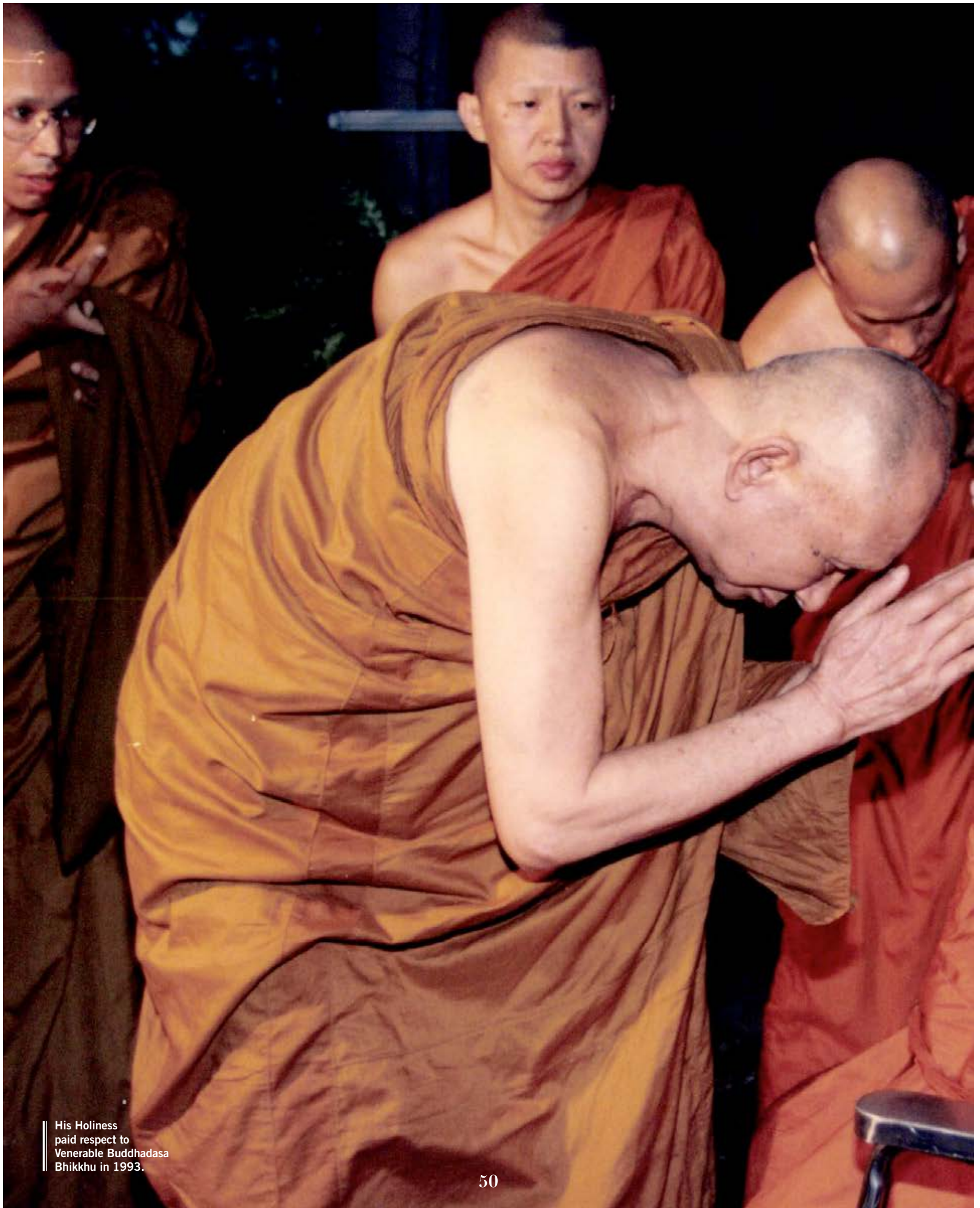
Even though he lived most of his adult life in an urban environment, His Holiness managed to live a contemplative life conducive to his meditation and spiritual development. Taking as his role model his first meditation teacher, the 13th Supreme Patriarch, Somdet Phra Sangharaja Chao Krom Luang Vajiranyanavangsa, His Holiness was always a model of self-discipline and self-restraint. He remained mindful at all times and researched Dhamma carefully in both theory and practice.

He also travelled to visit other monks who were great meditation masters, so as to find out what each had learned and knew of the Dhamma. He was especially keen to visit monks in the Northeast of Thailand. He made frequent visits to Luang Pu (Venerable Grandfather) Fan Acaro, Luang Pu Dul Atulo, Luang Pu Khao Analyo, Luang Pu Thes Desaramsi, Luang Ta (Venerable Grandfather) Maha Bua Nyanasampanno, Luang Phoe (Venerable Father) Phut Thaniyo, to name but a few.

His Holiness went to Chiang Mai to visit Luang Pu Waen Sucinno of Wat Doi Mae Pang. He went south to visit Venerable Buddhadasa Bhikkhu Indapannyo of Wat Suan Mokkhabalaram in Surat Thani province.

An unrelenting interest in knowledge and self-education made him one of the most respected scholars in Thailand. He had a deep understanding of Dhamma and was admired by all as a principled monk who had progressed in his pursuit of Dhamma beautifully. 🙏



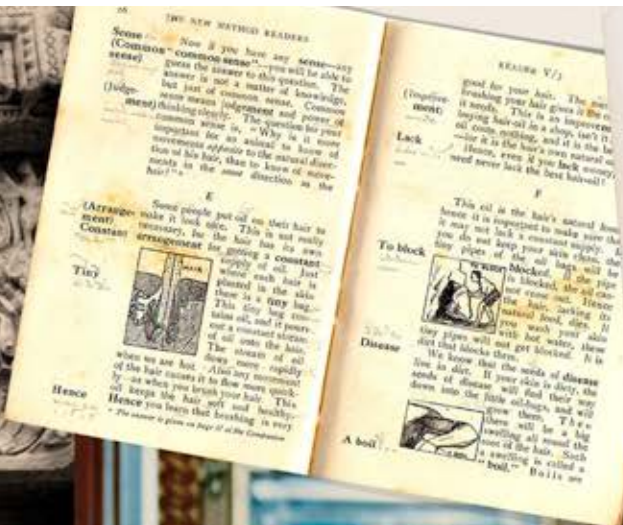


His Holiness
paid respect to
Venerable Buddhadasa
Bhikkhu in 1993.

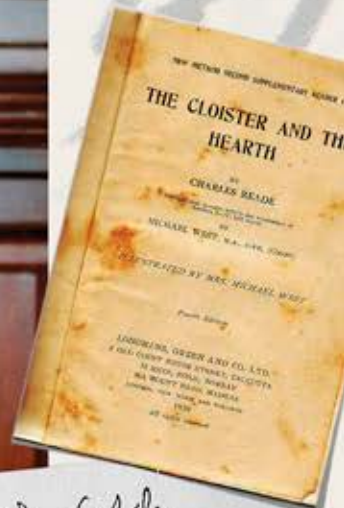
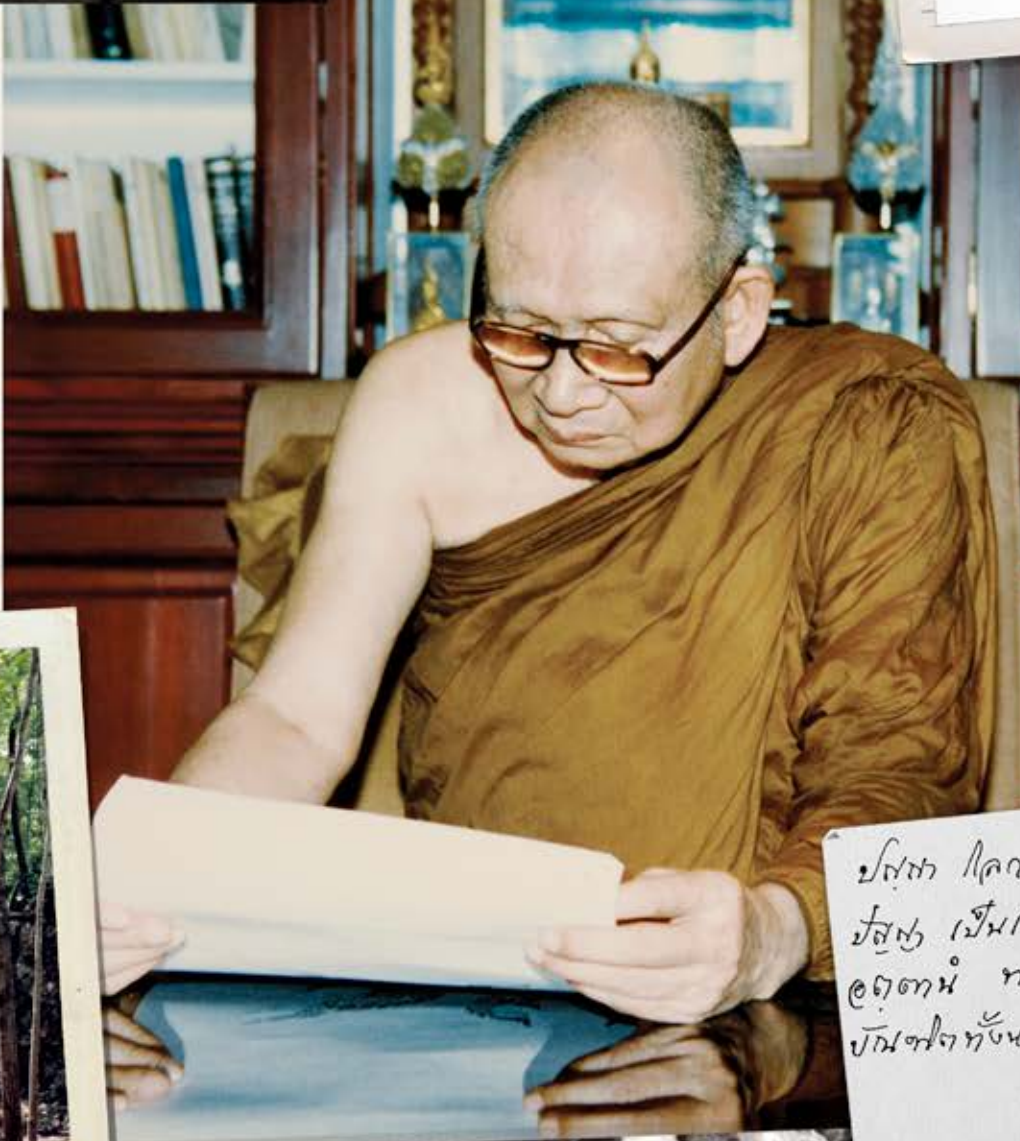




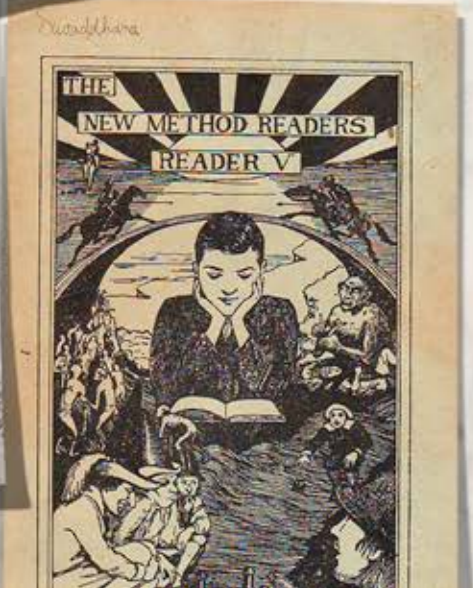
His Holiness visiting an archaeological site at Phanom Rung Historical Park.



His Holiness was keenly interested in education, especially language studies. He had learned and mastered several languages, such as English, French, German, Chinese, Pali and Sanskrit. His mastery of knowledge was not limited only to Buddhism but equally in many of secular subjects such as history, arts and archaeology etc.



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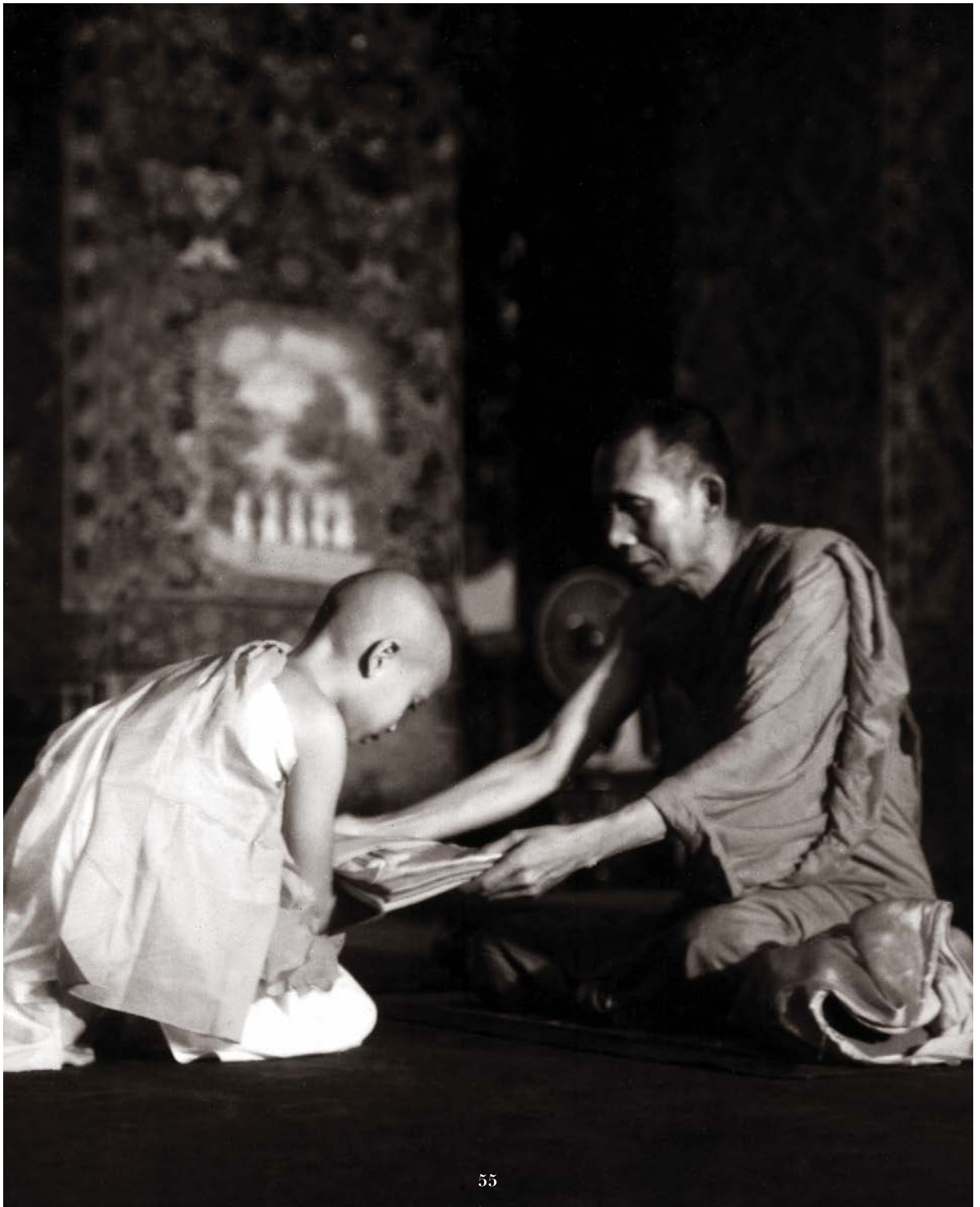


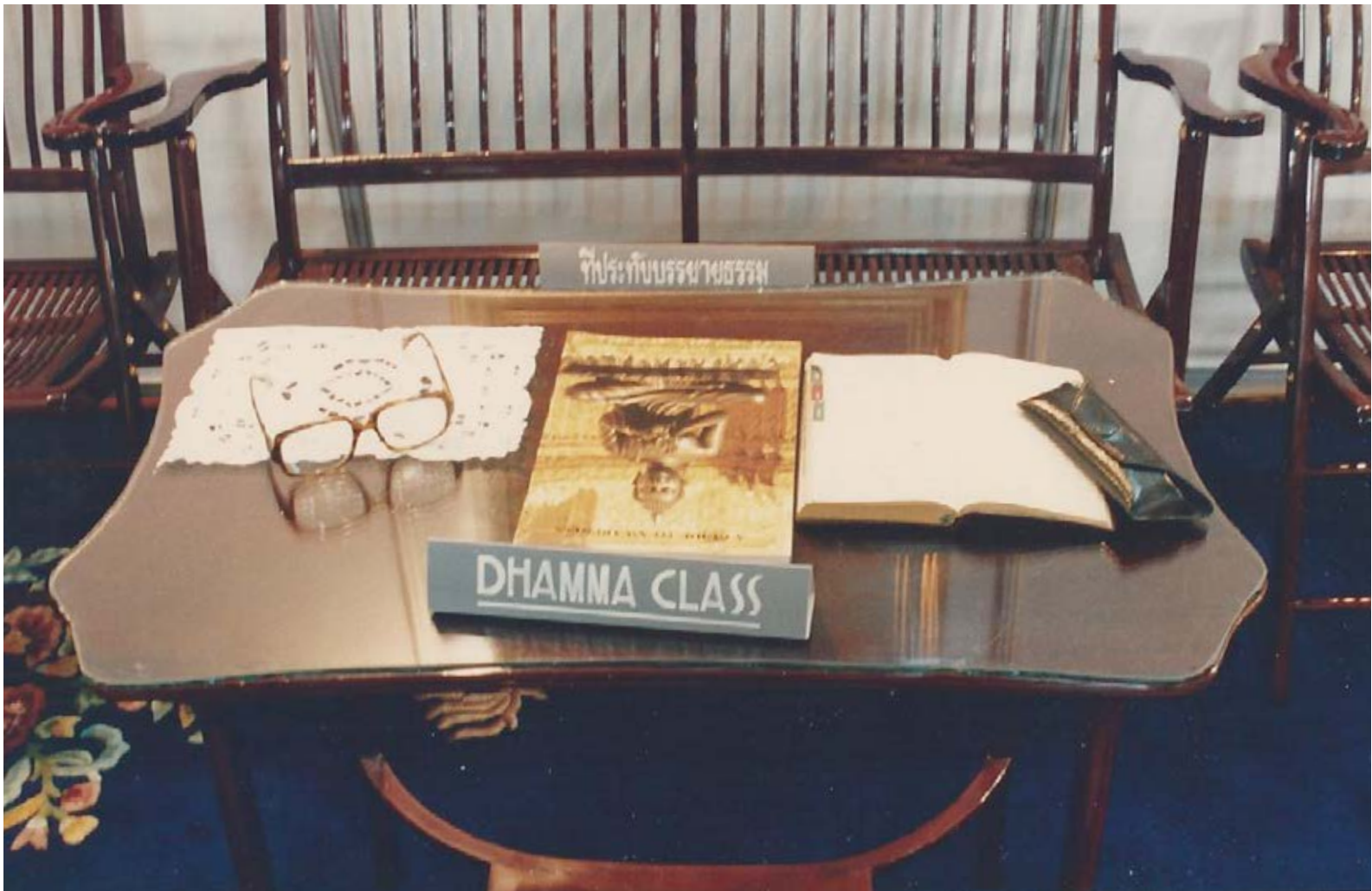
HIS PURSUIT OF DHAMMA

**“The more important the job or title one is given,
the more dedicated one should be
in upholding that position.**

**Only then will one be able to demonstrate
to the world that one truly accepts the task.
One must also remain sincere in one’s responsibility.
Only then will one fulfill one’s responsibility
to the vocation.”**

Life and Truth





His Holiness initiated a Dhamma Class in English for foreigners in Wat Bovoranives Vihara in 1969.

From the day he ordained as a Buddhist monk, His Holiness, Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, has devoted himself to Dhamma education for the improvement of the lives of other people.

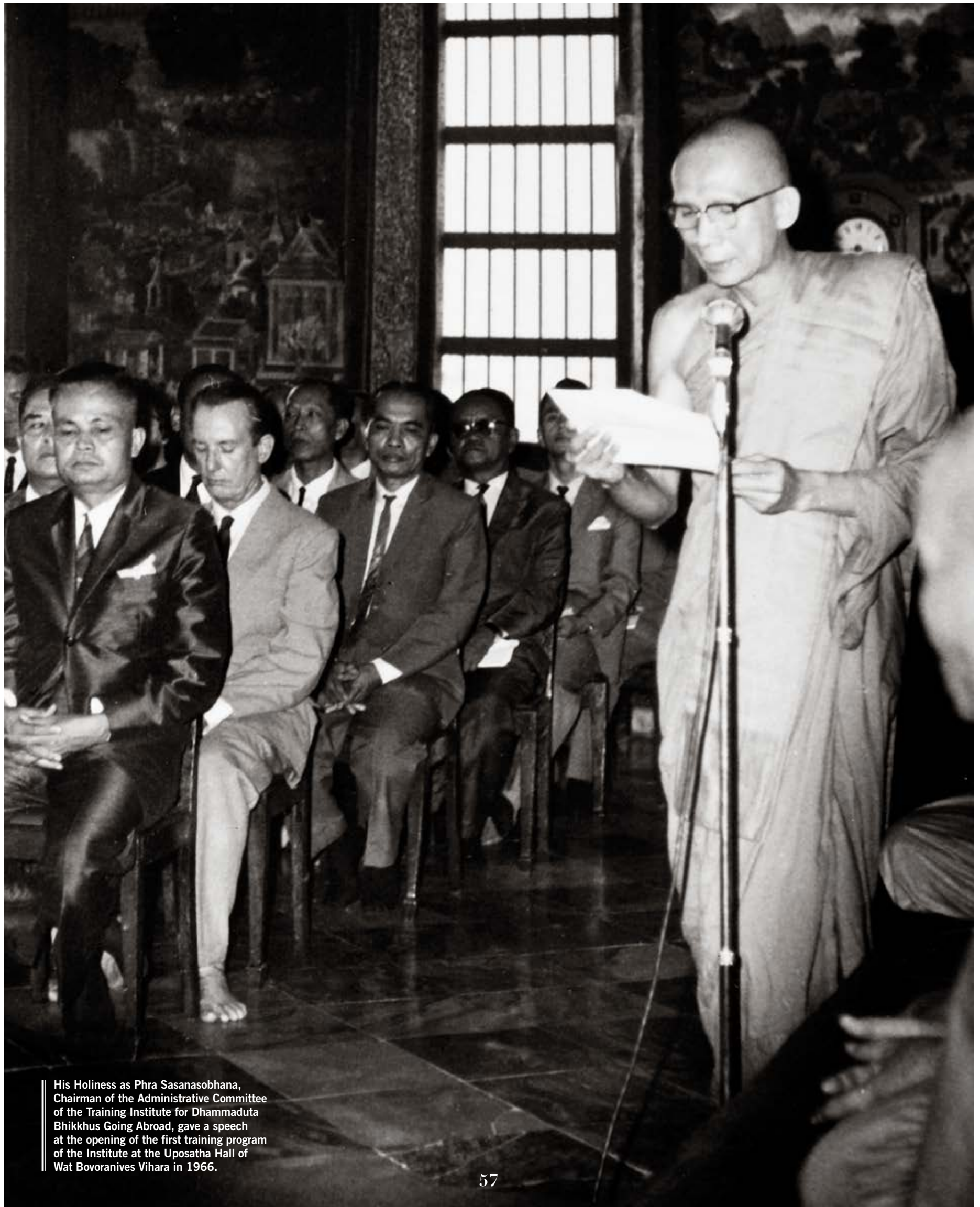
Once he completed his Grade 9 of Pali studies, His Holiness gradually accepted more responsibility as Director of the Wat Bovoranives Vihara Institute. If problems arose, he would resolve them quickly. His enthusiasm and devotion earned him the trust of the 13th Supreme Patriarch, Somdet Phra Sangharaja Chao Krom Laung Vajiranyanavangsa, who always entrusted him with important assignments.

In 1946, he became Private Secretary to the 13th Supreme Patriarch, and embarked on one of the most important periods of his life, undertaking all kinds of work within the monastic order. He also participated in scholarly work, teaching Dhamma, and contemplation (vipassana). All these activities helped prepare him for when he himself became the Supreme Patriarch.

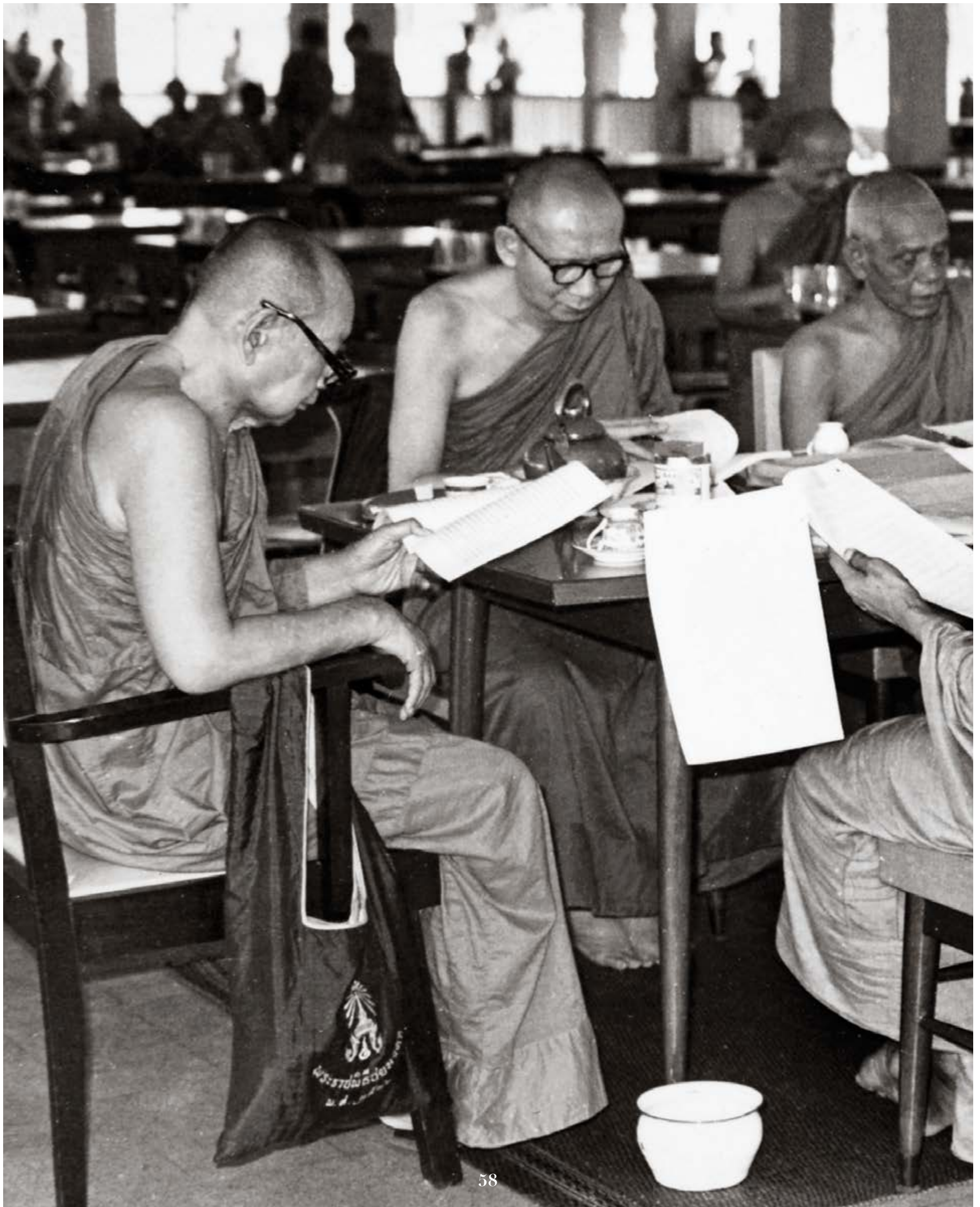
Despite having to undertake more responsibilities, His Holiness continued to focus on teaching students, monks and novices (known as saddhiviharikaantevasika) to ensure that they would be able to understand and appreciate the Dhamma in both its doctrinal and spiritual aspects. From the time King Rama IV entered the monkhood and became the abbot of Wat Bovoranives monastery, it was considered a major undertaking to be a preceptor (someone who ordains other monks) at the monastery. Teaching was always at the top of His Holiness's list, and he never delegated this responsibility to others despite his heavy work load. During the annual three-month Rains Retreat when there were many newly ordained monks and novices in the temple, he would personally give Dhamma instruction to them for an hour every day. His Holiness would also teach meditation regularly throughout the year. He would give a Dhamma talk twice a month in the main meeting hall (Uposatha Hall) and also taught meditation twice a week.

He would teach meditation and contemplation to monks, novices and lay people alike. Twice a week he would give a Dhamma discourse and then guide his listeners in meditation. This was to become part of his regular schedule when he became abbot of Wat Bovoranives Vihara in 1961.

In 1963, His Holiness was appointed an executive committee member of the first Sangha Supreme Council in accordance with the Sangha Act of 1962 and has played a part in drafting the legislation of the Sangha Supreme Council ever since.



His Holiness as Phra Sasanasobhana, Chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Training Institute for Dhammaduta Bhikkhus Going Abroad, gave a speech at the opening of the first training program of the Institute at the Uposatha Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara in 1966.





10-14 March 1974,
His Holiness was
working on a committee
reviewing Pali exams
at Wat Sam Phraya.





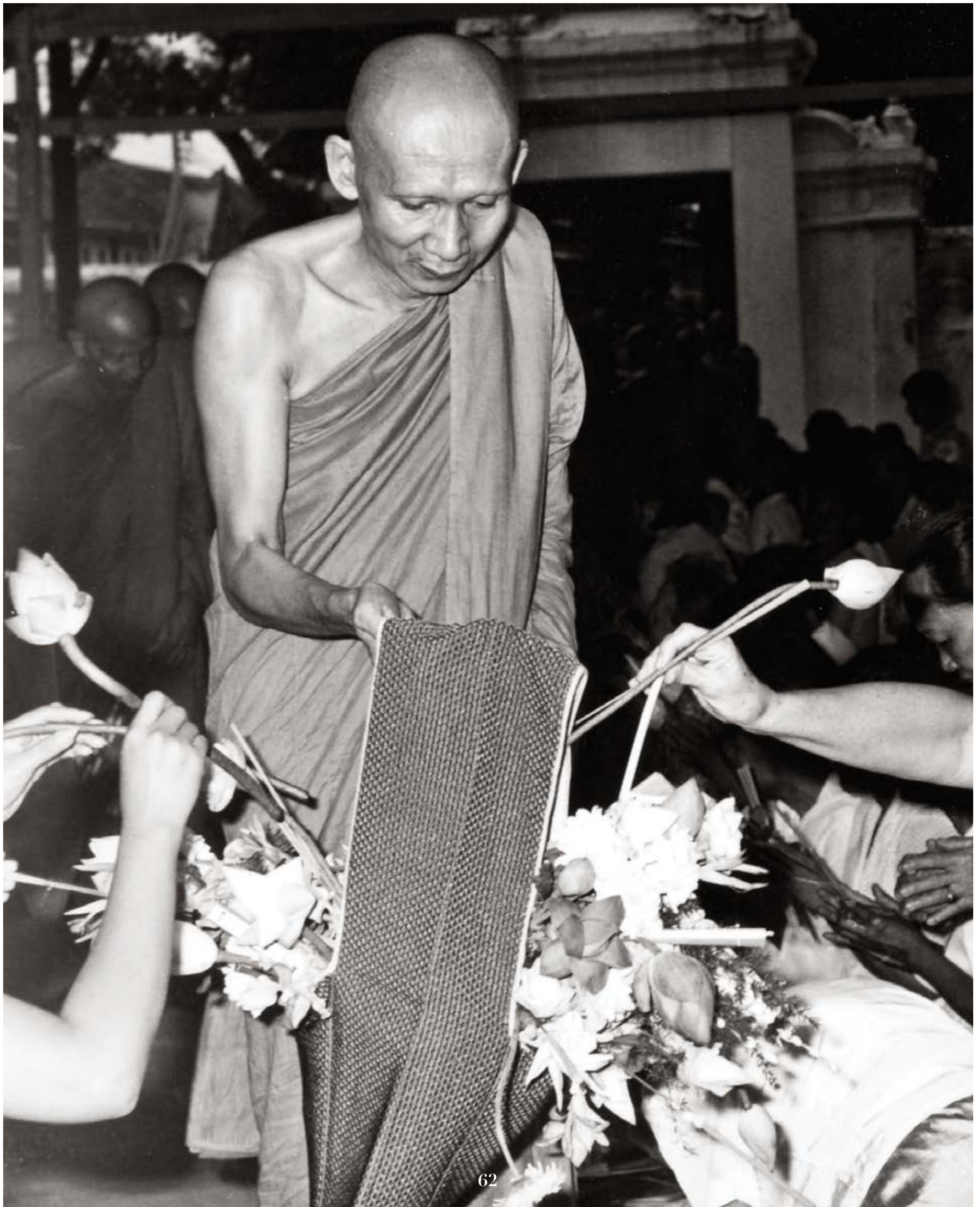
His Holiness not only dedicated his time and energy to the welfare and betterment of the Sangha and to the people of Thailand, but also to the happiness of people from other countries. Starting 1969, he conducted many Dhamma classes in English. These sessions were attended by foreign monks, novices and lay people. Mrs. Josephine Stanton, the wife of a former US Ambassador to Thailand, was one of his pupils. Another was Jane Hamilton-Merritt, an American writer and reporter who wrote *A Meditator's Diary*, a book recounting her experiences attending those Dhamma classes. His Holiness is the founder of the Training Institute for Dhammaduta Bhikkhus Going Abroad (dhammaduta means ambassador of dhamma). At Wat Bovoranives Vihara, His Holiness also trained foreign monks to become Dhamma teachers. These activities drew an ever increasing number of foreigners who were interested in studying and benefiting from Dhamma. For the benefit of all those who were interested, His Holiness oversaw the establishment of the English Buddhist Library in the Khana Soong International Section at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

In 1973, His Holiness, by then holding the title of Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara and also being Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Dhammayuttika Order, was elected as the Board's representative when visiting the Sangha and Buddhist communities of the 9 provinces in Northeast Thailand. On one such visit lasting 10 days, he visited 37 temples, schools and governmental offices, addressing monks and novices, students and officials, military personnel and police officers. The people gathered in large numbers at every town and venue he visited. His talks inspired great enthusiasm and interest in the Dhamma everywhere he went.

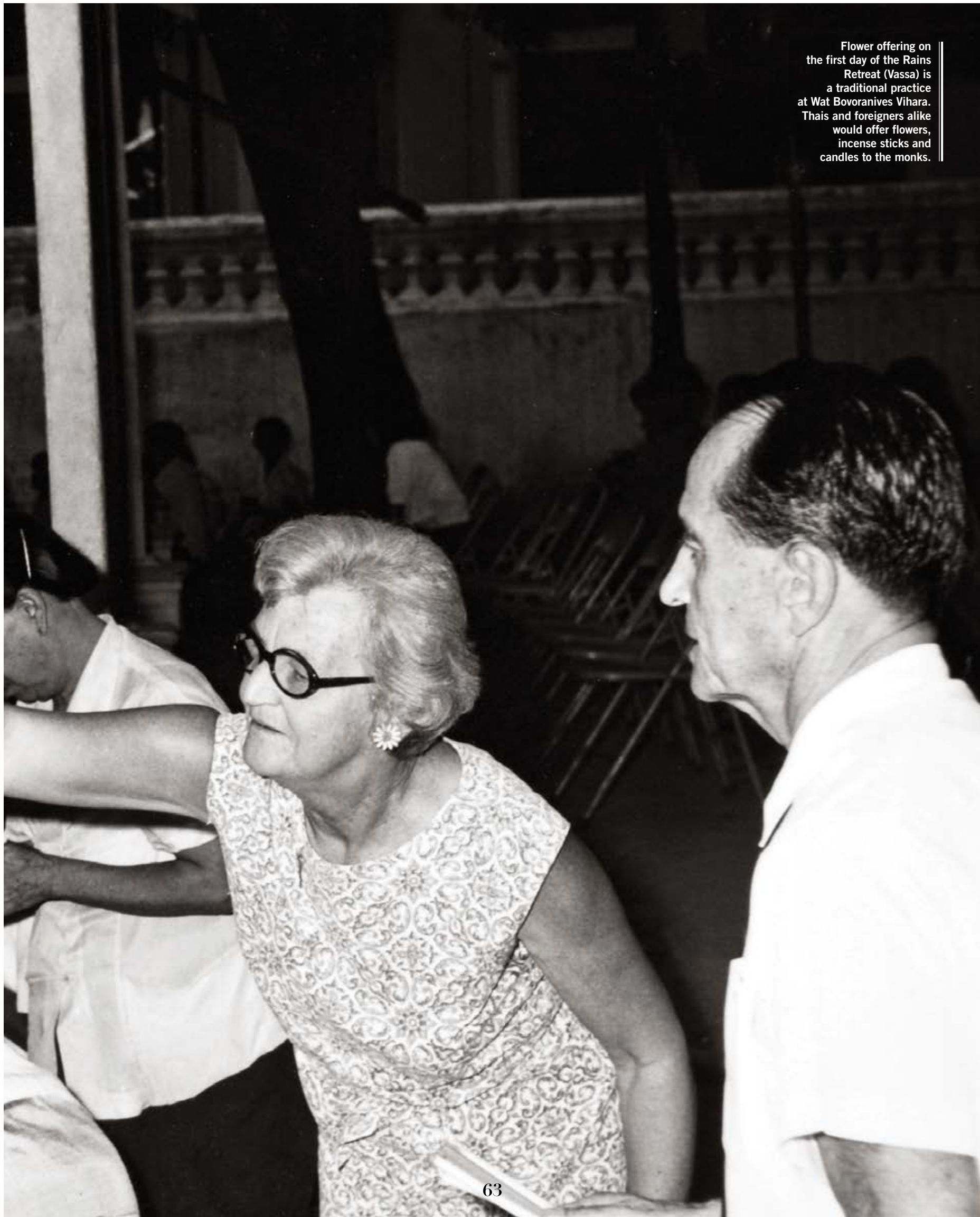
(LEFT ABOVE) In 1969, His Holiness visited Wat Khao Nang Yuan in Trat province.

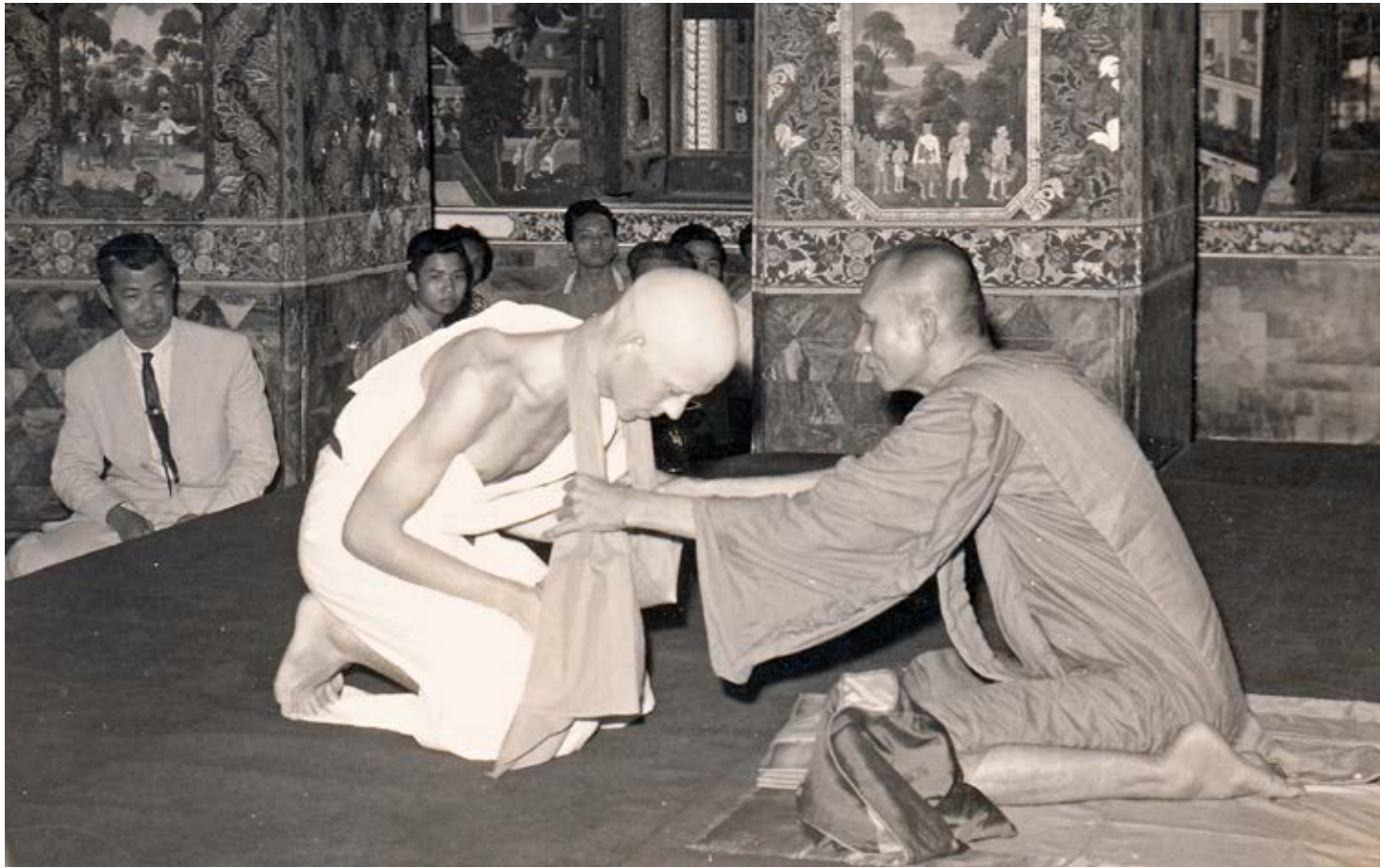
(LEFT BELOW) In 1968, His Holiness travelled to offer Kathina robe at Wat Tha Waradit in Trat province.

(RIGHT) 27 June 1983, His Holiness was welcoming His Majesty the King at Mount Chi-On at Wat Nyanasamvararam in Chon Buri province.

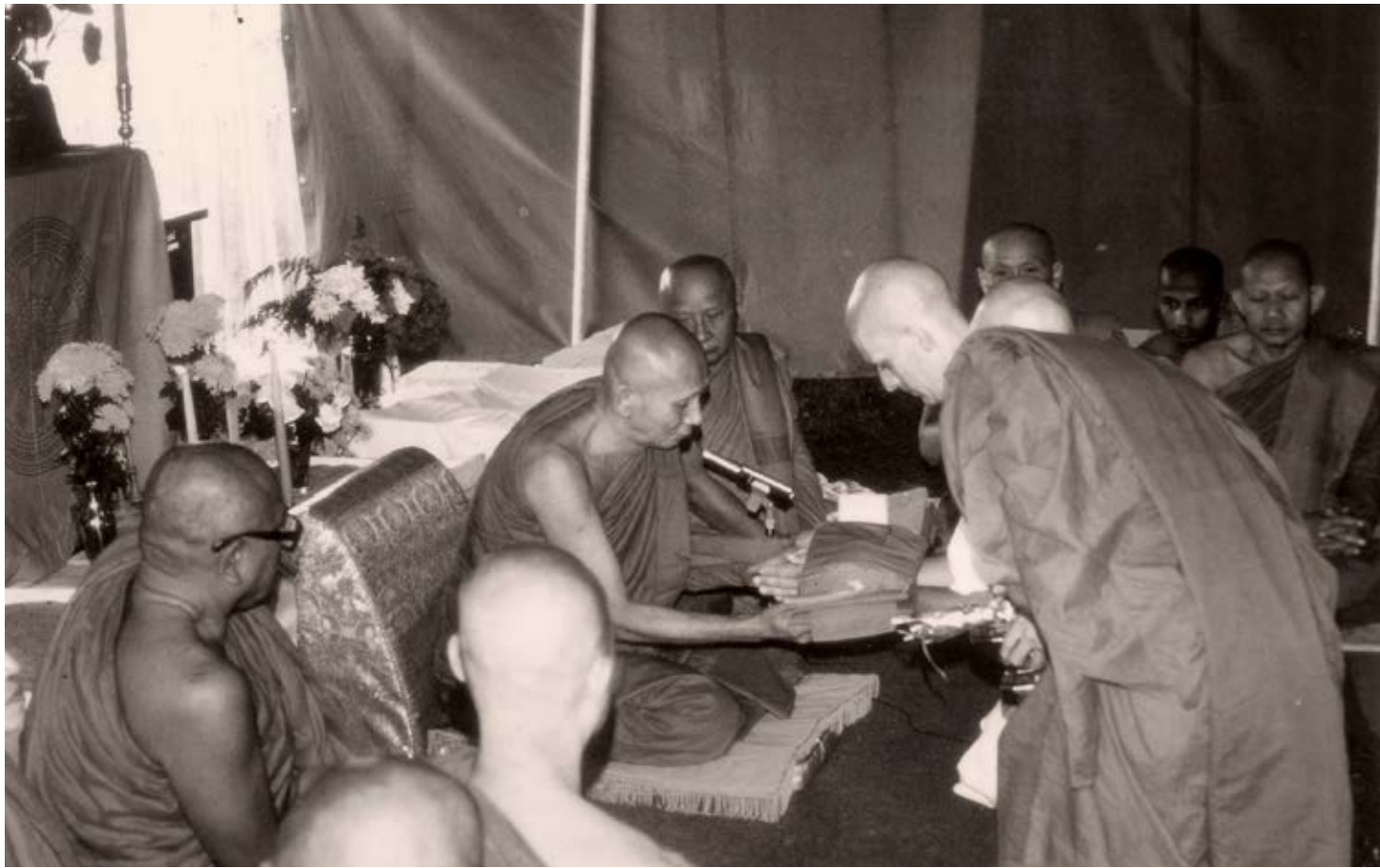


Flower offering on the first day of the Rains Retreat (Vassa) is a traditional practice at Wat Bovoranives Vihara. Thais and foreigners alike would offer flowers, incense sticks and candles to the monks.





22 April 1965, His Holiness gave ordination to a Canadian George Rodney Cherry at the Uposatha Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara. His Holiness gave him a new Buddhist name, Abhiceto, and he is currently residing at Wat Pa Baan Tat, Udon Thani province.

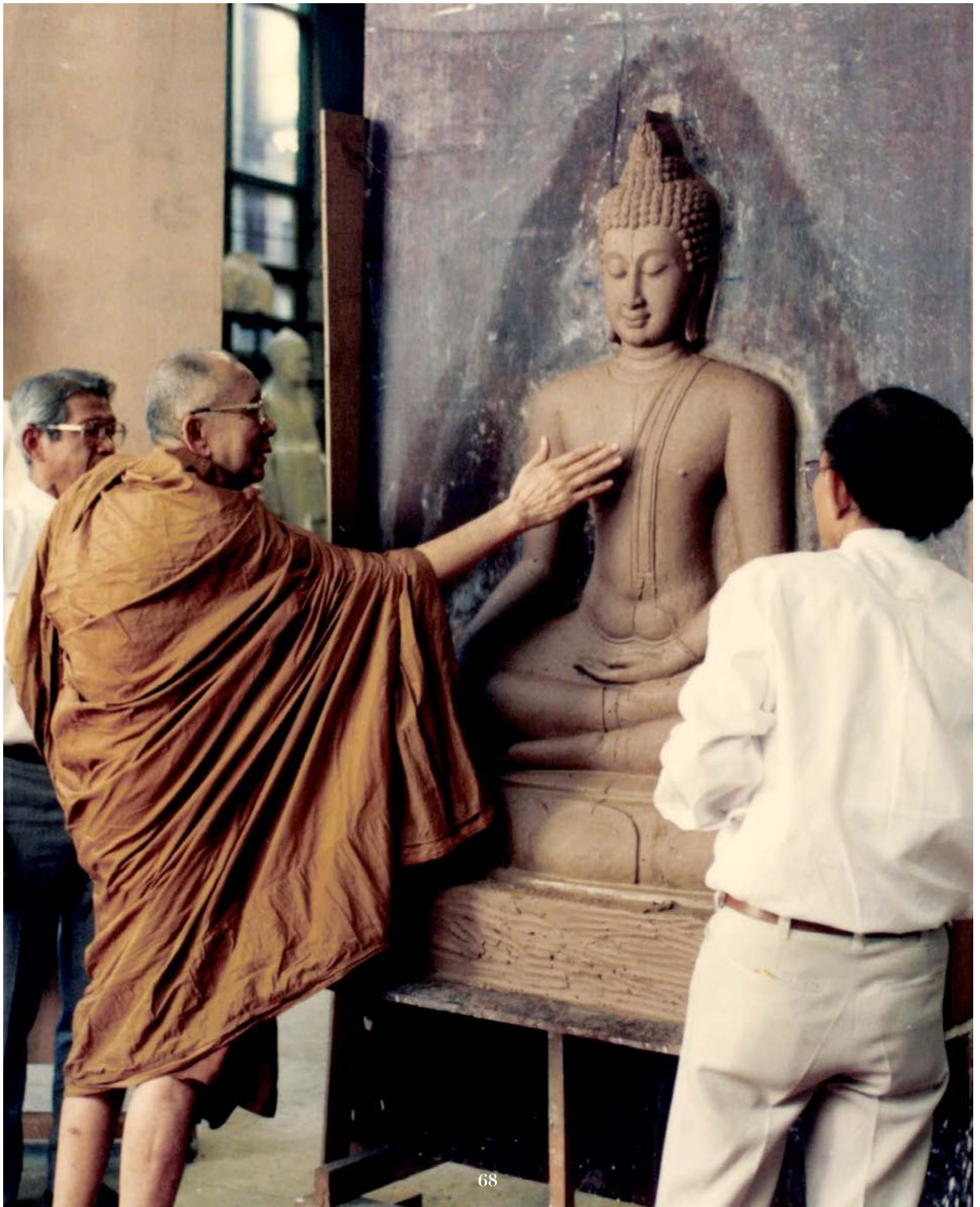


25 May 1975, His Holiness was giving ordination to Rod Plant, the first Australian to be ordained according to Thai tradition at Wat Buddharangsee in Sydney, Australia.





In 1992, His Holiness was presiding over ordination ceremony at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.





(LEFT) In 1991, His Holiness was supervising a model for carving the big Buddha at Mount Chi-Chan facade at Wat Nyanasamvararam in Chon Buri province.

(RIGHT ABOVE) Examining the construction of Wat Santikhiri Nyanasamvararam and the Phra Boromathat Chedi Srinagarindra Sathit Maha Santikhiri (the relic stupa in honour of the late H.R.H. the Princess Mother) on Doi Mae Salong in Chiang Rai. Though the area was difficult to reach, with his inexorable effort to convey the wisdom of Dhamma to the people, His Holiness pressed on.


(RIGHT BELOW) Accepting the offered robe in the Robe Offering Ceremony.

In addition to the Dhamma instruction he gave, His Holiness also taught meditation to anyone who was interested. He fostered a great awareness of the benefits of meditation as a way to deepen one's insight into Dhamma. In 1976, he agreed to teach at the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Kasetsart University. The course, known as 'Meditation in the Buddhist Way', aimed to provide insight into the scriptural and practical aspects of Dhamma. The course aimed to teach university students of the necessity and importance of compassion and conscience in society.

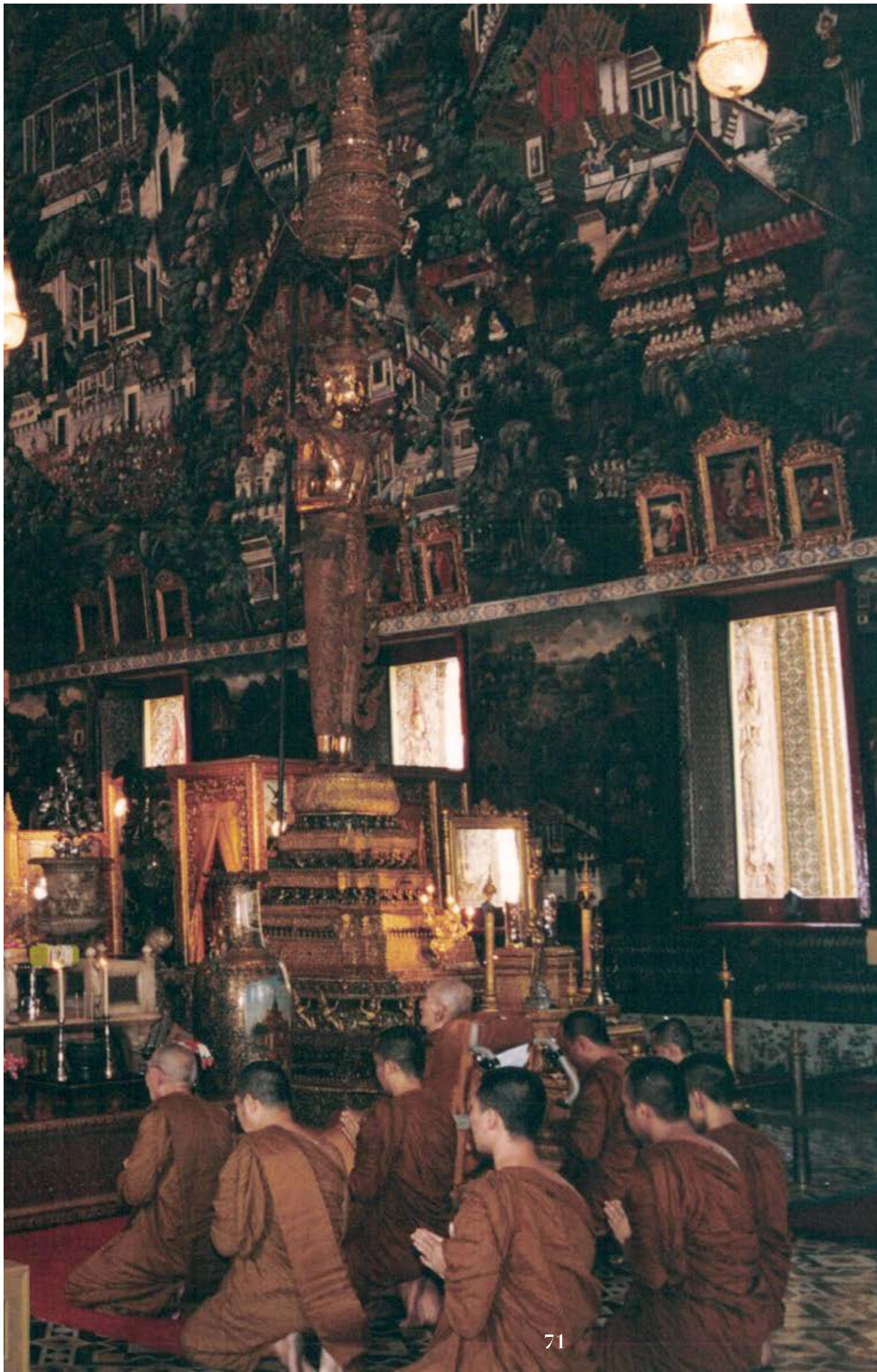


His Holiness had as well taught meditation at other institutes, including governmental bureaus and private establishments. Many schools and institutions recognized the benefits of meditation and include the Buddha's teachings in their curriculum.

As Chairman of the Board of Mahamakuta Rajavidyalaya Foundation under Royal Patronage, His Holiness had the Tipitaka (the Pali Canon) and the Atthakatha (the Pali Commentaries on the Canon) translated into Thai. It was a considerable achievement, for this was the first time that the Tipitaka and its Commentaries had been translated into Thai from the original Pali language. The first Thai version comprised of 91 volumes and became a source of enrichment that contributed significantly to Buddhist studies and the imparting of Dhamma.

His Holiness's unstinting efforts together with his prolific writings will illuminate the Dhamma Path for others for many years to come. 





In 2006, His Holiness was paying homage to the Emerald Buddha. at Wat Phra Si Rattana Satsadaram.



(ABOVE) In March 1998, His Holiness was presiding over the casting of Buddha image ceremony at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.
(BELOW) Teaching the newly ordained monks at 01:00 p.m. throughout the Rains Retreat, at Sa.Va. Dhammanives Building, Wat Bovoranives Vihara, in his role as their preceptor.





(ABOVE) In 1992, His Holiness was handing over ecclesiastical fans to the sangha.
(BELOW) His Holiness was casting the pinnacle of the Buddha head.





|| His Holiness at the Temple of the Emerald Buddha In 1990.





1



2

1. In 1993, His Holiness installing the Buddha relics to be enshrined in temples.
2. In 1991, His Holiness marking his new robe (bindukappa) at the annual Kathina ceremony.
3. His Holiness delivering a Buddhist sermon on the World Red Cross Day.



3



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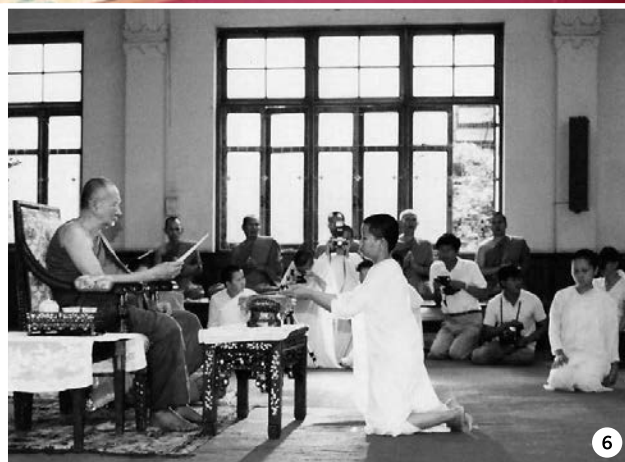


4

4. In 1970s, His Holiness became a mentor to Mrs. Josephine Stanton, wife of the late Mr. Edwin F. Stanton; the first American Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand; their friendship led His Holiness to create a Dhamma class in English for foreigners in Wat Bovoranives Vihara.



7



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5. In 1991, His Holiness receiving Western Buddhist monks at his office.
6. His Holiness presiding over a convocation ceremony of Nun Institute of Thailand.



8

7. In 1991, His Holiness supervising the building design of Somdet Phra Piyamaharaj Ramaniyakhet hospital and school at Sai Yok in Kanchanaburi province.
8. In 1992, His Holiness giving ordination to novices at Wat Makutkasattriyaram.



Visiting the sacred well of
Somdet Phra Buddhacarya
(To Brahmaramsi) inside the Cetiya
of Wat Indra Vihara in Bangkok.



In 2003, His Holiness
with newly appointed
ecclesiastical monks in
Sara Buri province.



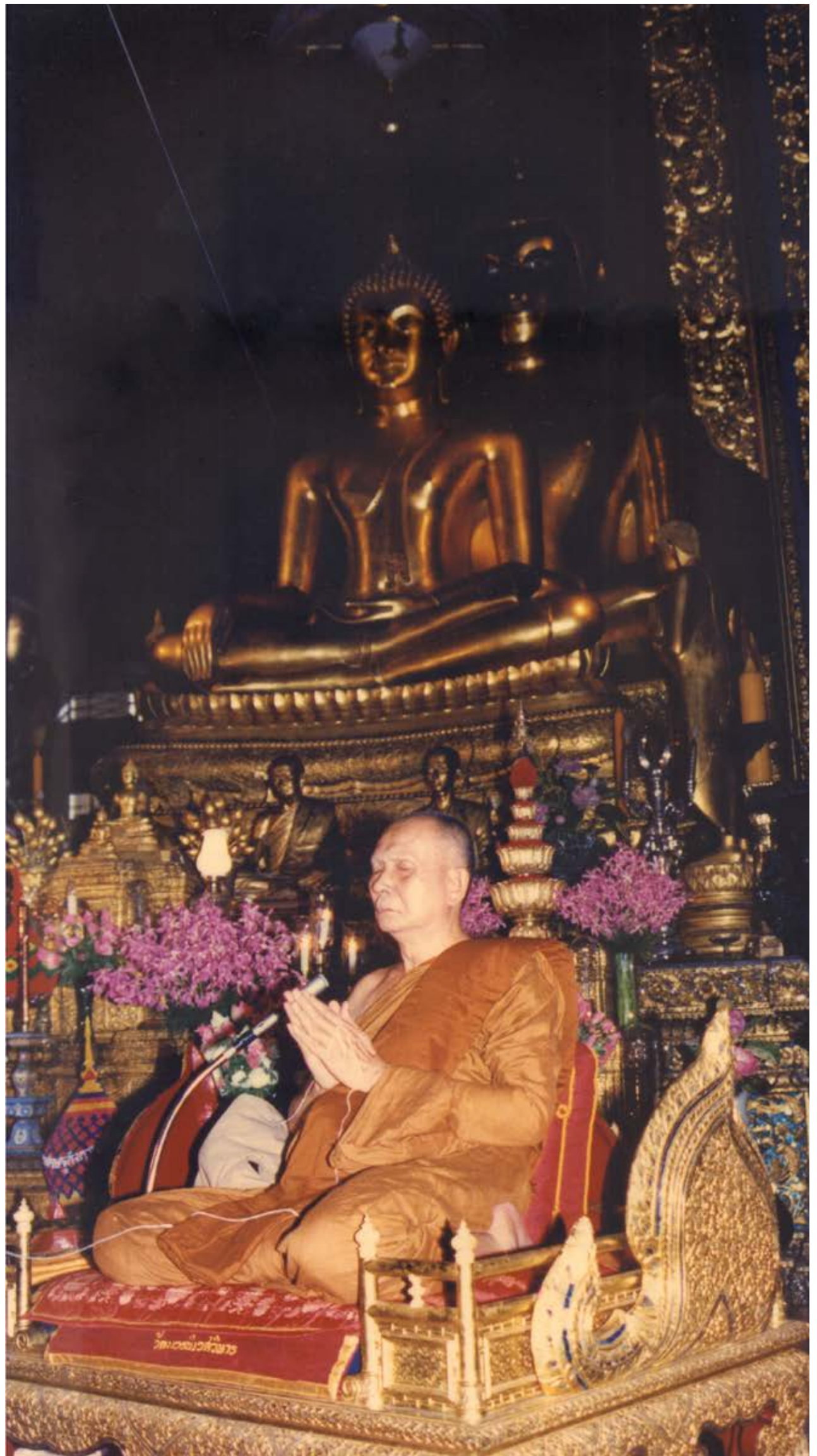


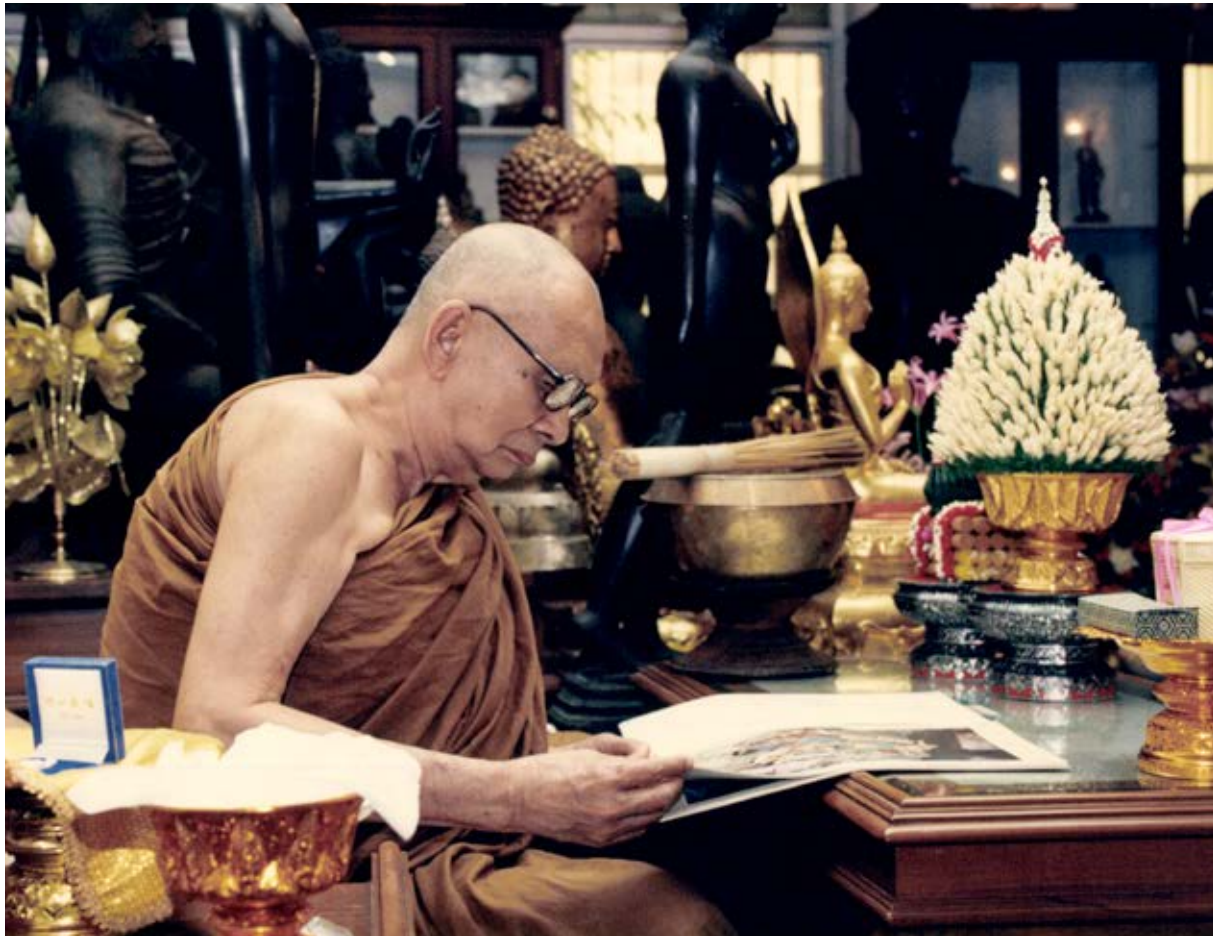


“Greed, hatred and delusion will encircle the mind like strong and powerful walls, blocking out all light. Our minds should always be pure and radiant. It is a pity that we use a variety of conditioning and mental defilements to build walls of darkness.”

Illuminate the Mind

(LEFT) His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej in the Royal Kathin (Robe Offering) Ceremony at the Uposatha Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara.
(RIGHT) His Holiness delivering a sermon at the Uposatha Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara on a full moon morning.

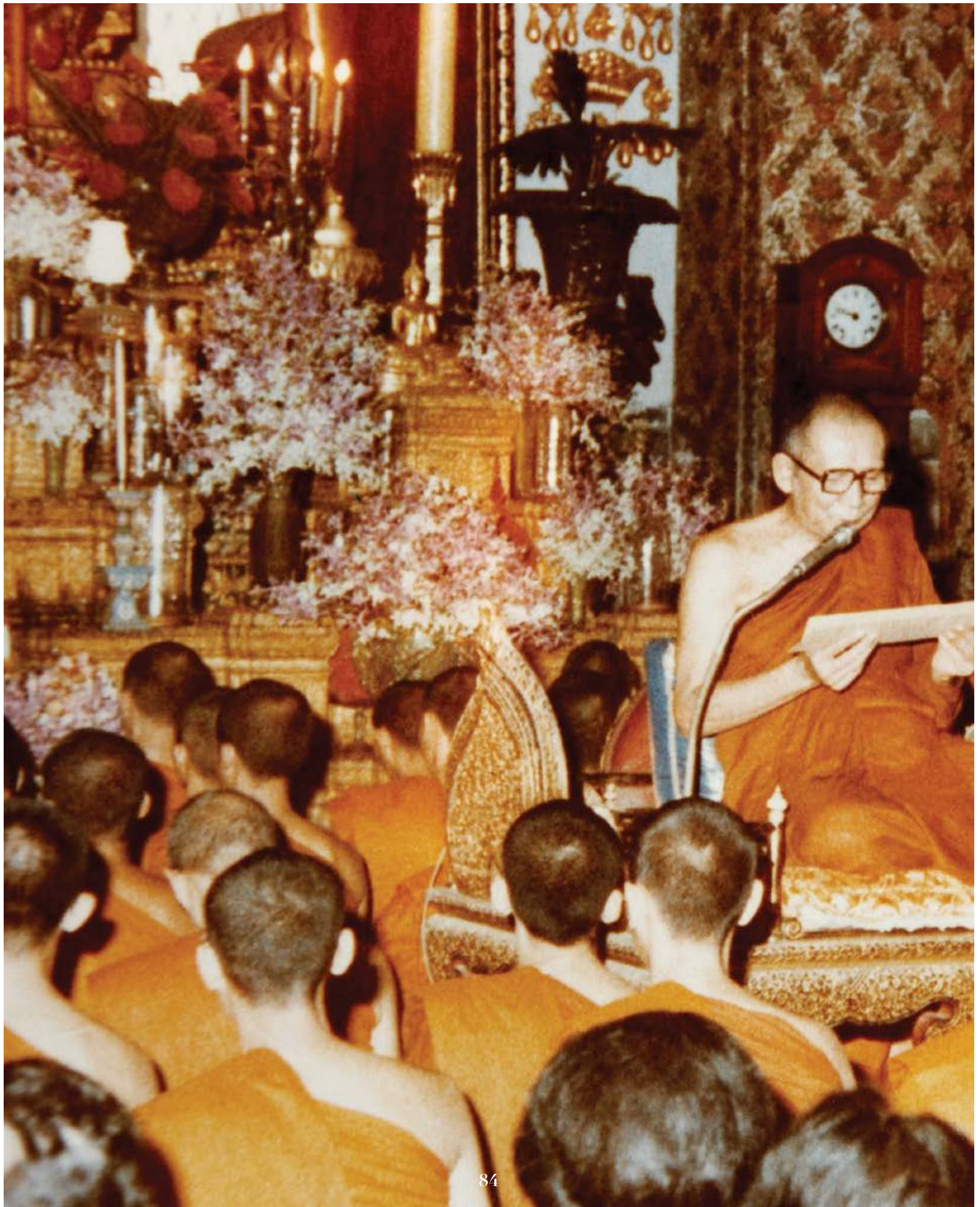




In 1994, His Holiness working at his residence.

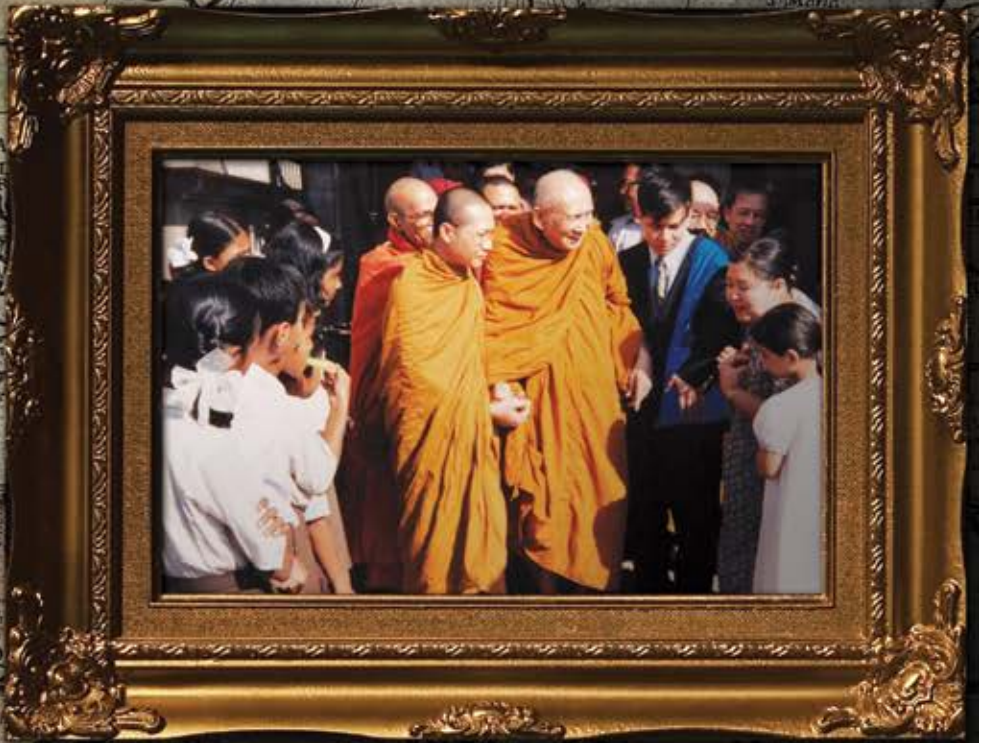


Every year His Majesty the King would invite His Holiness to the religious ceremony at Bhubing Rajanives Palace in Chiang Mai. His Holiness spent his spare time there on working and teaching Dhamma to the hill tribe people. At night, he had to work with a flashlight as the available light was too dim.



His Holiness teaching
Dhamma at the Uposatha Hall
of Wat Bovoranives Vihara.







THE SWEET SCENT THAT FLOWS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



“An individual may think he is doing something good, but if his mind is anxious, he will not find peace. If so, one should understand that one is, in fact, merely trying to give the appearance of doing good.”

Illuminate the Mind

or many years, Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the Supreme Patriarch, has tirelessly laid the foundation for another significant objective, which is to plant the seeds of Dhamma throughout the world so that more and more people may gain spiritual understanding.

In 1966, as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Training Institute for Dhammaduta Bhikkhus Going Abroad, he undertook the responsibility of disseminating Dhamma overseas.

He presided over the inaugural ceremony of Wat Buddhapadipa in London, the first Thai Buddhist temple in the UK and Europe. He studied religious activities in England as well as in Italy in order to maintain goodwill with other religions. In later years, he also visited various countries: Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Australia and the Philippines to nurture religious goodwill and to understand religious affairs in those countries.

As a result of His Holiness' devotion to the religion, Theravada Buddhism was revived in many countries. Because of a request from several Buddhist communities in Indonesia to visit that country, a group of Thai monks (as Dhammaduta Bhikkhus) worked long and hard to revive Buddhism there. His Holiness, in support of these initiatives, took it upon himself to visit Indonesia and preside over the ordination of Indonesian men. Wat Jakarta Dhammacakka Jaya houses many monks today but was then the first Theravada Buddhist temple to be built in Indonesia in many years. Since then many more Theravada temples have been built around the country, and it can be said that His Holiness breathed new life into Theravada Buddhism in Indonesia.

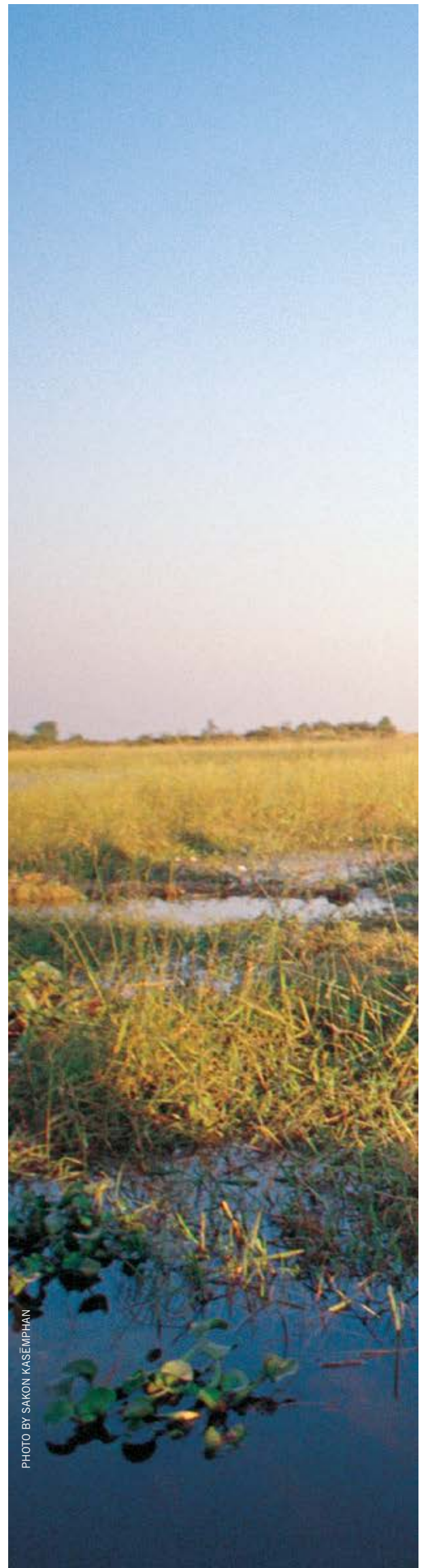
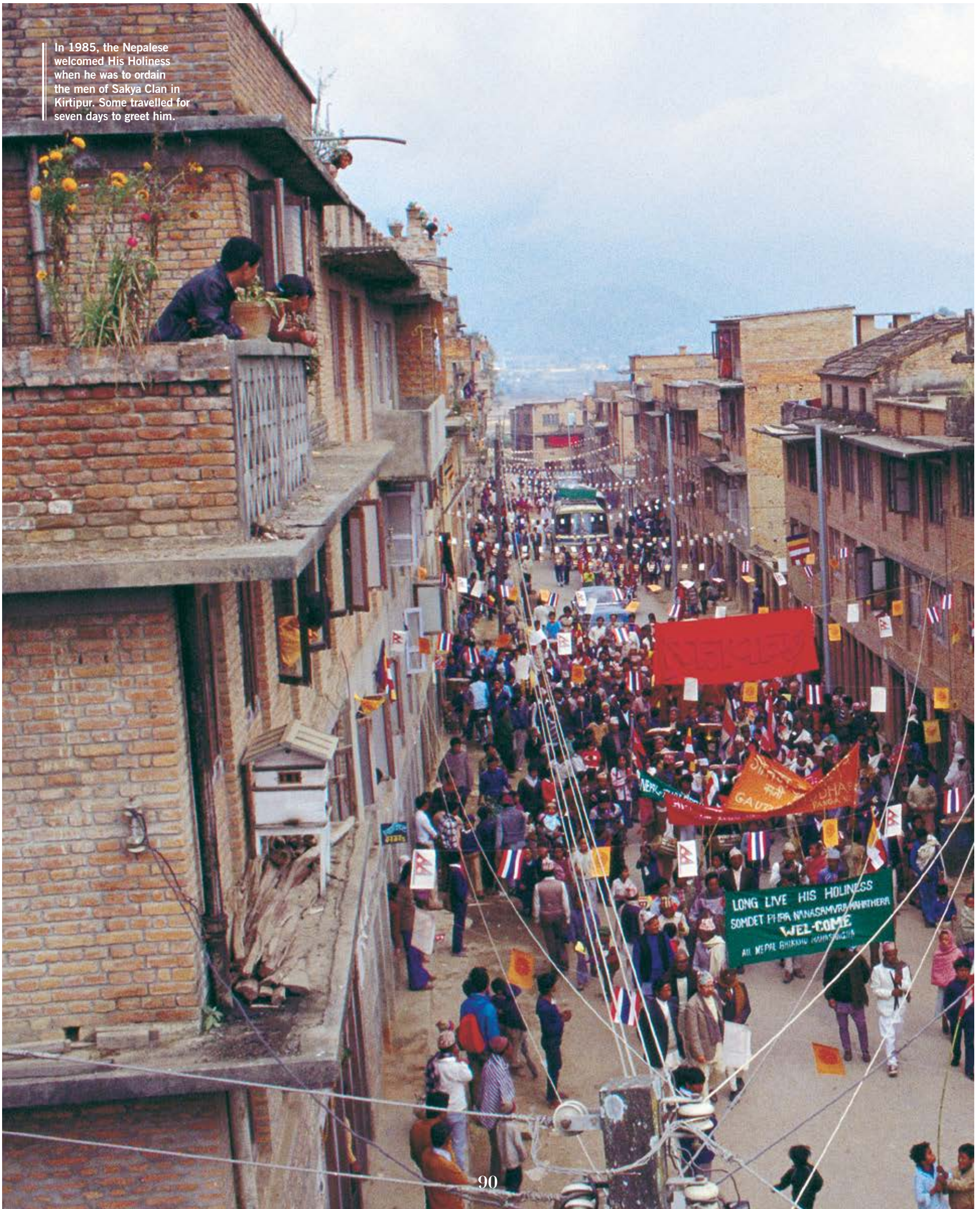


PHOTO BY SAKON KASEMPHAN



Visiting Nepal in 1985, His Holiness travelled on foot to see the Pillar of King Ashoka on which appears an inscription claiming that the area was once a city of Konagamana Buddha. The pillar was broken into two; one part laid on a mound, the other fell nearby. His Holiness wanted to view this Buddhist archaeological evidence, which was in the middle of a rice field of Nigalihava Village near Kapilavastu, although he had to take a long walk as vehicles could not reach the location.

In 1985, the Nepalese welcomed His Holiness when he was to ordain the men of Sakya Clan in Kirtipur. Some travelled for seven days to greet him.



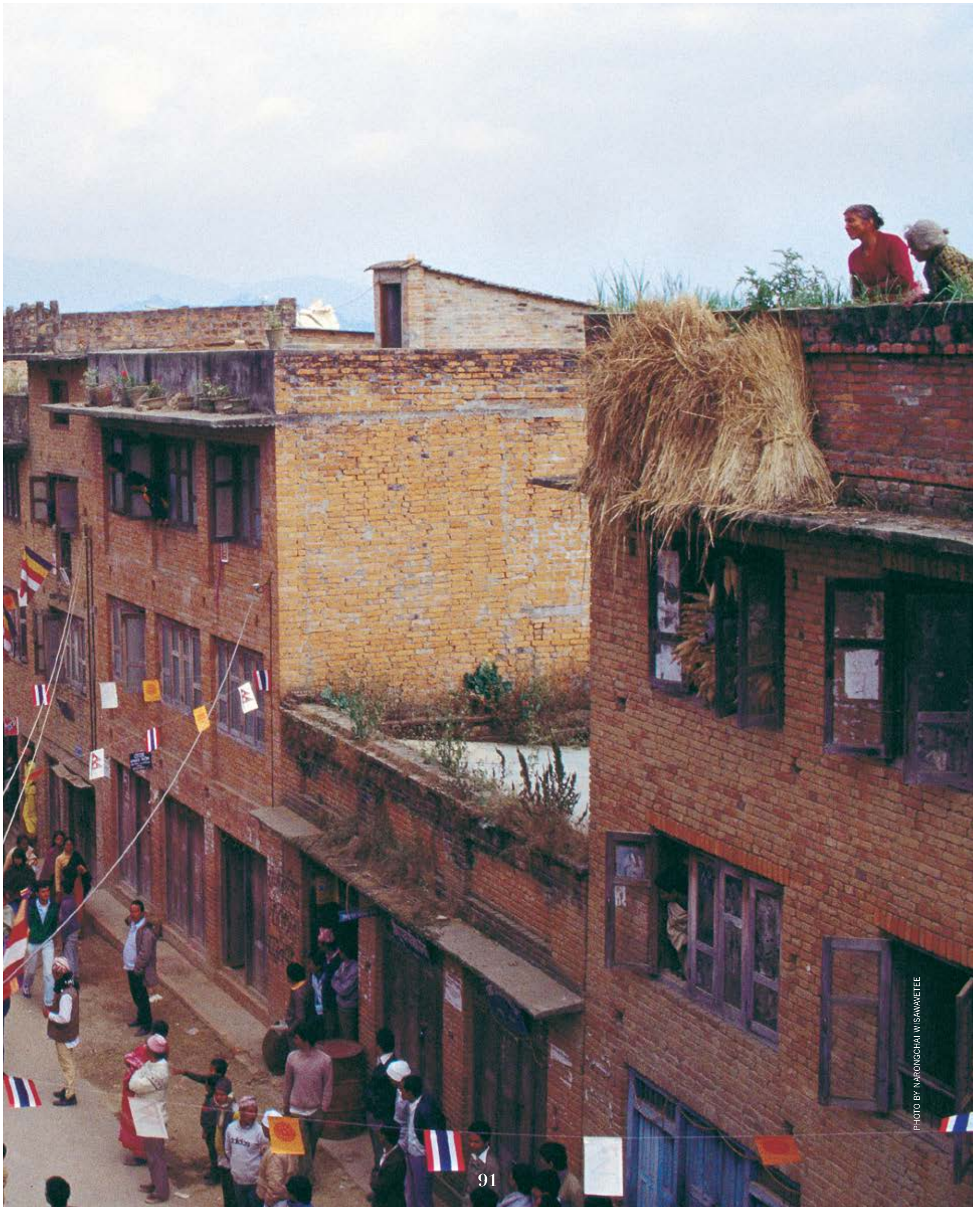


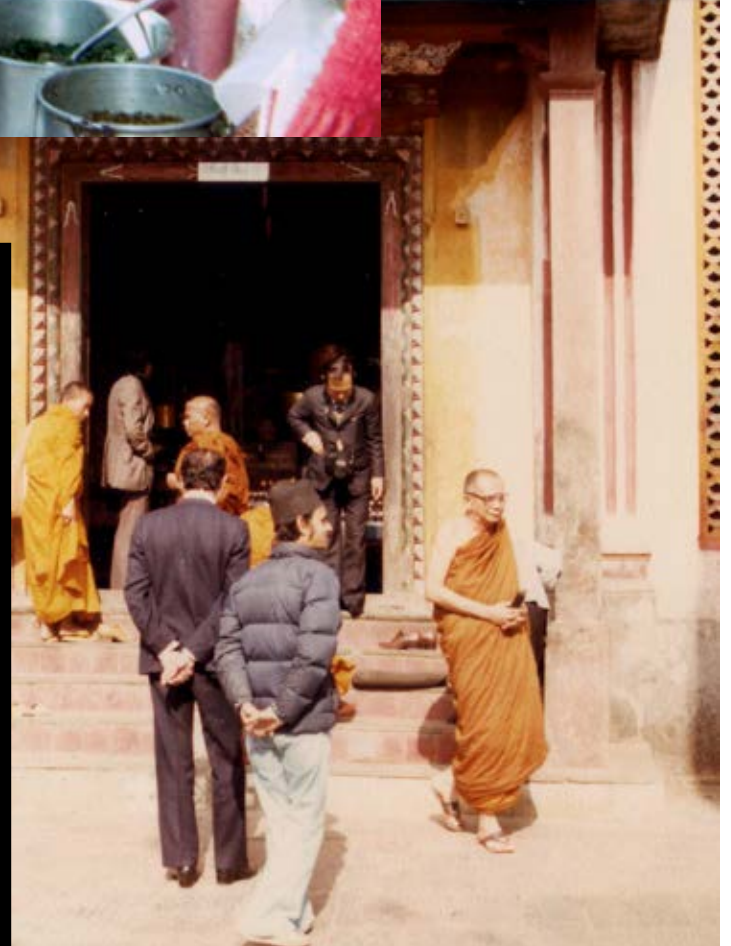
PHOTO BY NARONGCHAI WISAWAVETEE



1. Walking on alms round in Kirtipur, Nepal.
 2. Sri Lankan Buddhists welcoming His Holiness' group while visiting Sri Lanka during 10-16 February 1967.

3. In 1980, His Holiness visiting a Lama temple at Swayambhu Stupa in Nepal.

4. Visiting the Tibetan monastery within the boundary of Baudhanath Pagoda, Nepal.
 5. November 1985, His Holiness was paying respect to the Most Venerable Pragyananda Mahasthavira, the Sangha Maha Nayaka of Nepal at Shakyasingha Vihara in Patan, Nepal.





N

epal is another country where His Holiness helped to revive the Theravada Sangha. He provided scholarships to Nepalese monks and novices so that they could study Buddhism in Thailand. Upon the completion of their studies, they returned to Nepal and helped to establish Theravada Buddhism in their homeland. Many more Nepalese monks and novices came to Thailand and were encouraged by His Holiness to revitalise the historical ordination of Nepalese Sakya men, and thus the reestablishment of Theravada Buddhism in Nepal was implemented almost effortlessly.

In 1993, His Holiness became the first religious patriarch ever to be invited by the government of the People's Republic of China to pay an official visit to the country.

In 1998, he attended the first World Buddhist Propagation Conference in Japan; the second and fourth conferences were held in Thailand the following years.



5



7



6. His Holiness visited Sri Lanka during 10-12 February 1967.
 7. The King's Advisor presided over the farewell ceremony in which His Holiness was presented with an honorary felicitation at Wat Anandakuti, Kathmandu, Nepal.
 8. In 1985, His Holiness observing a Shakya initiation ceremony at the Golden Temple of Patan, Nepal.



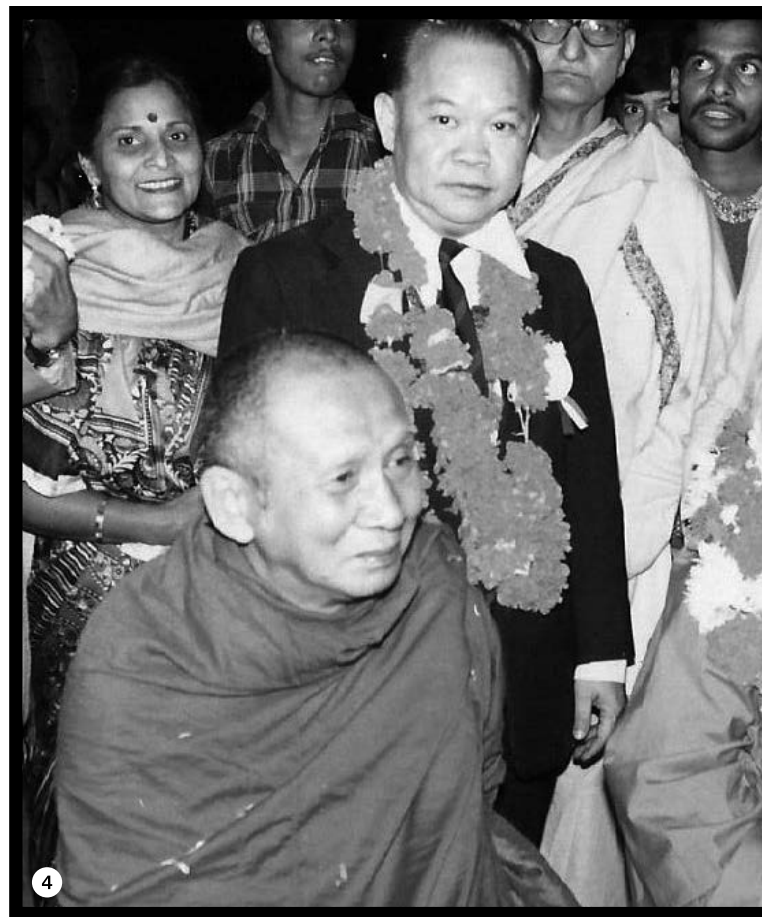
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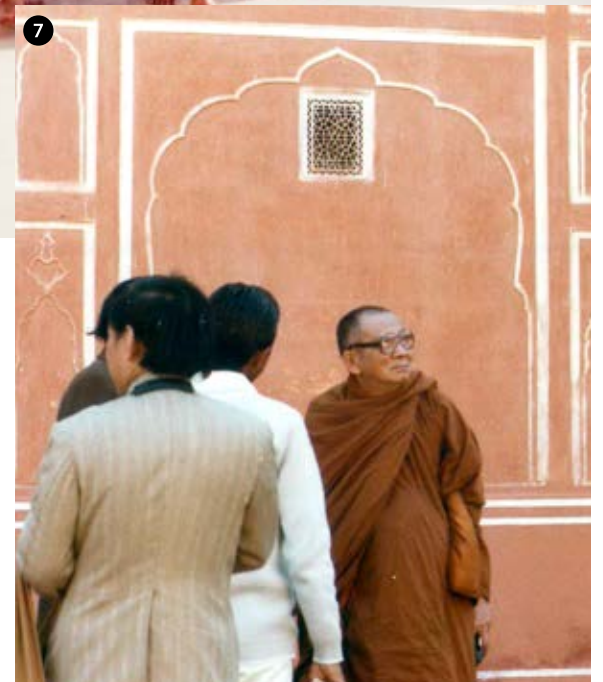
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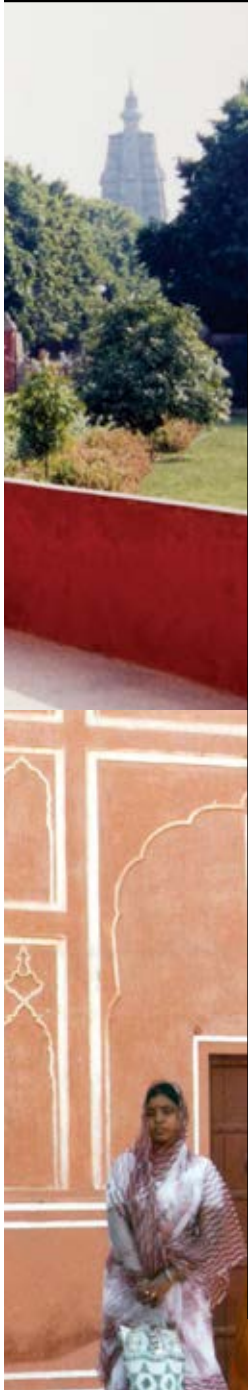


1. In 1998, His Holiness was welcomed at the Maha Bodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, India.
 2. December, 1970, His Holiness visiting Buddhist holy places in India.
 3. Procession of worship around Dhamekh Stupa in Sarnath, India, where the Buddha taught Dhamma for the first time.
 4. December 1980, His Holiness with Swami Hari Har Ji Maharaj at the 5th International Geeta Conference in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India.




5. In 1980, His Holiness attending the Geeta Ashram Conference in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India.
 6. In 1998, His Holiness was visiting Nalanda Mahavihara, in Nalanda, India.
 7. 23 February 1999, On his 5th visit to Nepal, His Holiness was welcomed by various Nepalese Buddhist organizations at Srikirti Vihara under the Patronage of the Sangharaja in Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal.

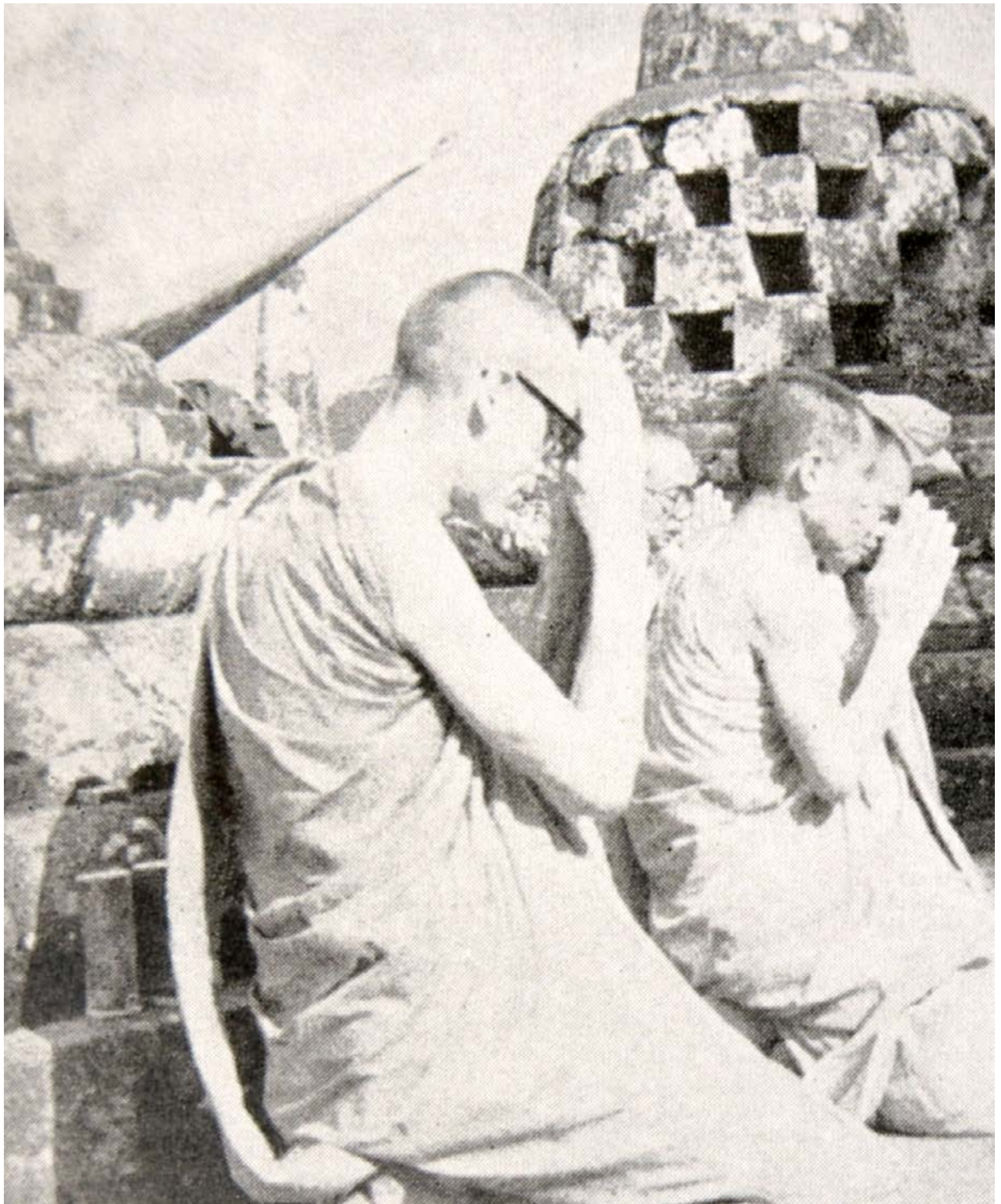




His Holiness also visited the USA, India, Nepal, Canada, Australia and several countries in Europe. The Buddhist communities in those countries were inspired by his presence to build more temples: Wat Buddharangsee in Australia, Wat Carolina Buddhajakra Vanaram in the USA, and Wat Thai Lumbini in Nepal.

Neighbouring countries in Southeast Asia were not overlooked. His Holiness visited Cambodia to join the celebration honoring the holy relics of the Buddha and his Great Disciples in Phnom Penh. Visits to Yangon in Myanmar followed, to attend the second meeting of the Sixth Tipitaka Rehearsal (Chatthasangayana). Later in 1991, the government of Myanmar conferred a special title 'Abhidhaja Maharattaguru' on His Holiness, comparable in their country to the title 'Supreme Patriarch.' The event emphasized the depth of the religious relationship between the two nations.

His Holiness's efforts helped to firmly re-establish Theravada Buddhism in many countries and made Dhamma blossom throughout the world. Wherever he went, his tranquil demeanour inspired affection and interest among the people. The sweet scent of his moral presence spread far and wide, creating a strong spiritual bond among the countries that he had visited. 





His Holiness paying
homage at the Borobudur,
Indonesia, where he also
presided over the ordination
of Indonesian monks.



22 May 1970, His Holiness gave Bhikkhu ordination to Indonesian candidates at the Borobudur. This unprecedented ordination ceremony was a symbol of reviving Theravada Buddhism in Indonesia.



In 1968, His Holiness was visiting the Republic of Indonesia for the first time which led him to support the establishment of Theravada Buddhism in Indonesia.



The holy relics of the Buddha and his Disciples within a mandapa, at the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



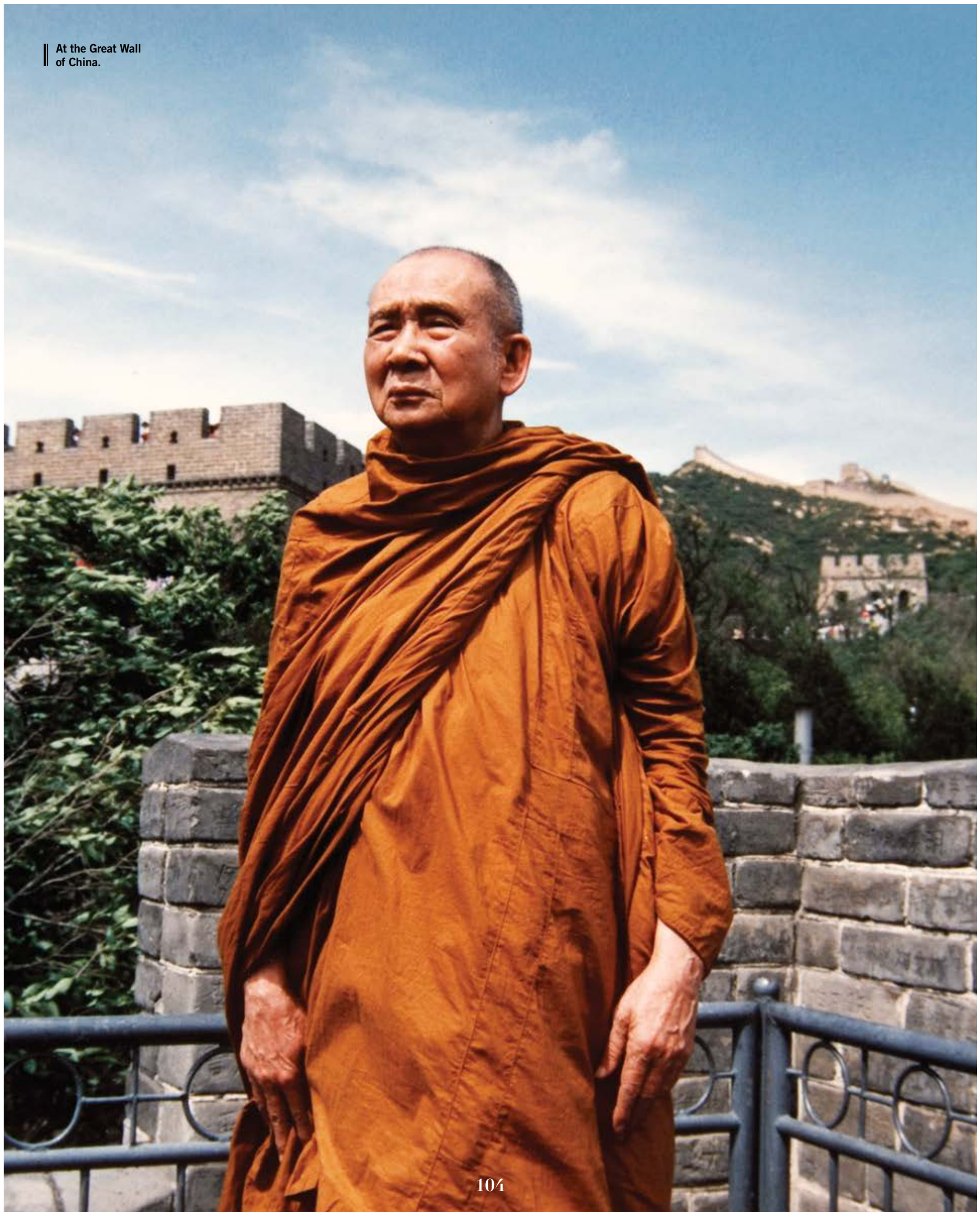
6 October 1952, His Holiness while he was Phra Sobhanaganabhorn representing the Thai Sangha at the celebration of the Buddha's relics from India displayed in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.





The abbot of Yuantong Temple, Kunming, welcomed His Holiness. ||

At the Great Wall
of China.





1. Visiting Guangji Temple, His Holiness presented holy relics in a golden miniature casket installed within a small Thai mandapa (an open square structure with pyramidal roof), a gilded Jinasiha Buddha with His Holiness' initials, the Tipitaka in the Siam Edition, a Jinasiha shield, a shield with a Dhamma inscription in Chinese, Dhamma books, and a number of Buddhist memorial coins.

2. 1 July 1993, His Holiness while visiting Shilin Stone Forest in Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China as a state guest of President of China.
3. Writing a Chinese Dhamma phrase as a visiting gift.



4. Discussion with His Excellency Jiang Zemin, President of the People's Republic of China.





1. 4-10 April 1998, His Holiness attending the First World Buddhist Propagation Conference, Kyoto, Japan.



2. His Holiness as Leader of the Thai Sangha, he presiding over the First World Buddhist Propagation Conference.

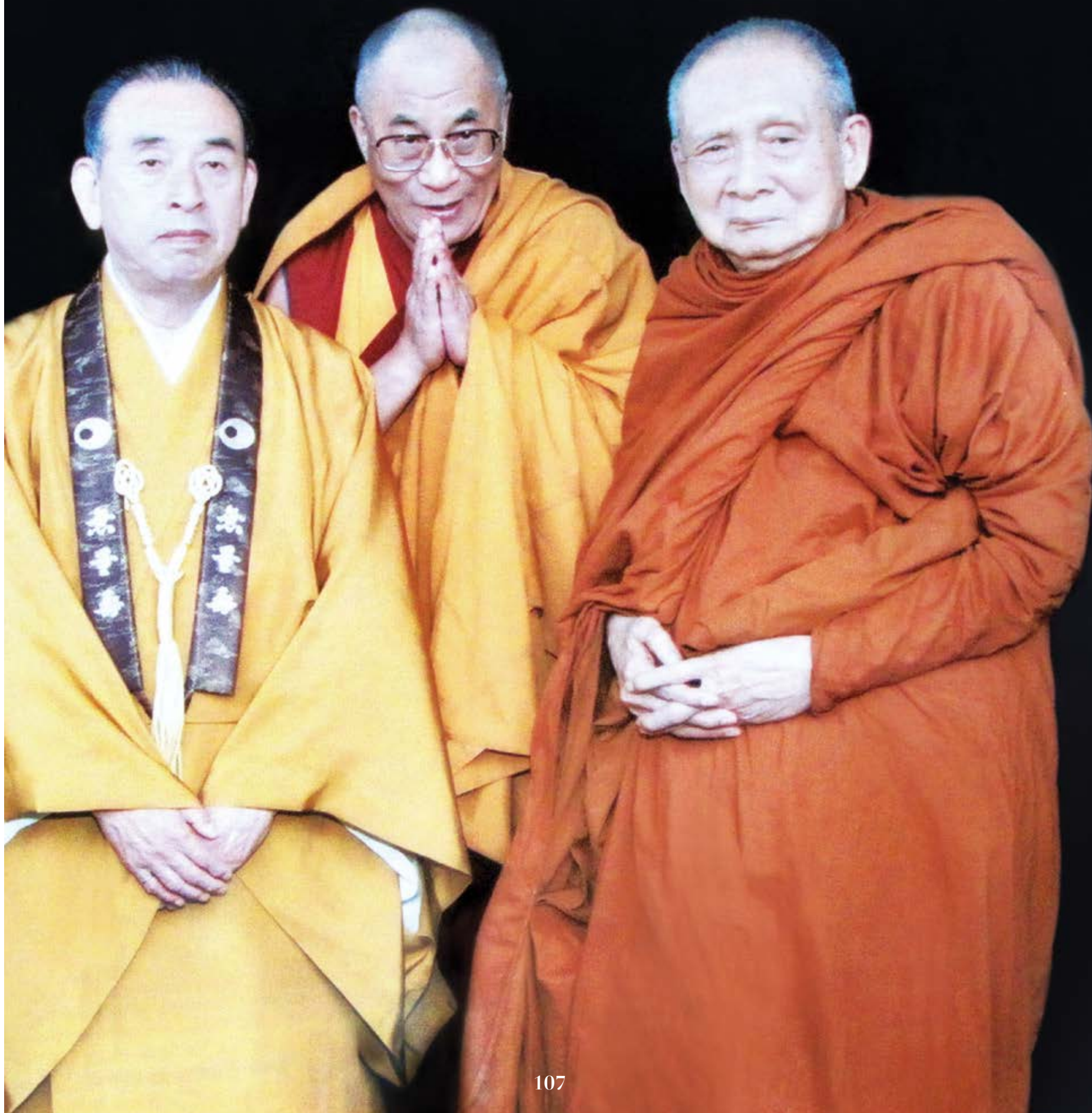


3. His Holiness with the Dalai Lama and Dr. Kyuse Enshinjoh.



4. His Holiness arrived at Kansai International Airport in Osaka on 4 April 1998.

Dr. Kyuse Enshinjo,
President and high priest of
the Nenbutsushu Sect of Buddhism
in Japan, the Dalai Lama of Tibet
and His Holiness at the First
World Buddhist Propagation
Conference, Kyoto, Japan.





(ABOVE) His Holiness on a study tour in Australia during 21-24 April 1968, before sending his disciple monks to establish Thai Theravada Buddhism in Australia for the first time.
(BELOW) During 24-26 April 1968, His Holiness Visiting Canberra, Australia.

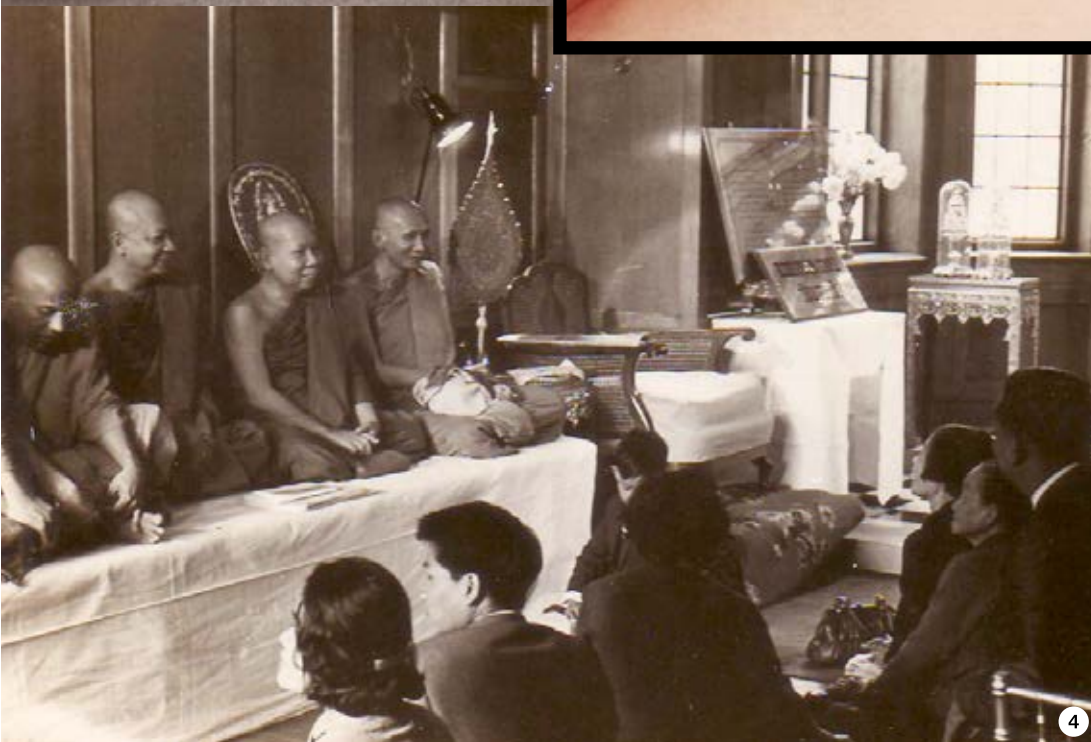


9 April 1980,
His Holiness at
Cypress Mountain
in West Vancouver,
Canada.



At the Louvre Museum,
Paris, France in 1980.





“Nothing can be more joyous than a happy mind, which only metta (loving kindness) can produce. Thus cultivating metta is significant and necessary.”

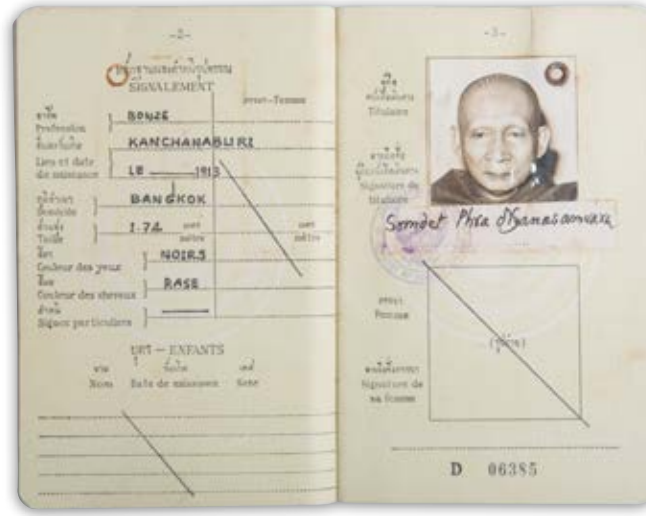
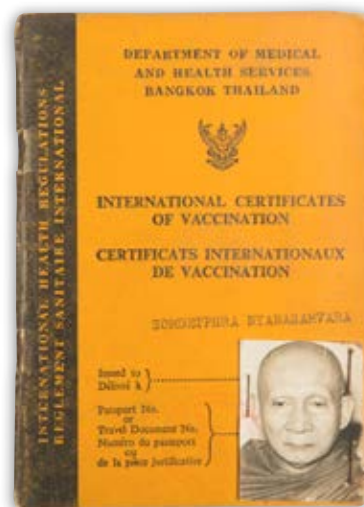
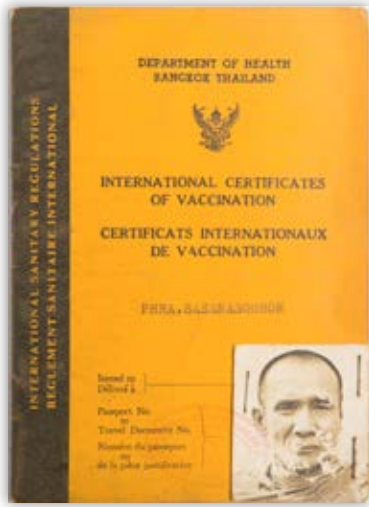
Giving Dhamma Conquers All Gifts

1. With H.R.H. the Princess Mother at her residence in Lausanne, Switzerland, during his trip to the USA, Canada, and Europe in 1980.
2. In 1975, His Holiness was presiding over the inauguration of Wat Buddharangsee Stanmore in Sydney, Australia.
3. In front of the Big Ben Clock Tower, London.
4. His Holiness presided over the opening ceremony of Wat Buddhapadipa and the Celebration of Asalha Puja Day (Commemorating the Lord Buddha's First Sermon).



(LEFT) At the Eiffel Tower,
Paris on 23 April 1980.
(RIGHT) His Holiness was
visiting Rome, Italy in 1966.





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VISAS

DIVISION BANGKOK
22 MAY 1975
K-412

SEEN AT BANGKOK AIRPORT
SIGNED IMMIGRATION OFFICER
5 JUN 1975

Reg. 11 (7) Holder not permitted to engage in any business or professional occupation without written consent of Controller of Immigration.

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DIPLOMATIC VISAS

VISA FOR AUSTRALIA 47

- (Subject to grant on arrival of an entry permit under the Migration Act 1958.)
- 1. Visa Number 1108/75
- 2. Type of Visa VISITOR
- 3. Date of Issue 20 MAY 1975
- 4. Date of Expiry 19 AUGUST 1975
- 5. Good for TWO journeys to Australia until date of expiry, subject to passport remaining valid.
- 6. Period of stay in Australia which may be authorized by issue of entry permit on arrival (NEED) MONTH

"VII-R-82"
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SUL
BANGKOK
6385 BANGKOK

พฤษภาคม 24
วันที่ 11 ที่ เดือน 6 ปี ๒๕๑๘

491
 Day, December, 28, 2510
 today is resting day for
 I met Bruce who
 gain as a a new
 list of next m
 next day of the
 in to write
 auto biography
 note book.
 At evening
 chairman of N.S.W. Buddhist Society
 and his (Japanese) wife and one
 man came to visit at Wat Buddha-
 mangsee. He invited monks to take
 at his social house on
 auto biography

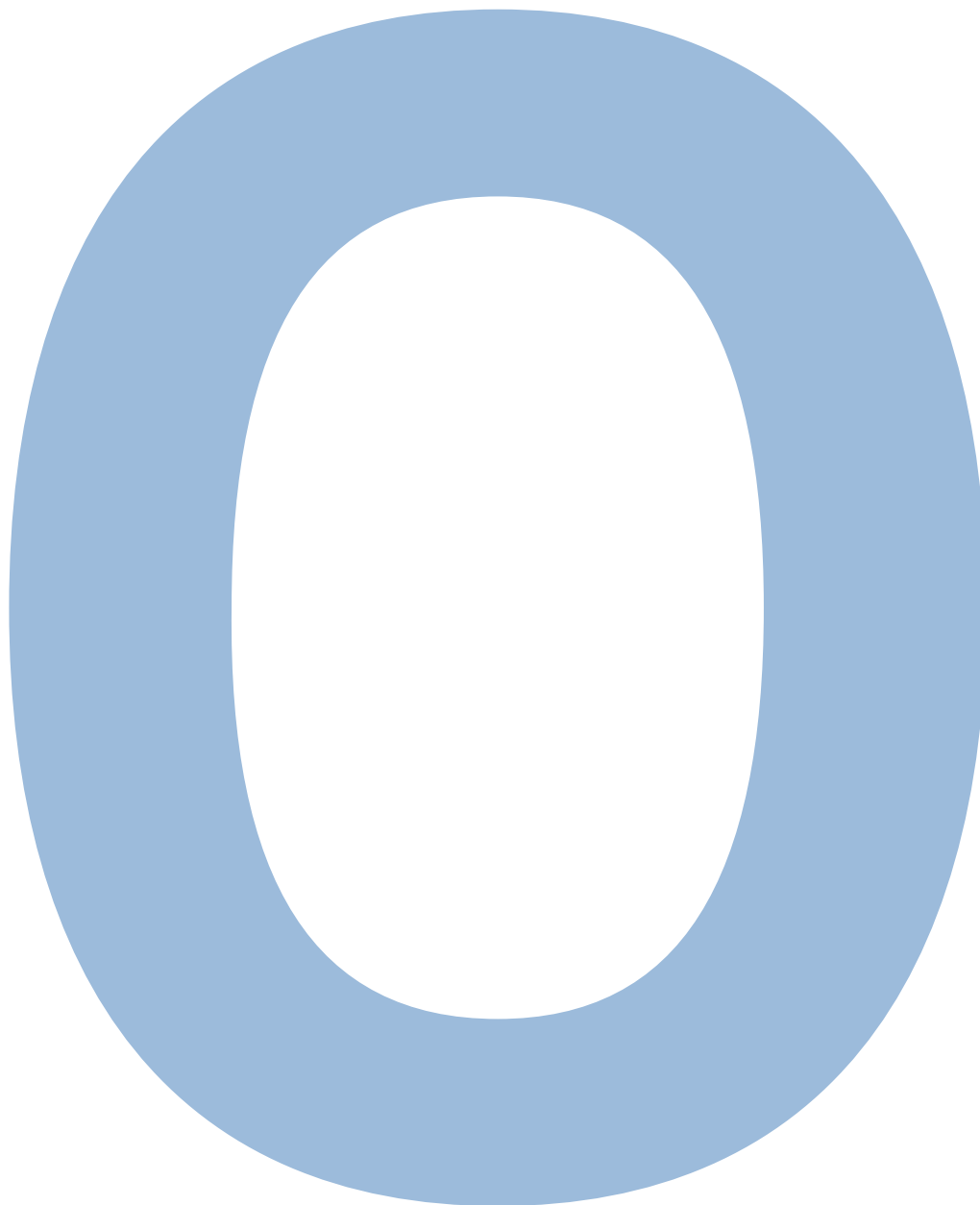
THE PILLAR OF BUDDHISM

“Each and every one of us in a community or a country is responsible for the happiness of everyone else. But as a leader one must behave in an exemplary manner so as to set a high standard for subordinates or for those under one’s care. A leader’s responsibilities are therefore more burdensome than others’. Therefore, Lord Buddha emphasized the necessity of first establishing in Dhamma the leader of a group or the leader who governs or rules a country.”

Kings’ Dhamma and Social Development



PHOTO BY NARONGCHAI WISAWWETEE



n Friday, 21 April 1989, a great royal ceremony took place at the Temple of the Emerald Buddha at which Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara became the new Sangharaja Sakala Mahasangha Parinayaka, the 19th Supreme Patriarch of Thailand.

In Thailand under the Sangharaja, monks of the rank Somdet Phra Rajagana and Phra Rajagana carry out their duties throughout the kingdom. Each of these two positions has a number of conferred titles. Most of the titles reflect the spiritual nature of the monk, especially any title conferred by His Holiness.

The special ecclesiastical title 'Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara' (Somdet Phra Rajagana's position) conferred on His Holiness in 1972 means 'a person of great insight.' This title was first introduced during the reign of King Rama II in 1816. The title and ecclesiastical rank of the chief of the Vipassana line was conferred on the first Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara (Suk) in 1816. After that monk became the Supreme Patriarch in 1820, no other monk had been given that particular title. Then, 152 years later, His Holiness was to become only the second monk to be given the title 'Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara.' His considerable ability in carrying out his duties as chief of the Vipassana line had been highly praised by the lay people.

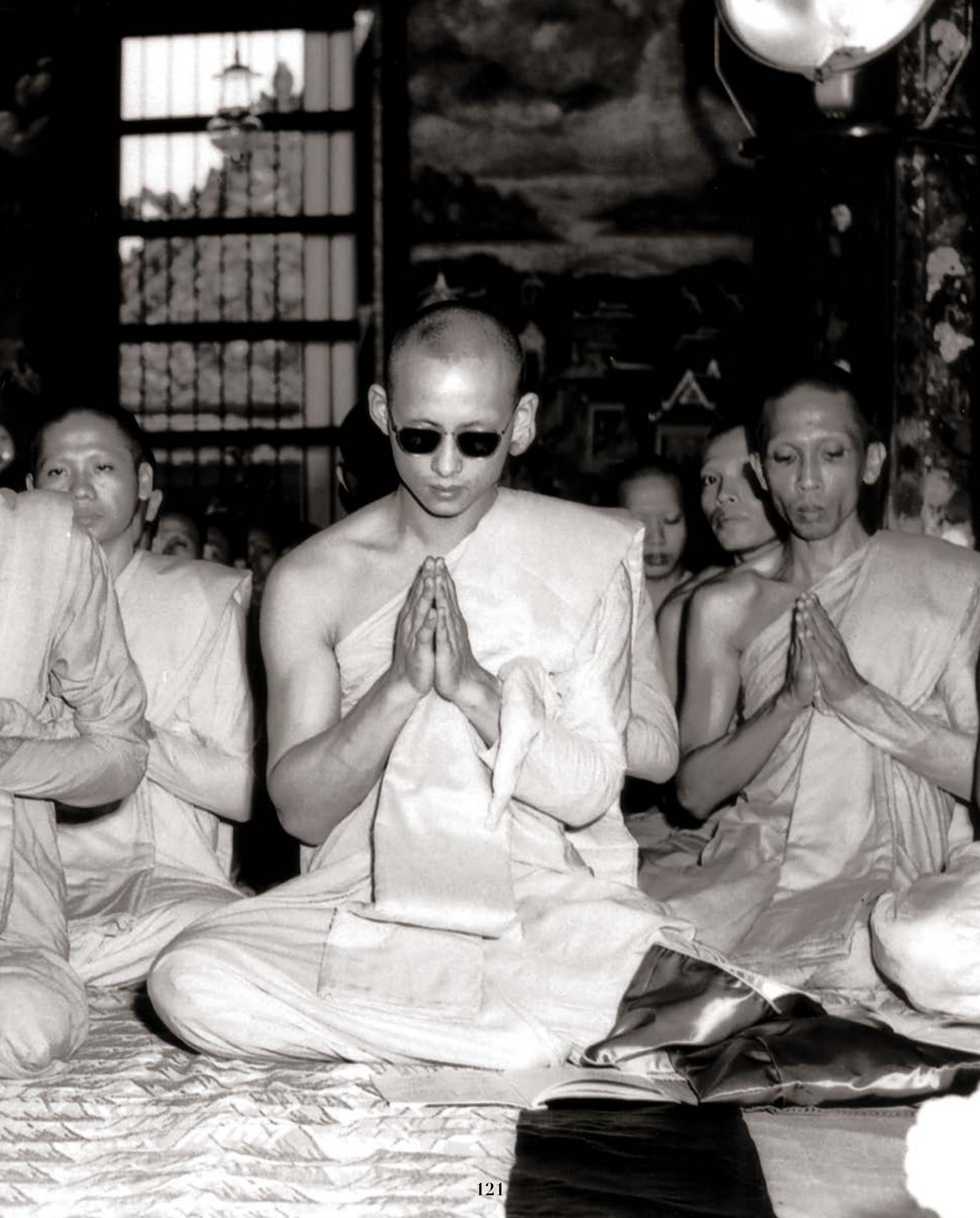
Moreover, all the Supreme Patriarchs of non-royal lineage were usually conferred with the title 'Somdet Phra Ariyavongsagatanyana.' His Holiness was the first Supreme Patriarch of non-royal lineage to use the special title 'Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara' in recognition of his many scholarly achievements and his mindful and meditative virtue. His Holiness was an excellent role model who was highly respected by all people regardless of ethnicity, status or nationality.



The 13th Supreme Patriarch had chosen His Holiness, then Phra Sobhanagabhorn, as advising chaperone to His Majesty the King while His Majesty was ordained as a monk and resided at Wat Bovoravives Vihara for 15 days from 22 October to 5 November 1956.

Daily chanting at
the Uposatha Hall,
Wat Bovoranives Vihara,
while His Majesty
the King was ordained.







His Majesty the King presented the honorary talipot fan to His Holiness in the ceremony celebrating him as the Supreme Patriarch, on Friday, 21 April 1989.

His Holiness had said that his main aim in teaching Dhamma to young people and to other members of the public was to generate peace and happiness for the whole nation. He instructed everyone to value and support the institution of the monarch, as he realised that the people of Thailand regard His Majesty the King as the heart of the Nation. His Holiness believed that the survival and health of the country depends upon the institution of the monarch. The country becomes united and strong when the people acknowledge and respect the virtues of the King.

In 1956, when His Holiness held the title of 'Phra Sobhanaganabhorn,' he was tasked to be the advisor and chaperone to H.M. the King while

the latter was ordained as a monk at Wat Bovoranives Vihara for a period of 15 days.

In 1978, when H.R.H. Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn was ordained as a monk and resided at Wat Bovoranives Vihara, His Holiness, as 'Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara,' was appointed as the Kammavacacariya or Act-Announcing Teacher, whose task was to assist the preceptor during the ordination ceremony and subsequently to instruct the Crown Prince in the ways of a monk. His Holiness was the Crown Prince's primary Dhamma teacher during the duration of his monkhood.

His Holiness had managed all his responsibilities flawlessly and was highly admired and respected by their Majesties the King and Queen, who have always invited him to preach Dhamma at all royal religious occasions, both in his official capacity and in private audience with their Majesties.




The ceremony appointing His Holiness as the Supreme Patriarch, on 21 April 1989.

All members of the royal family had high regard for His Holiness and often visited him to question him about Dhamma.

His Holiness's great compassion and concern reached out to all members of society. Even though he assigned various tasks and appointments to senior monks throughout the kingdom, he avidly kept track of all issues since the ultimate responsibility still rested with him. Rules and regulations that no longer support the activities of the Sangha had been modified.

As the Sangharaja, head of the Thai Sangha, His Holiness had met and welcomed in person many international guests. His humble simplicity had impressed many national leaders who had acknowledged him as one of the world's great spiritual leaders, not just the spiritual head of Thai Buddhism. His gentle and self-effacing nature had been widely admired just as highly as his perceptive strength in decision-making.

In 1967, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, the spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism, visited Thailand for the first time. He paid a visit to His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch at Wat Bovoranives Vihara and received some advice on Theravada meditation. When His Holiness the Dalai Lama revisited Thailand and stayed at Wat Bovoranives Vihara in 1993, he greeted His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand by addressing the latter as 'My elder brother,' in recognition of the bond of brotherly love and mutual admiration that exists between the two Buddhist leaders.

For more than 80 years, since His Holiness entered the path of Dhamma as a novice, his ongoing devotion to Dhamma and its universal benefit to mankind never diminished. Even as Head of the Thai Sangha, the integrity of his holy life and work become more pronounced, more venerated and stood as an inspiration to all who witnessed it. 

Ecclesiastical Regalia of
the Sangharaja: alms bowl;
betel nut tray set;
washing bowl; utility box;
medicine box; jar; kettle;
water pot; food container;
big tray; small tray;
and water bowl with cover.



PHOTO BY NARONGCHAI WISAWANETEE



His Majesty the King
conversing with His Holiness
at the Uposatha Hall of
Wat Bovoranives Vihara.



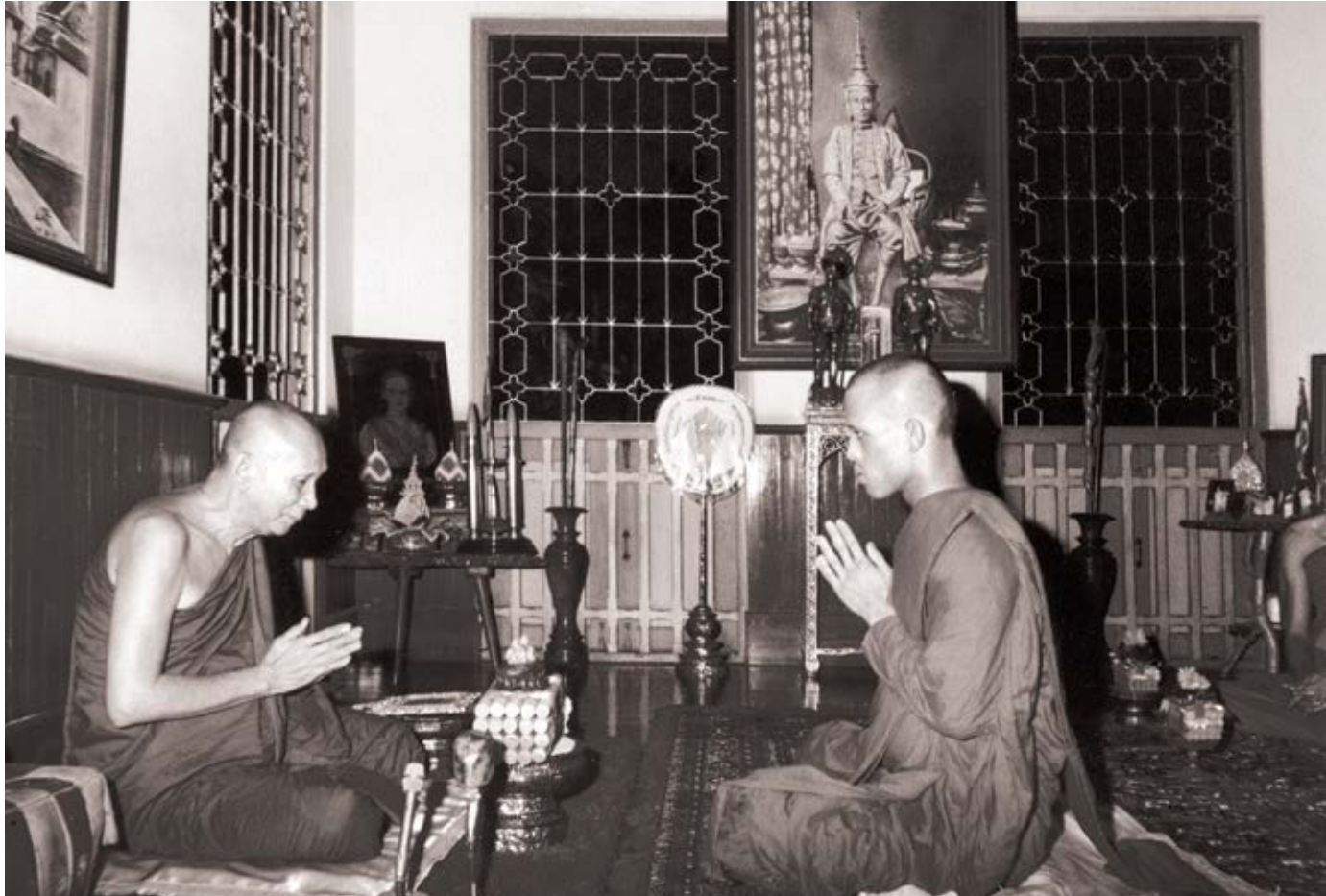




Their Majesties the King and Queen in a Dhamma talk with His Holiness at Bhubing Rajanives Palace, Doi Pui, Chiang Mai.



His Majesty the King visited His Holiness at Vajiranyana Samakhi-Phayaban Building, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital.



(ABOVE) His Holiness as Dhamma and Vinaya teacher to H.R.H. the Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn while H.R.H. was ordained as a monk and resided at Wat Boveranives Vihara during 6-20 November 1978.
(BELOW) H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn Walailak paid respect to His Holiness.





(ABOVE) His Holiness lit a candle in the Buddha consecration ceremony at the Uposatha of Wat Phra Si Rattana Satsadaram (the Temple of the Emerald Buddha) on the occasion of the eightieth birthday of H.R.H. Princess Galyani Vadhana Krom Luang Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra.
(BELOW) H.R.H. Princess Soamsavali Kitiyakara and H.R.H. Princess Bajrakitiyabha visited to pay homage to His Holiness at his residence.







His Holiness the 14th
Dalai Lama of Tibet paying
homage to the Buddha
at the Uposatha Hall of
Wat Bovoranives Vihara
upon his arrival at the Wat
on 22 February 1993.



**His Holiness leading Dalai Lama to the Uposatha Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara
at Dalai Lama's second visit to Thailand on 23 January 1972.**



His Holiness welcoming Dalai Lama at the Uposatha Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara when Dalai Lama was visiting Thailand for the third time as a special guest of His Holiness on 16 February 1993.



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“To see Dhamma is to see one’s state of mind, both the good and the bad. Know it as it is. Know the reality of one’s own mind.”
What the Buddha Taught

3



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1. S.N. Goenka, Indian teacher of Vipassana meditation, and his wife paying homage to His Holiness.
 2. Department of Religious Affairs of Thailand escorted Senior Sanghas from Sri Lanka to have an audience with His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch at his office at Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 25 September 2000.
 3. His Holiness welcoming His Holiness Somdet Phra Yod Kaew, Supreme Patriarch of Kingdom of Laos, who was visiting Thailand as an official guest of the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand at the Uposatha Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 15-17 May 1967.



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4. In 1999, Mr. Raidi Chairmen of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Tibet Autonomous Region.
 5. His Holiness welcoming Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on his official visit to Thailand at Uposatha Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 11 February 1972. His Holiness was a magnet for foreigners visiting Thailand who were interested in learning about Buddhism.
 6. In 1999, His Holiness welcoming Patriarch Alexy II, the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.
 7. Archbishop Luigi Bressan, Papal Representative to Thailand had an audience with His Holiness and handed over an invitation to visit the Vatican from the Pope at the Supreme Patriarch Secretariat, Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 26 June 1997.



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1. In 1992, His Holiness was visited by the Sangha of Sri Lanka at Wat Bovornives Vihara.
2. H.E. the Indian Ambassador to Thailand offered a Buddha image to His Holiness, then titled Phra Sasanasobhana, at Wat Bovornives Vihara in 1971.
3. His Holiness greeted Prince Philippe of Belgium at the 150 Anniversary Pavilion on 13 October 1993.
4. At King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, Venerable Kruba Nuachai Ghosito had an audience with His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch to report about his project of Bovorn or holistic development of home, temple and school which he was applying with hill tribes of Chiang Rai province on 19 October 2011.
5. In 1993, His Holiness welcoming Luigi Bressan, Apostolic Nuncio to Thailand at Wat Bovornives Vihara.

6. Western Buddhist monks who ordained and studied under His Holiness were waiting to welcome Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh in his official visit to Thailand at the Uposatha Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 11 February 1972.
7. Venerable monks from Korea had an audience with His Holiness at his office in Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 13 February 1998.



“The more one can perceive the profundity of Dhamma, the more one can appreciate the achievement of the Lord Buddha.”

A Guide to Awareness



8. His Holiness welcoming Honourable Varahagiri Venkata Giri, President of the Republic of India on his official visit to Thailand at the Uposatha Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 29 March 1972.
9. In 2000, His Holiness welcoming Venerable Doboom Tulku Rinpoche, Director of Tibet House, the Cultural Centre of His Holiness Dalai Lama in New Delhi, India.
10. General Secretary of the Bhutanese Central Monastic Body and Member of Parliament had an audience with His Holiness at his residence.



His Holiness was the first patron in rank of The World Fellowship of Buddhists, the world's first international Buddhist organisation which has more than 100 member countries around the world, with Thailand as the main headquarters.



Representatives from Myanmar led by Minister of Home Affairs had audience with His Holiness to honour him by presenting the Myanmar' highest ecclesiastical title of 'Abhidhammaratthaguru'.



A MANY - HUED EARTH, PHOTOGRAPHED BY APOLLO 11 ASTRONAUTS FROM 112,000 KILOMETERS UNDER FLEEC

PHOTO BY BANGKOK POST PHOTO

H.E. Chularachamontri,
the Chief of the Muslim
in Thailand, His Holiness
the Supreme Patriarch
of Thailand and Cardinal
Michael Michai Kitbunchu
at the World Peace Conference
at Pacific Place Building
on 24 April 1997.





PHOTO BY NARONGCHAI WISAWATETEE

HIS BRILLIANCE

“A Buddhist ‘wise person’ refers to someone who has insight and reasoning, knowing the cause and subsequent result. He is someone who knows which cause is wholesome or unwholesome and which result is wholesome or unwholesome. Furthermore, he knows that only a wholesome cause will yield a wholesome result, and only an unwholesome cause will yield an unwholesome result.

No wholesome cause can give rise to an unwholesome result, and no unwholesome cause can give rise to a wholesome result.

Those who truly understand cause and result as taught by the Buddha are considered ‘wise’ in the Buddhist sense.

They will refrain from unwholesome activities. They will perform only wholesome actions with bravery and without hesitation for the benefit of oneself and others.

They do so no matter how physically or mentally demanding it may be and no matter how much money or wealth they must invest.”

Sobhanakatha: the preaching on Her Majesty the Queen’s Birthday on August 12, 1991,
at Amarindravinicchai Throne Hall in the Grand Palace



(LEFT) Preparing the equipments to be installed in Wat Bovoranives Vihara at the Luang Chareun Ritthisatra Residence during the restoration of the Supreme Patriarch's Residence in 1965.



Wisdom is the light of the world; all sages should immerse themselves in wisdom.” This passage from the Pali Scriptures was translated by His Holiness and reflected clearly how he developed his insight until it shone brilliantly. His enthusiasm for learning led to the developed of both his expertise in scriptural understanding and his spiritual faculty.

His Holiness was a far-sighted scholar, interested in researching and analysing all facets of Buddhism, and had himself put his discoveries to the test. He was definitely a sage and an ariyasangha – a learned and disciplined monk.

His intelligence, combined with his vast experience of Buddhist affairs, made all his public works highly valued and regarded as important religious works in themselves. (These include books, essays, construction of religious sites, restoration of ancient Buddhist architecture and the creation of Buddha sculptures and amulets.)

His important works can be categorised as follows:

Mass Media

In response to the late H.R.H. the Princess Mother's request, His Holiness started the Sunday morning radio broadcast 'Mental Management' from Amphornsathan (A.S.) Radio Station in the Dusit Palace and continued the project for many years. Its objective was to teach the listening audience how to develop mindfulness and use it in everyday life. He also wrote Buddhist articles for a women's magazine called *Sri Sapdah*, and for a Buddhist magazine by Mahamakuta Rajavidyalaya Foundation titled *Dhamma Caksu*.

Books

His Holiness was interested in foreign languages including Sanskrit, English, French, German and Chinese. However, the only foreign language he was fully conversant in is English, and he was skilful in reading, writing, and speaking that language. This skill, plus his untiring passion for research, made his books even richer and more profound. He was able to adopt modern knowledge and utilize it so as to explain Dhamma so effectively that his books can be easily understood by every generation, encouraging more people to take an interest in studying Dhamma.

Examples of his books:

- *Solasa Questions*

This is about the 16 (solasa) subtle Dhamma questions, together with their explanations. The book clearly reflects his brilliant analysis of profound Dhamma discussions, showing his capabilities in both scriptural expertise and spiritual adroitness and how he could use both faculties spontaneously and skillfully.

- *Dasaparami Dasabidharajadhamma*

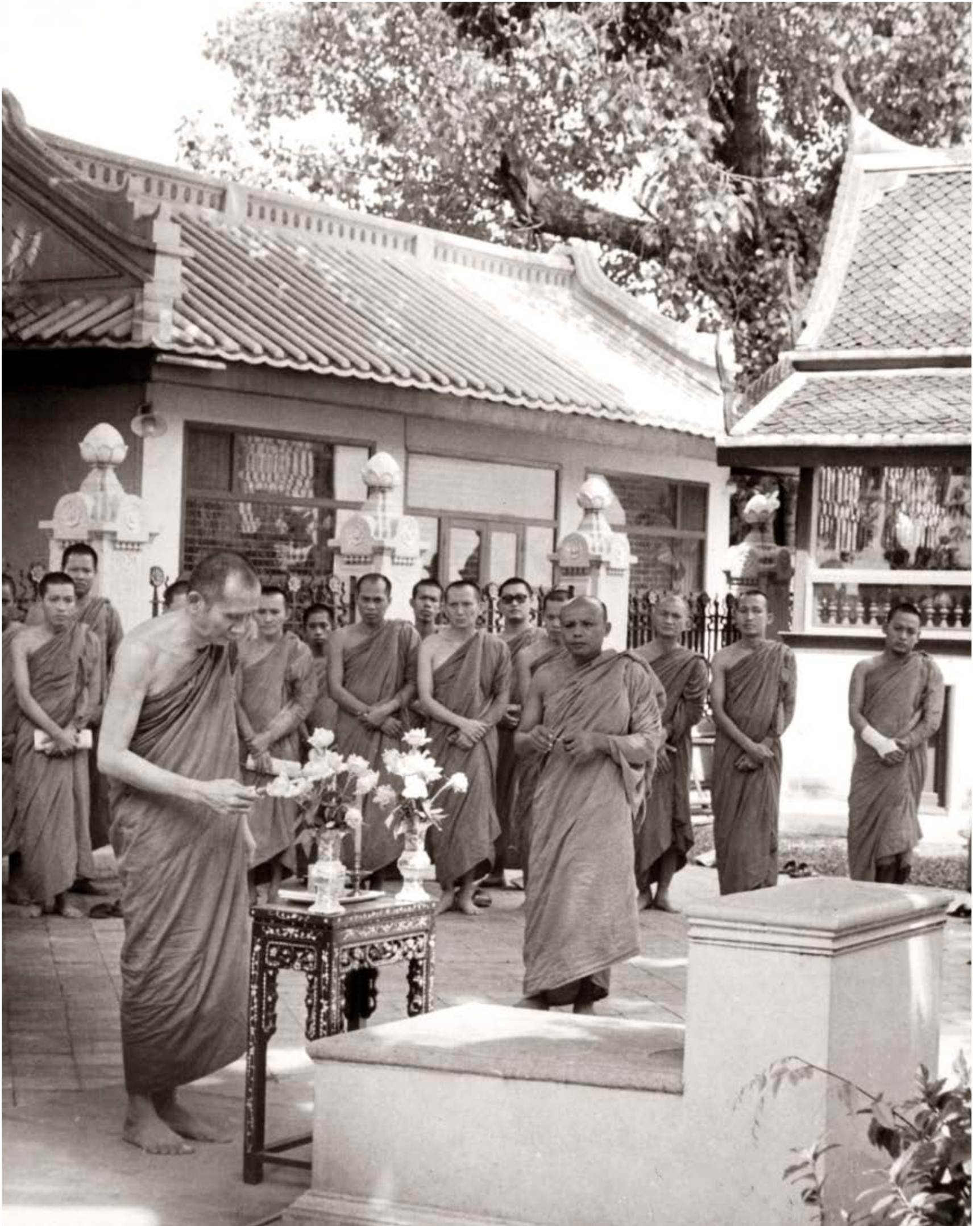
His Holiness saw how these two Dhamma categories are interrelated. Dasaparami are the ten Dhamma virtues that will lead to ultimate attainment (vimutti) or enlightenment. Dasabidharajadhamma are the ten secular virtues that aim to achieve a state of happiness by the people. Both have similar content and result in the accumulation of merit. The most interesting point in the book is his comparative and adaptive style of studying, which will guide the readers to different viewpoints and wider aspects of Buddhist study.

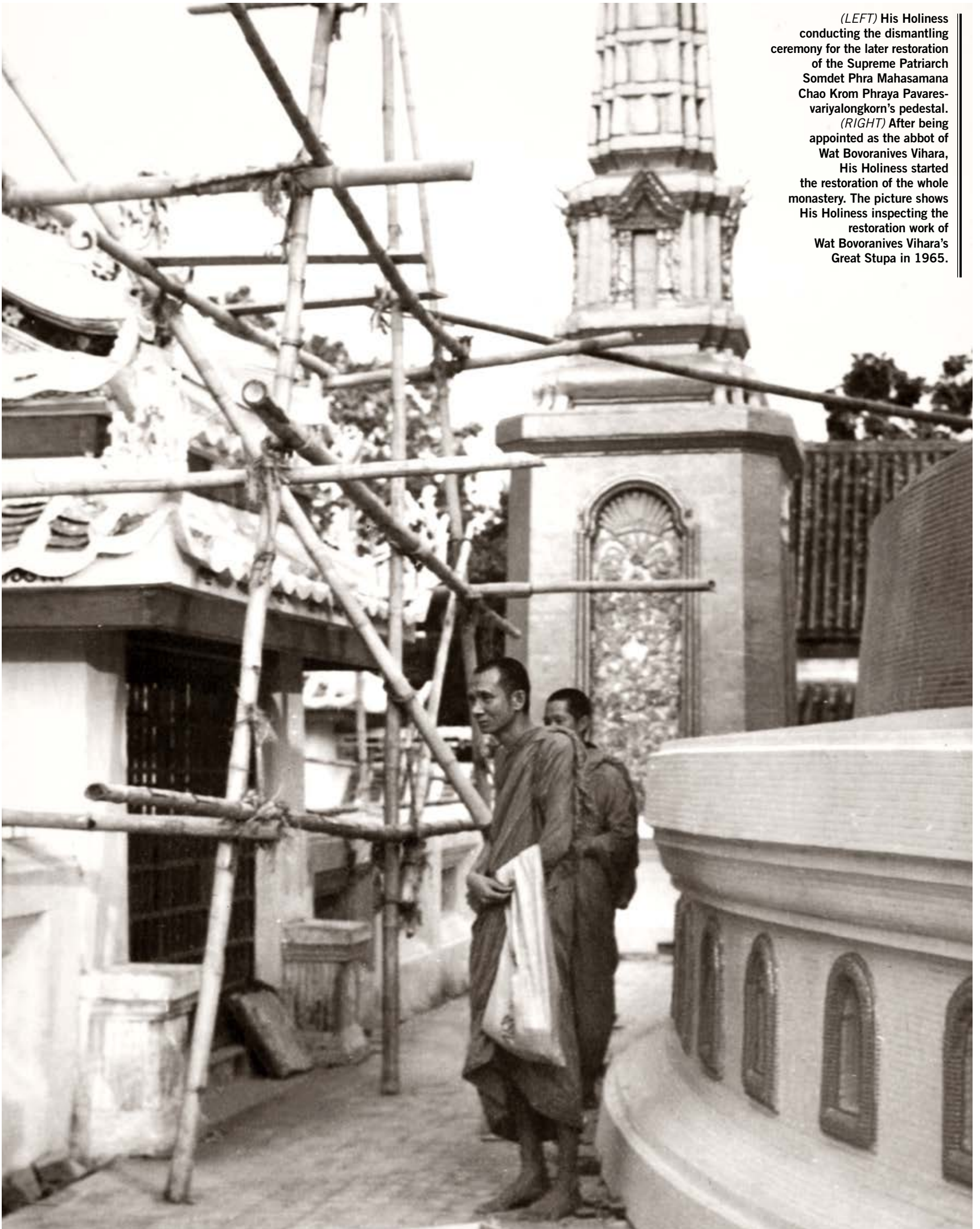
- *Forty-five Years of the Buddha*

This book recounts 45 years of the Buddha's life from his enlightenment until his parinibbana (death) and final release from the round of birth and death at the town of Kusinara. His Holiness compiled information and stories from the Tipitaka, the Atthakatha, other scriptures and books, including the Mahayana Scriptures, and retold the life of the Buddha in a captivating narrative. This is yet another book that demonstrates his profound subtlety in Dhamma teaching.

There are many other scholarly works that he wrote including the Pali grammar books volumes I-II for students of Pali studies. He also initiated the compilation and publication of Prince Kitiyakaravaralaksana's Dictionary of Pali, Thai, English and Sanskrit.

Other translations under his supervision include many Buddhist textbooks that have been translated into English such as *Navakovada*, *Vinayamukha*, *the Life of the Buddha*, *Upasampadavidhi*, *Bhikkhupatimokkha*, and *Book of Chanting*. There are many other publications of his sermons. Those already published include *Mangalavisesakatha*, *Pancaguna*, *Dasabalananya*, *Mangaladesana*, and *Sanghaguna*.





(LEFT) His Holiness conducting the dismantling ceremony for the later restoration of the Supreme Patriarch Somdet Phra Mahasamana Chao Krom Phraya Pavaresvariyaongkorn's pedestal.
(RIGHT) After being appointed as the abbot of Wat Bovoranives Vihara, His Holiness started the restoration of the whole monastery. The picture shows His Holiness inspecting the restoration work of Wat Bovoranives Vihara's Great Stupa in 1965.







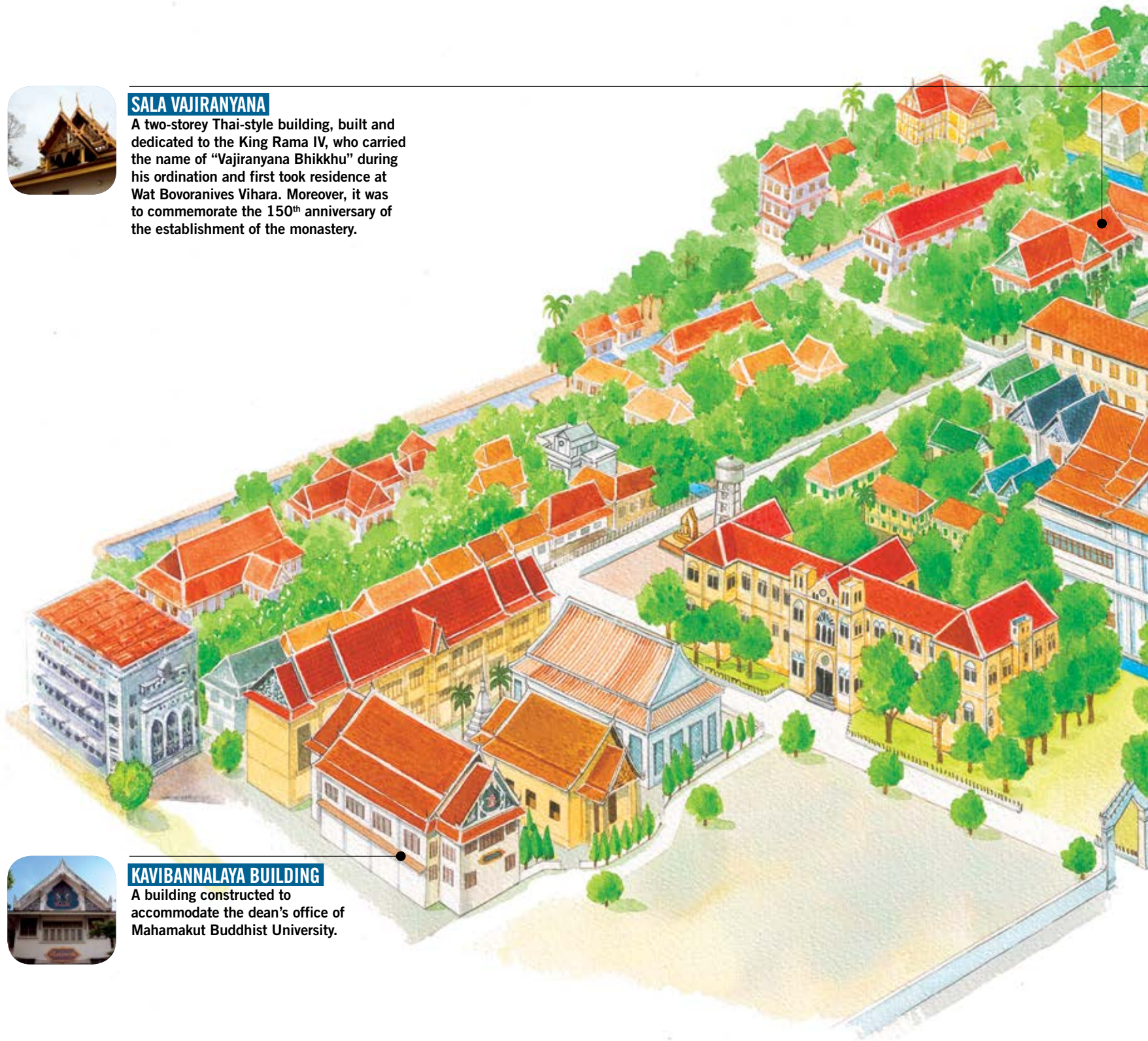
SALA VAJIRANYANA

A two-storey Thai-style building, built and dedicated to the King Rama IV, who carried the name of “Vajiranyana Bhikkhu” during his ordination and first took residence at Wat Bovoranives Vihara. Moreover, it was to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the monastery.

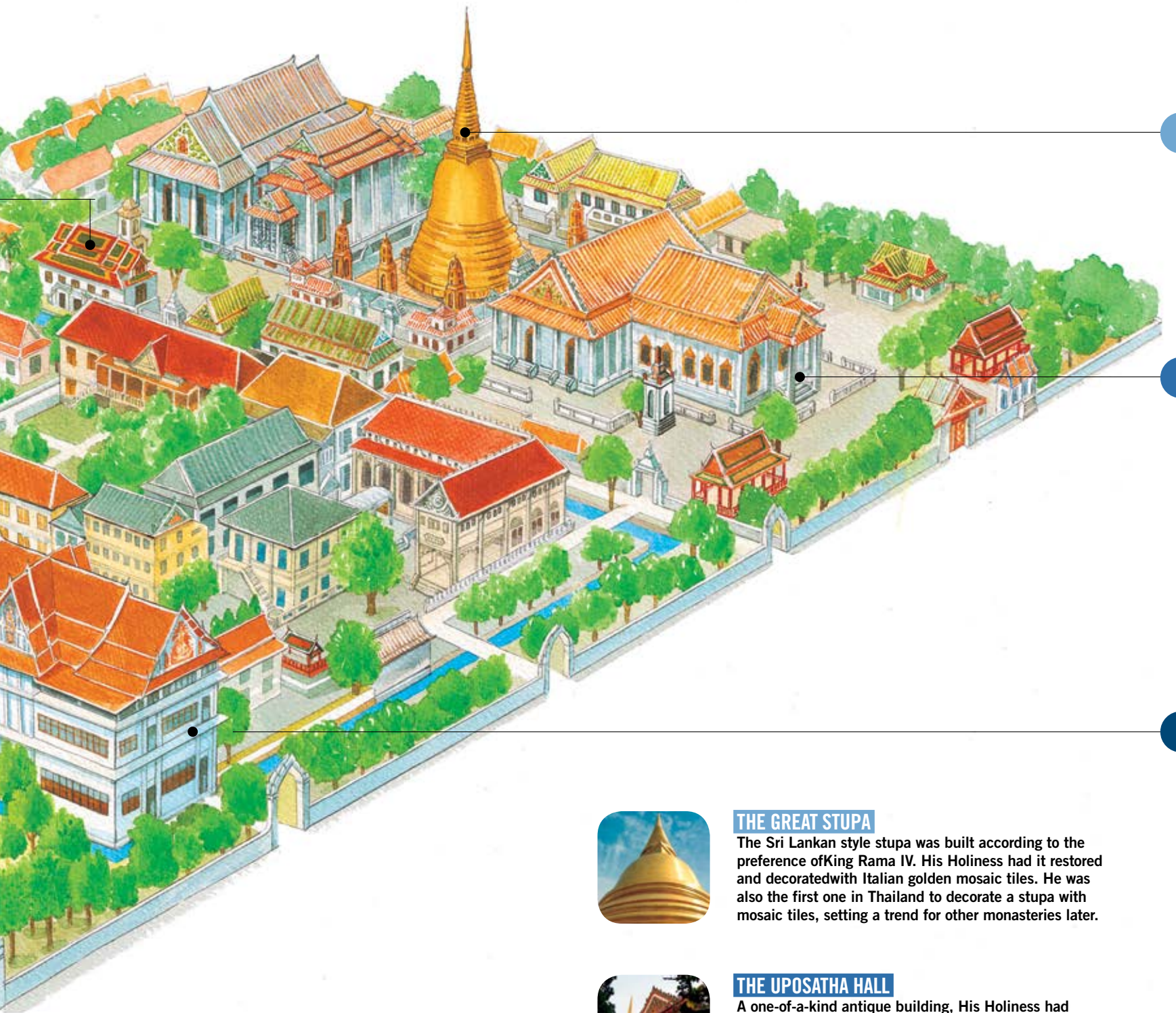


KAVIBANNALAYA BUILDING

A building constructed to accommodate the dean's office of Mahamakut Buddhist University.



Constructions and restorations within the compound of Wat Bo



THE GREAT STUPA

The Sri Lankan style stupa was built according to the preference of King Rama IV. His Holiness had it restored and decorated with Italian golden mosaic tiles. He was also the first one in Thailand to decorate a stupa with mosaic tiles, setting a trend for other monasteries later.



THE UPOSATHA HALL

A one-of-a-kind antique building, His Holiness had the Hall restored with marble slabs from Italy in order to preserve the architectural and ancient arts which are unique specimens of their kind.



BHA.PA.RA. MUSEUM BUILDING

A Wat Bovornives Vihara museum, this three-storey Thai-style building was constructed to display the antiquities of the monastery to the public.

varanives Vihara that were closely attended to by His Holiness



Wat Bovoranives Vihara was built in the reign of King Rama III. King Mongkut was the first royal abbot of this monastery and it has been a temporary royal residence for the Thai Monarchy when they are ordained as Buddhist monks.





His Holiness had the crematory built at Wat Devasangharam where the old wooden building of Devasangharam Temple School, his first school, used to be located.

Construction and Restoration

Construction and restoration of many Buddhist buildings have been done for the perpetuation of the Buddhist heritage and for the artistic expression of the people's wholehearted veneration and gratitude to the Buddha, the Dhamma, and the Sangha. Nearly 100 construction and restoration projects had been initiated by His Holiness, with the most important ones listed as followed:

1. Domestic Constructions and Restorations

In remembrance of and with gratitude towards his preceptors, teachers and other benefactors, His Holiness dedicated a project to each and every individual who had shown him the spiritual path to deliverance: Bha.Pa.Ra. Study Pavilion at Wat Devasangharam (Wat Nuea) in gratitude to his first preceptor and progenitor of his spiritual life, Luang Phoe Dee; Ravidevananda Building in gratitude to the Devasangharam Temple School where he received his primary education as a child.

One such beautiful and artistic building is Wat Nyanasamvararam in Chon Buri Province, dedicated to His Majesty King Bhumibol Aduyadej,

the present monarch, and to all of his royal predecessors. As a part of protecting rock mountain and environment, His Holiness also initiated a bas-relief depiction of Lord Buddha hewn out of a cliff face known locally as Chi-Chan Mountain. This impressive carving was skillfully outlined by laser and by the use of gilding. Holy relics of the Buddha were installed inside the engraved Buddha. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by His Majesty the King.

The beautiful white and grey Phra Boromathat Chedi Srinagarindra Sathit Maha Santikhiri at Wat Santikhiri Nyanasamvararam, Doi Mae Salong, Chiang Rai, was constructed in honour of H.R.H. the Princess Mother. The pinnacle of the pagoda is a beautiful golden colour and glimmers atop its mountain location.

There are other constructions and restorations of temples in both near and remote areas: Wat Ratchadabhisek and Wat Buddhavimuti in Kanchanaburi; Wat Wangphusai in Phetchaburi and Wat Lanna Nyanasamvararam in Chiang Mai.



The Bha.Pa.Ra. Museum Building His Holiness built to replace the old wooden building that was disassembled in order to build the crematory. On the right, The Ravidevananda Building where His Holiness intended to use as Devasangharam Temple School can also be seen.

2. International Constructions and Restorations

With his vision, His Holiness recognised the importance of Dhammaduta (missionary) work by helping Theravada Buddhism in other countries and, at the same time, upholding the friendly relations of international communities. His efforts over the years have blossomed on many of the world's continents.

With His Holiness' perpetual support, several Theravada groups around the world approached him with requests for His Holiness to act as their Chairman of the Administrative Committee, as well as Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee, for constructions projects of temples and Uposatha halls - many of which still continue up until today. For instance, Wat Buddharangsee in Sydney, Australia, which is the first Theravada temple on the that continent; Wat Jakarta Dhammacakka Jaya in Jakarta, Indonesia; Wat Carolina Buddhajakra Vanaram, USA.; Uposatha Hall of Wat Nagara Mandapa Srikirti Vihara in Kirtipur and Wat Thai Lumbini in Lumbini, Nepal.

3. Construction and Restoration within Wat Bovoranives Vihara

As abbot of Wat Bovoranives monastery, His Holiness closely supervised

the restoration of the whole compound, including these important structures:

- The Uposatha Hall. His Holiness had the hall restored with marble slabs from Italy in order to preserve its original architecture and ancient artwork, which are unique examples of that style of art.
- The Sri Lankan style Great Stupa. His Holiness had the whole stupa decorated with Italian golden mosaic tiles, making the stupa glimmer beautifully in the sunlight.
- Bha.Pa.Ra. Museum Building. The Wat Bovoranives Vihara Museum was constructed to display the monastery's antiquities.
- Sa.Va. Dhammanives Building was built and dedicated to H.R.H. the Princess Mother.
- Kavibannalaya Building was built to accommodate the dean's office and the library of Mahamakut Buddhist University.

All the aforementioned projects reflect and capture not only the vision, gratitude and zeal of His Holiness, but also his insight and compassion for the Thai people, and for the welfare and happiness of the entire world. 🙏



Inspecting the construction
of Vihara Sien at
Wat Nyanasamvararam,
in Chon Buri province.





The Phra Boromathat Chedi Srinagarindra Sathit Maha Santikhiri at Wat Santikhiri Nyanasamvararam on Doi Mae Salong in Chiang Rai was constructed in honour of H.R.H. the Princess Mother. The area was initially named "Baan Santikhiri" village and was reserved by the Supreme Command Headquarters as a territory of the ex-Chinese martyrs who migrated to Thailand. In 1987, His Holiness visited the village and realised that most of the villagers were Buddhist, but there was only one monk's residence that could be use to perform religious activities. Thus, His Holiness initiated the construction of the Buddha-relic pagoda in front of the residence. The Phra Boromathat Chedi Srinagarindra Sathit Maha Santikhiri stood graciously on Doi Mae Salong since then.



A great Pagoda constructed in imitation of the Bodh Gaya, the place where Buddha attained the enlightenment. His Holiness had this Pagoda built at Wat Nyanasamvararam, Chon Buri province.





PHOTO BY NARONGSHAI WISAWATEE



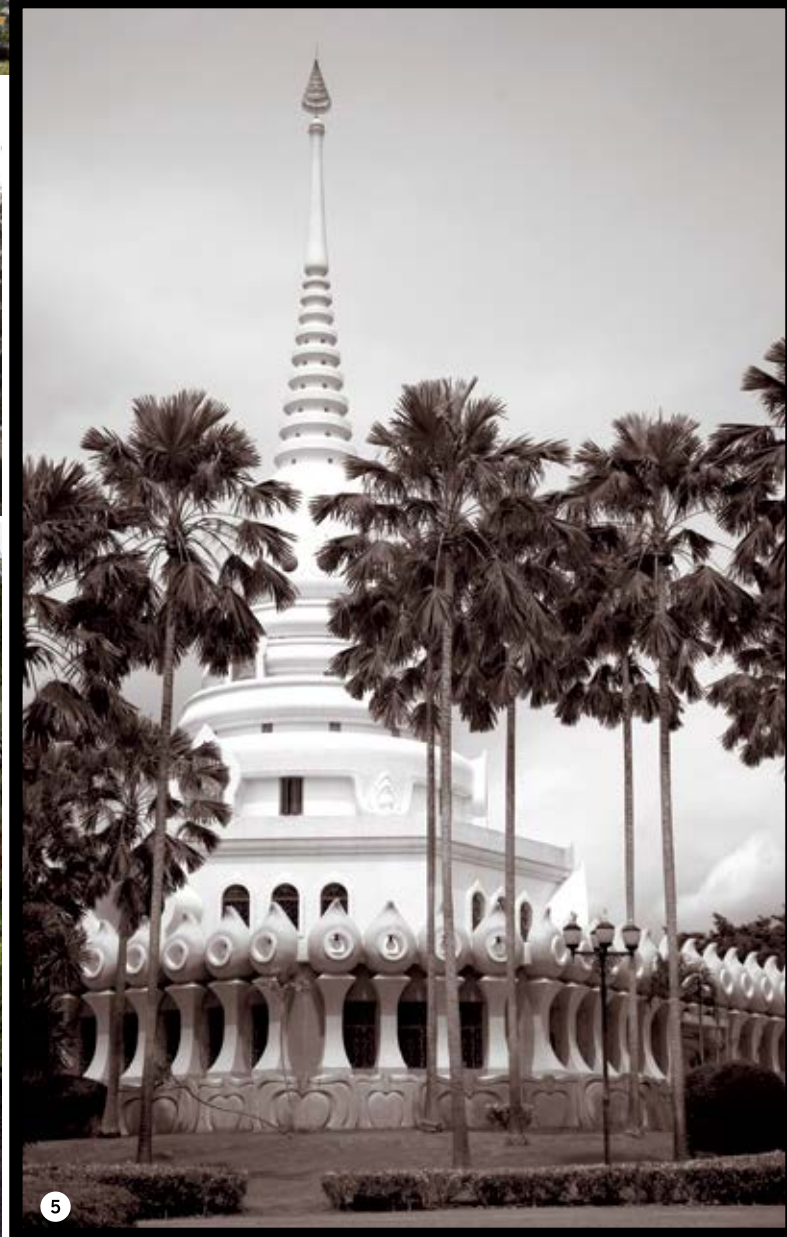
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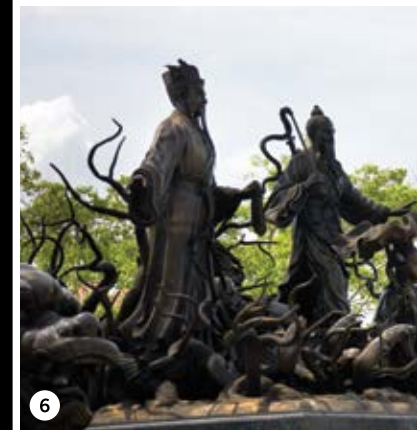
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**STRUCTURES WITHIN
WAT NYANASAMVARARAM**

1. 'Phra Buddha Maha Vajirautta-mophat Satsada', the depiction of the Buddha on the face of Mount Chi-Chan, outlined by laser and gold pigment.
2. Uposatha Hall.
3. Vihara Phra Sri Araya Mettrai.
4. Vihara Sien.
5. Royal Maha Chakri Chedi (Pagoda).
6. The sculptures at Vihara Sien.
7. The international pavilion hall.
8. One of His Holiness' Residences on Mount Chi-On.
9. Another residence in the Wat area.
10. A mandapa - a square building with a crown-like spire - located on Phra Phutthabat cliff.
11. The reception Pavilion on Mount Chi-On.

PHOTO BY NARONGCHAI WISAWAVETEE



(LEFT) His Holiness supervising construction of a kuti
at Wat Nyanasamvararam in Chon Buri province on 24 April 1982.
(RIGHT) His Holiness was presiding over the relic installation ceremony at the Mount Chi-Chan
in Wat Nyanasamvararam, Chon Buri province on 28 November 2001.



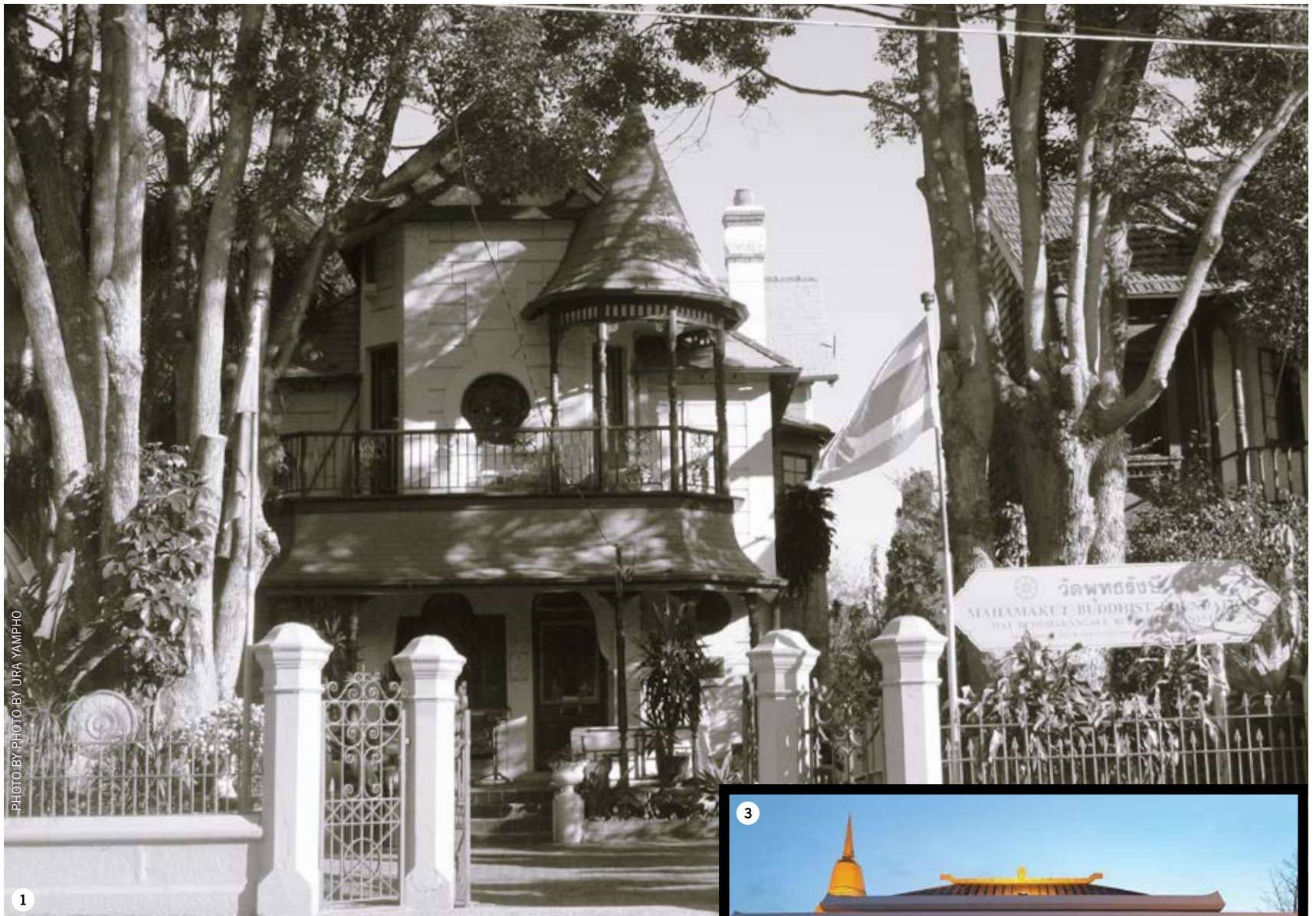


PHOTO BY PHOTO BY URA YAMPHO

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1. Wat Buddharangsee Stanmore in Sydney, Australia, is the first Theravada Buddhist temple in the Australian continent. It was established by His Holiness in 1995 and commissioned by Mahamakuta Rajavidyalaya Foundation Under Royal Patronage.

2. Wat Carolina Buddhajakra Vanaram in North Carolina, USA., was commissioned by His Holiness. Every monk staying at this temple was from Wat Boveranives Vihara.

3. The chapel at Wat Jakarta Dhammacakka Jaya. (RIGHT) Srikirti Vihara in Kirtipur, Nepal, is under His Holiness' Patronage. The chapel was built in Thai architectural style and the vihara enshrines a beautiful Buddha image from Thailand.



泰僧王智護尊者墨寶

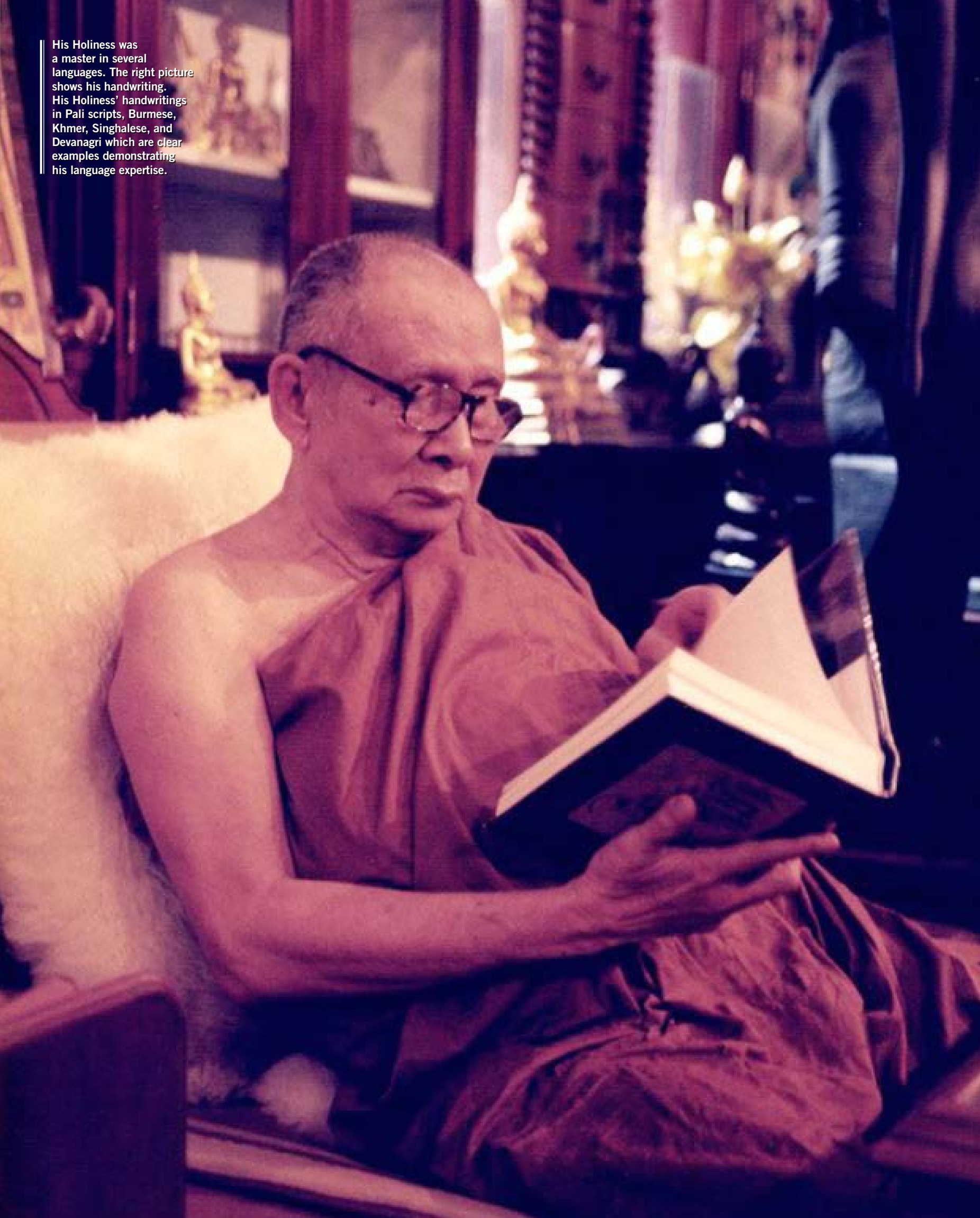
明
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His Holiness had prodigious abilities in language skills. Besides Chinese, he was interested in other foreign languages, including English, French, German, Sanskrit, and Khmer. The picture shows His Holiness writing Chinese characters using a Chinese brush during his visit to the People's Republic of China in 1993. The auspicious word says, "Bringing the Buddha to one's mind; bringing brightness to one's mind."

His Holiness was a master in several languages. The right picture shows his handwriting. His Holiness' handwritings in Pali scripts, Burmese, Khmer, Singhalese, and Devanagri which are clear examples demonstrating his language expertise.

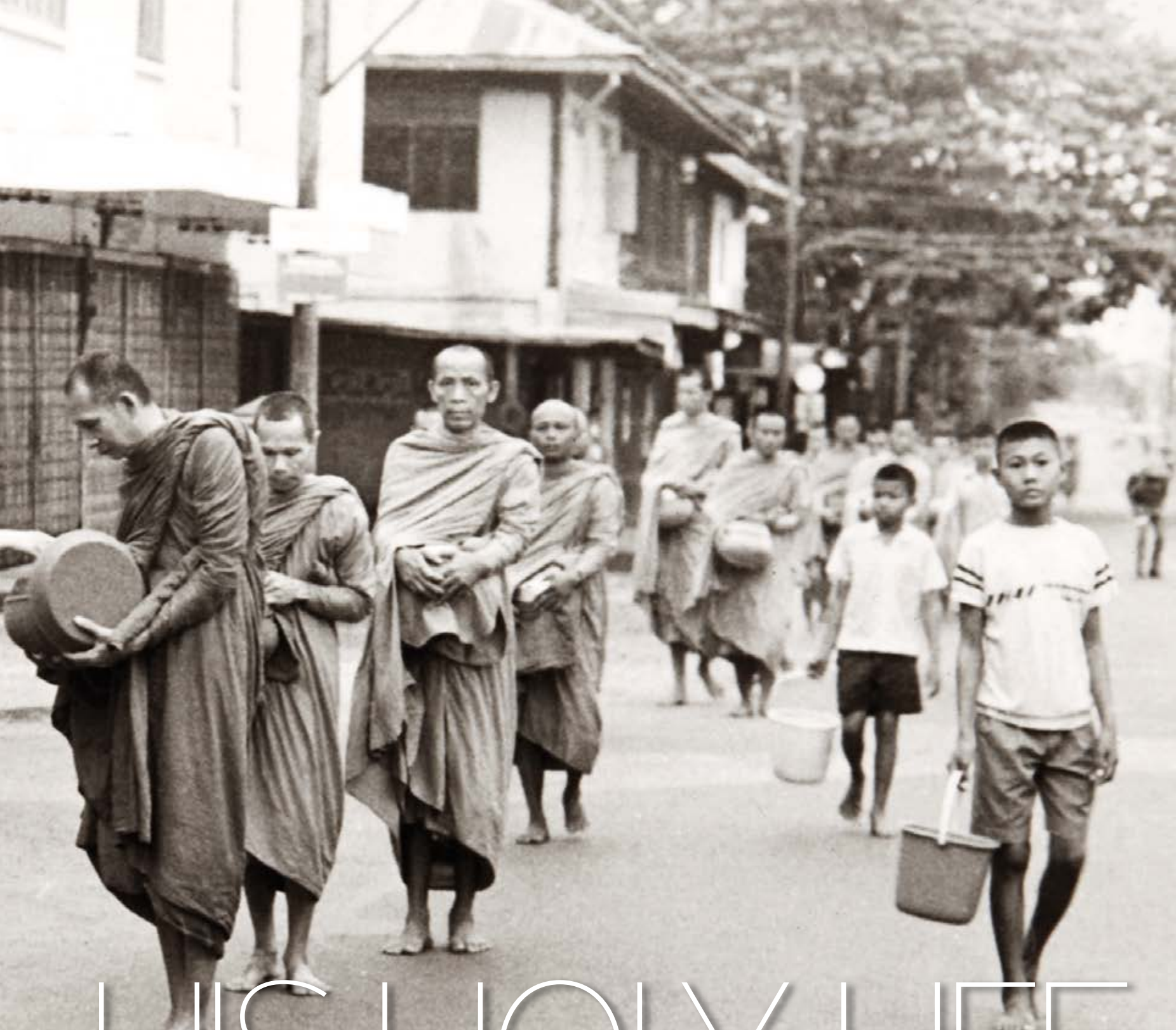








**“Dhamma is an ornament that adorns one
and makes a human truly humane and graceful.
If compared to worldly treasures,
and ...”**



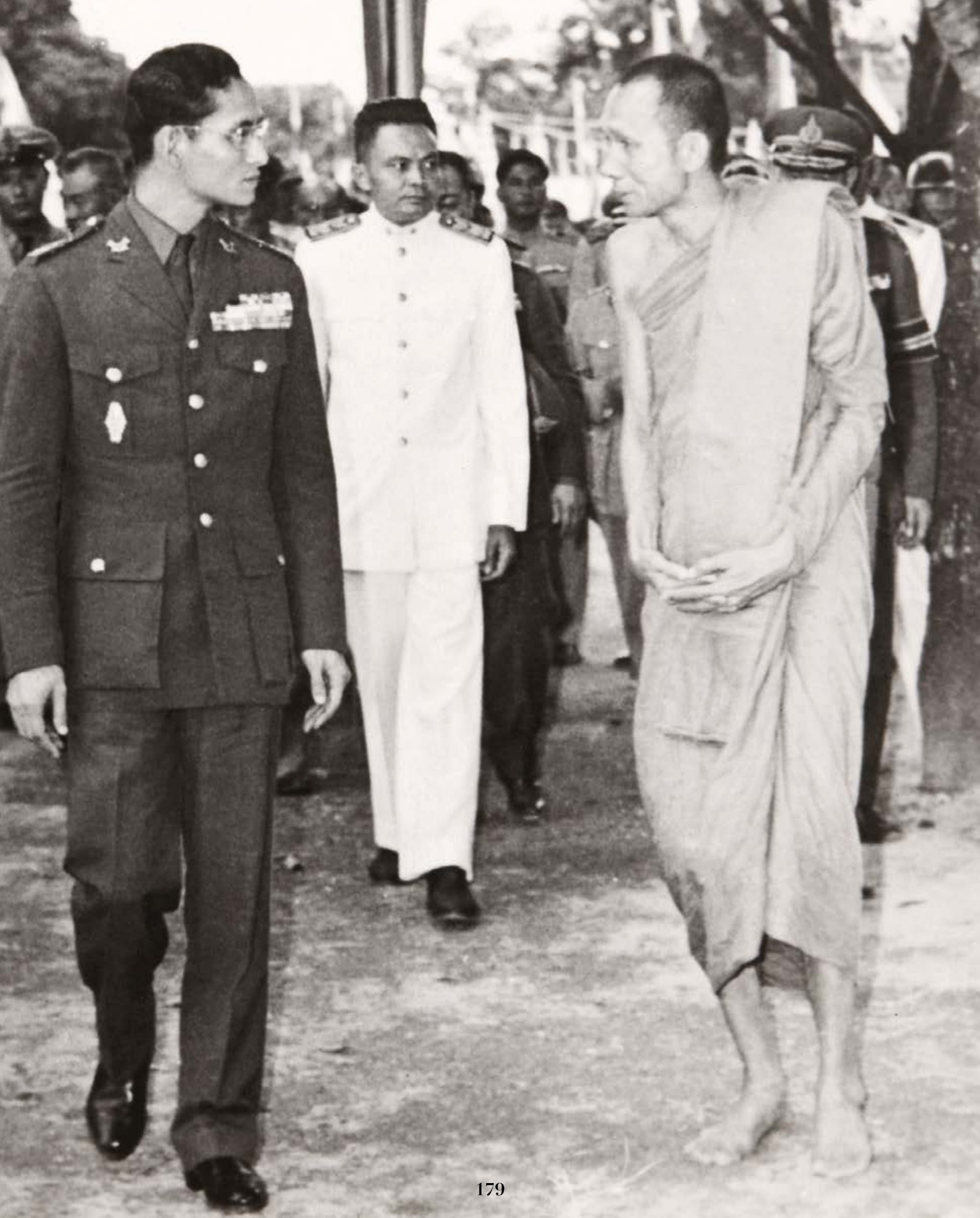
HIS HOLY LIFE

ne's mind, nourishes it until the mind grows and prospers, useful so as to become a learned, happy and serene person. treasure, Dhamma is like nourishment that nurtures the body sustains life, like jewelry that beautifies our appearance."

Principles of Buddhism



Back when he was Phra Sasanasobhana, His Holiness, on behalf of Phra Khru Adulyasamanakij (Luang Phoe Dee), His Holiness' preceptor, had the chance to welcome His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, H.R.H. the Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn and Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya, who presided over the Royal Kathin Ceremony at Wat Devasangharam in 1963.





If you'd like to revere a good monk, you don't have to come as far as Chiang Mai. You already have one in Bangkok. Go visit Somdet Phra

Nyanasamvara." So said Luang Pu Waen to one of his followers who had travelled from the Thai capital to Wat Doi Mae Pang in Chiang Mai, where Luang Pu was living.

The above comment was a reconfirmation from that great monk, Luang Pu Waen, widely revered as a supatipanno (noble disciple of good conduct), that His Holiness had lived a righteous life, and had thus been a beacon of light for all Buddhists in the modern Thai capital.

His Holiness always venerated and lived according to Dhamma, making everyone who knew him felt as though Dhamma adorned him. The title 'Phra Sobhanaganabhorn' (Phra Rajagana's rank) which means 'like a jewel or a robe that beautifies one's community,' was therefore conferred on him in 1947. His subsequent title, the Venerable Phra Dhammavarabhorn, was conferred upon him in 1956; it means 'one sublimely adorned with Dhamma.'

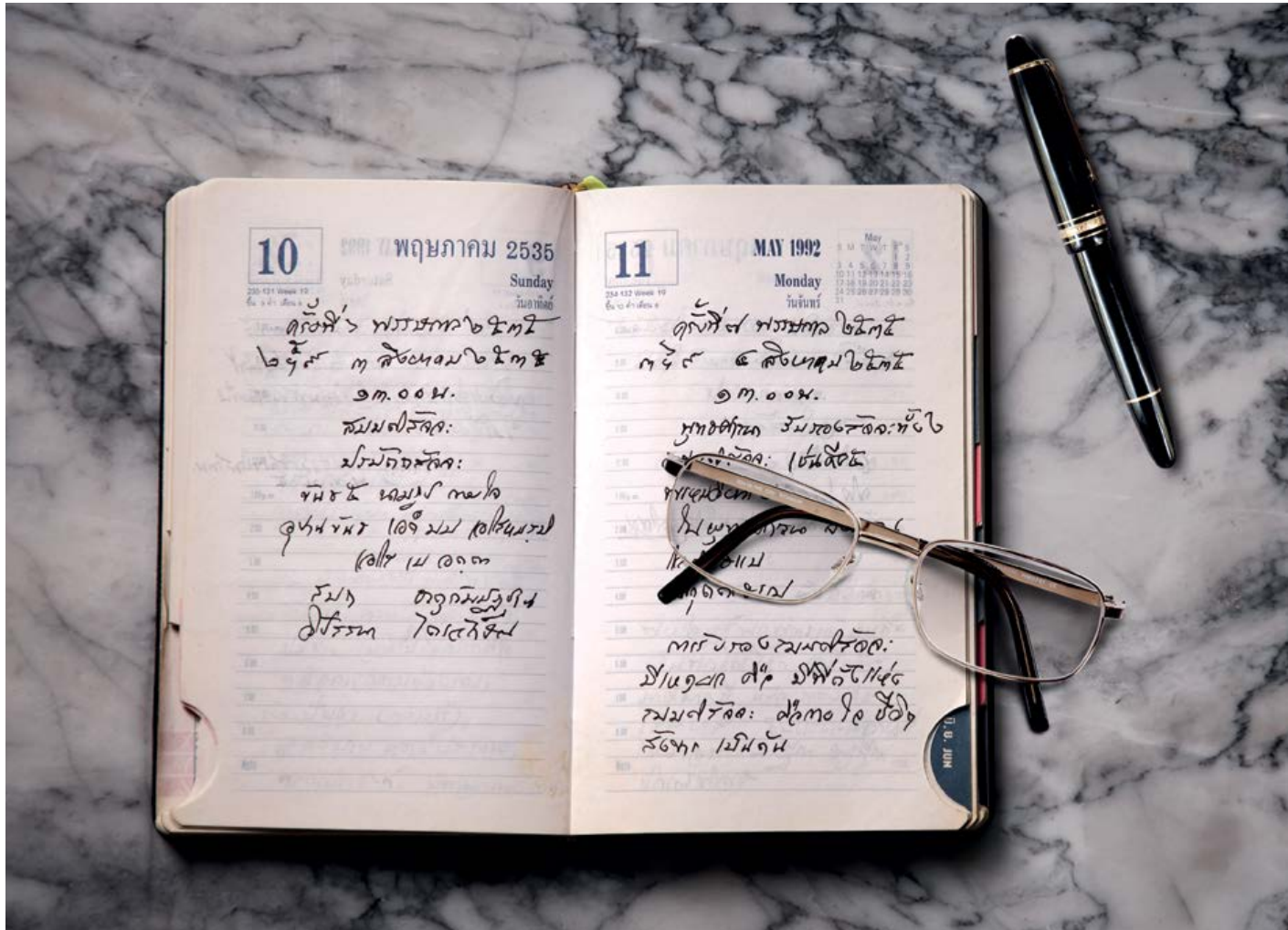
People who had seen His Holiness whether close up or from afar, and those with whom His Holiness had engaged in conversation, had all felt impressed by his grace and delighted in his ever-present serenity. The conscientious and compassionate nature that shone from within him inspired trust and become the liberating ideal imprinted in the minds of monks and lay people alike. His Holiness' presence had instilled hope in their daily lives that freedom was possible, that suffering can be alleviated if they tread the same righteous path, living a wholesome life according to Dhamma.

(RIGHT) His Holiness at Luang Chareun Ritthisatra Residence. After being appointed the abbot of Wat Bovoranives Vihara, His Holiness started a major renovation of the temple and built many other facilities within the temple grounds.





(LEFT) His Holiness had always possessed such gentleness, humbleness and compassion. He treated everyone with kindness. The picture shows him back when he was Phra Sasanasobhana. *(RIGHT)* Sample of his handwriting from his personal notebook. His Holiness was a dedicated teacher, who was always very well prepared for his lessons.



Daily Life

Everyday, at approximately 4:00 a.m., His Holiness would rise, recite morning chanting and meditate, before carrying his bowl on alms round. Around 9:00 a.m., he would have his one and only meal of the day, eating from his alms bowl. He would then receive guests for one hour in the morning, and then again in the afternoon, otherwise he would read and conduct researches. Should a more urgent matter arise, then his usual morning and afternoon activities would be rescheduled.

His Holiness accepted as many invitations as he possibly could; it might be an opening of a small shop or a larger event, but as long as they were made by people from all walks of life, then His Holiness would be pleased to accept the invitations. When his close supporters showed their concern that he was working too hard, he would gently explained, "I am a people's monk."

In the evening, when the heat of the day had passed, he would walk around the temple to exercise while inspecting the premises, then he would do more paperwork, research and meditation until it was time to retire. He slept no more than 3-4 hours a night.

Mindful Existence

Composure and strict adherence to the moral precepts forms a part of his inner character.

He studied his monk's vows carefully and was always mindful never to transgress them.

He used every possible moment to meditate. People very often saw him sitting upright, eyes closed and at peace. Then he would move on to continue his work calmly as his schedule dictated.

Gratitude

His Holiness always remembered and feels grateful towards those who were kind to him in his childhood and took every opportunity he could to repay their kindness. Gratitude was thus one of his outstanding characteristics, part of the very core of his existence, which personified his holy life.

Every year he would hold a ceremony to dedicate merit to his 18 predecessors, the Supreme Patriarchs of Thailand in Rattanakosin era, including all his preceptors and teachers. He also had a school built and a temple renovated, dedicating these activities to his first preceptor, Luang Phoe Dee of Wat Devasangharam.

In memory of his second preceptor, the 13th Supreme Patriarch, Somdet Phra Sangharaja Chao Krom Luang Vajiranyanavangsa of Wat Bovoranives Vihara, His Holiness constructed a building in his name. All the Thai Kings of the past are remembered through various commemorative building projects, including schools and hospitals, and the monument to King Rama V in Kanchanaburi.

In deep gratitude to his mother, His Holiness brought her to Bangkok and had her living in a small white cottage next to his own residence in Wat Bovoranives Vihara. She stayed there until her passing. He also founded 'the Noi Gajavatra Foundation' in memory of his parents, both of whom had 'Noi' as a part of their name. The foundation provides funds to support the education of monks, novices and young people, for His Holiness recognised the importance of educating people. He always said, "I had no opportunity for a higher education, so I would like to provide such an opportunity to others whenever possible."



His Holiness presenting an offering to His Holiness Phra Ariyavongsagatayana (Pun Punnasiri) at Tamnak Phet, Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

“Lord Buddha taught Dhamma in places already appealed to the renunciants who had already morality, and cultivated themselves in knowledge. On the lay side, Lord Buddha approached the learned men. When these people understood in living Dhamma, then many others would follow.”



His Holiness welcoming His Majesty the King, who presided over a ceremony to mark the monastic boundary of Wat Poh Sri in Sing Buri province.

*ready civilized. We will see that his Teaching
already practised concentration, lived in subtle
knowledge, with a hope to transcend suffering.
The leaders first: kings, peers, Brahmins, and
the good Dhamma and secured their minds firmly
to follow.”*

‘45 Years of the Buddha’



- (LEFT) His Holiness attended the ceremony of interring an offering inside the pagoda at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.
- (RIGHT) 1. One of His Holiness' routines was paying respect to former Supreme Patriarchs of Rattanakosin portraits at Tamnak Phet.
2. The third floor of the Hall where His Holiness did his daily chanting and meditation.
3. His Holiness paying homage to Somdet Phra Wannarat (Jab Thitadhammo) at Wat Somanas Rajavaravihara during Buddhist Lent.
4. His Holiness on his alms round.



Humility and Respect

One aspect of His Holiness's character that never changed was his humble respect towards elder monks as he considered the years spent in monkhood to be an important indication of seniority. Even when he assumed the highest position as Supreme Patriarch of the country, he still paid his respects to all monks who were senior (years as a monk) to him. When he knew that a visiting monk had been ordained for more years than he had, His Holiness would invite 'his elders' to sit on a higher seat. He would then pay respect to them in the manner prescribed by Buddhist practice. With younger monks, he always welcomed them politely with compassion and kindness.



Loving Teacher

His enthusiasm for learning and his love of imparting knowledge to others were well known. His Holiness possessed the heart of a teacher who never fails to pass on the best to his students, wishing only that they would receive what he had presented to them.

With a pleasing voice, he spoke clearly when teaching Dhamma and ended every teaching session exactly on time, without a clock to time himself. He let those close to him absorb his teaching mainly through his ethical and loving behaviour.

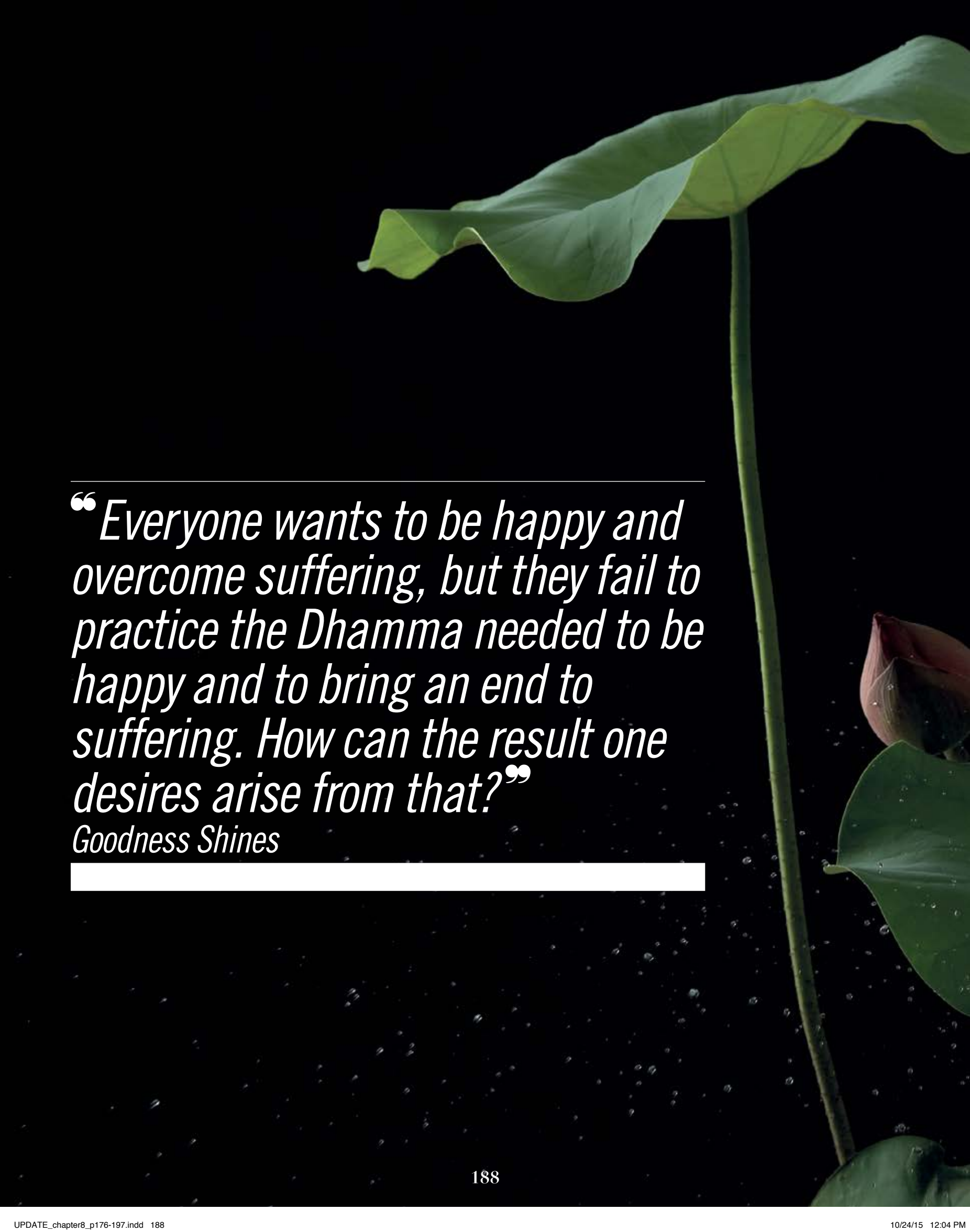
Peaceful Simplicity

His Holiness lived simply and was always modest, patient, and unattached to the formality that had become a part of his life as the Supreme Patriarch. No special decoration was allowed in his residence. No unnecessary things cluttered his room. He taught monks and novices that, "Monks and novices should not live in luxury. In abandoning the life of a householder, one must renounce the unnecessary."

His Holiness preferred using his well-worn saffron robes to new ones. He also preferred to wash and repair these garments himself. All monks and novices were told to use the temple's resources economically. Any surplus offerings must be redistributed to those in need, for instance, when the Rains Retreat was over.

An expensive car was once offered to him for his personal use. "There is no place to keep it," he responded, trying not to offend the donor when refusing the luxurious offering. In merit-making ceremonies at other temples, the abbots of those temples would often offer His Holiness part of the donations given by the public. His Holiness always accepted the donations and then returned them right away, saying "I would like to join you in making merit myself."

The values that His Holiness had cultivated ensured that he had found success in his life. It helped him to get through life's difficulties and disappointments, which are a normal part of worldly existence. His life had been an outstanding example for others to follow.



“Everyone wants to be happy and overcome suffering, but they fail to practice the Dhamma needed to be happy and to bring an end to suffering. How can the result one desires arise from that?”

Goodness Shines



PHOTO BY NARONGCHAI WISAWWETEE



His Holiness received food offering at Buddha Monthon, Nakhon Pathom province.



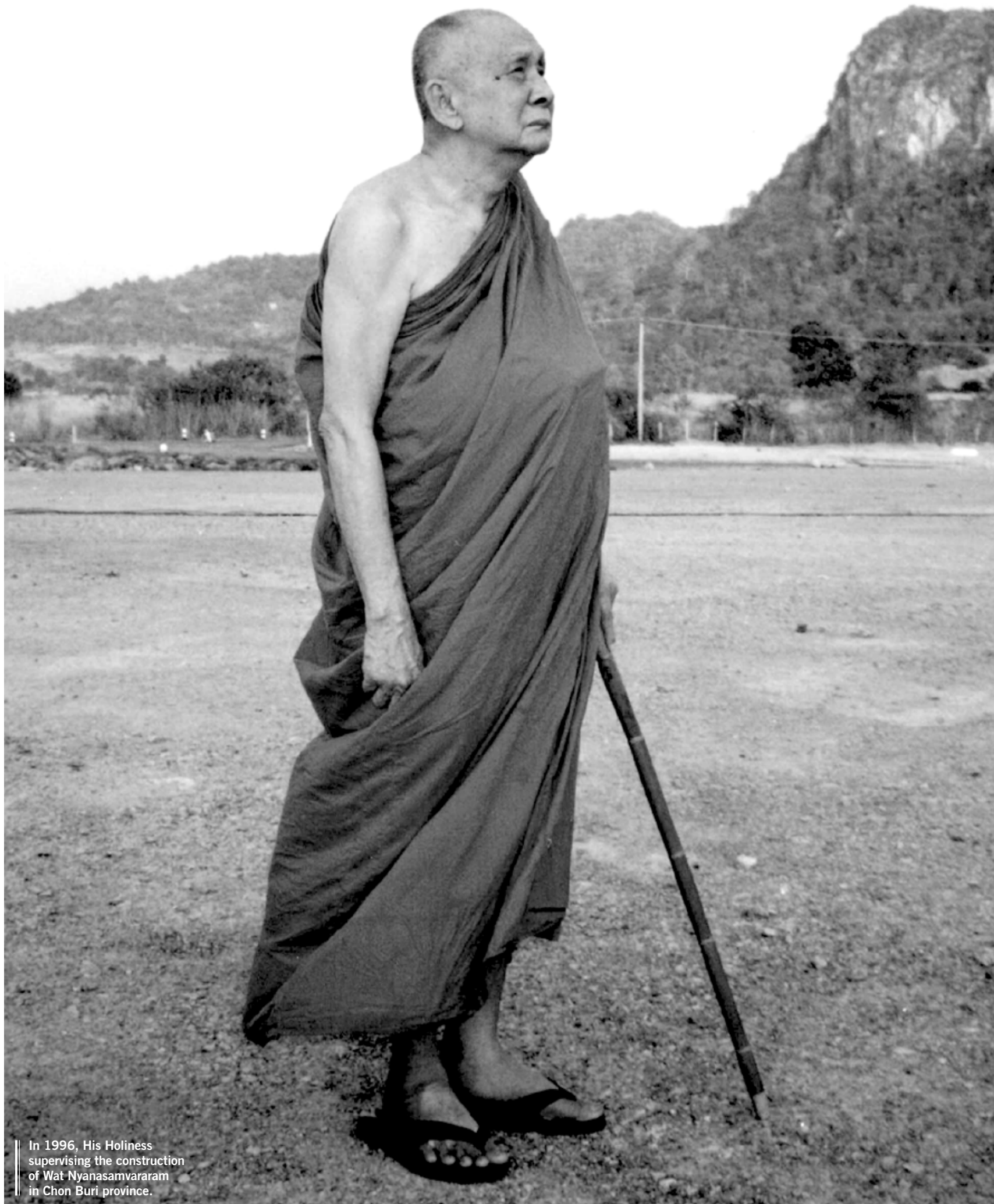
His Holiness once visited the Pillar of King Ashoka, located in a middle of a rice field in the village of Nigalihava in Kapilavastu, Nepal. The path to the Pillar of King Ashoka was rather difficult to walk and it made the travelling party exhausted by the time they got there. Tired from the walk, His Holiness simply plopped himself down on the ground amidst the surprise of his followers. This was one of the occasions that showed the unreservedness of His Holiness.



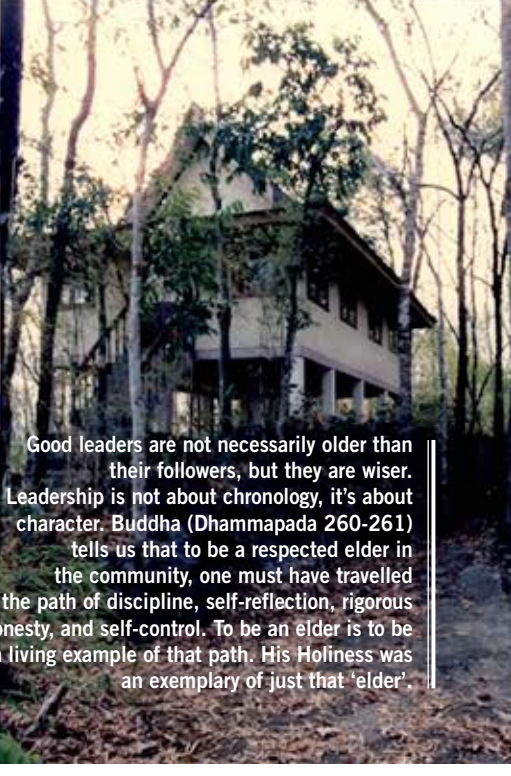
As His Holiness' last name was "Gajavatra," which means "behaving elegantly like an elephant", several believers brought elephant replicas to pay respect to His Holiness. The picture shows a blind bantam that His Holiness took care of.



Venerable Buddhadasa Bhikkhu's bantam joined his master and His Holiness during their conversation at Wat Suan Mokkhalaram, making His Holiness smile.



In 1996, His Holiness supervising the construction of Wat Nyanasamvararam in Chon Buri province.



Good leaders are not necessarily older than their followers, but they are wiser. Leadership is not about chronology, it's about character. Buddha (Dhammapada 260-261) tells us that to be a respected elder in the community, one must have travelled the path of discipline, self-reflection, rigorous honesty, and self-control. To be an elder is to be a living example of that path. His Holiness was an exemplar of just that 'elder'.





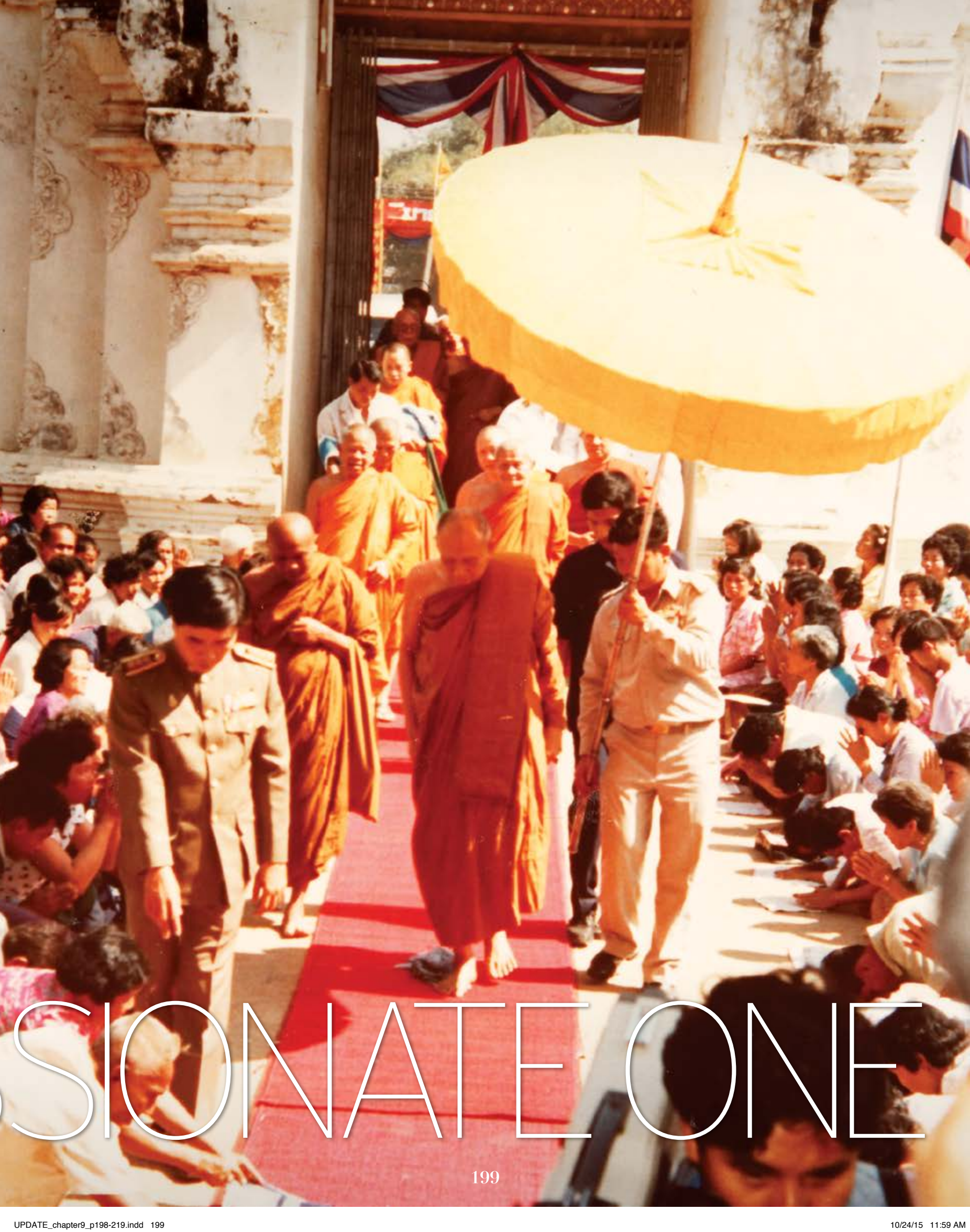
His Holiness paid respect to the relic of Somdet Phraputtakosajarn (Chareun Yanawaro) at Wat Debsirindaravas at the beginning of Buddhist Lent every year.

“All the buildings and sites like temples, schools and educational training centres, for example, which have been constructed by various people for the benefit of all, demonstrate the kindness those people have for others. Karuna (compassion) is the wish that others will overcome suffering. When one witnesses the pain of others and one’s heart is moved with concern for them, then one will be motivated to help alleviate their suffering. Thus karuna (compassion) is the opposite of vihimsa (cruelty). Anything that helps relieve the pain and suffering of others, such as the construction of a hospital, reflects the founders’ compassion.”

Ordinary Living, Ordinary Happiness

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Because of his compassionate nature, His Holiness always helped to alleviate the pain and suffering of the people. He always concerned himself with the well being of people and the happiness of the nation. Instilling Dhamma in people's hearts and teaching them to live in harmony with one another with loving care for others will build unity and mutual compassion within their own families and society.

His Holiness himself lighted the way and led people to a more peaceful life by extending his kindness to those in need without partiality. He especially focused on those who live in remote regions, providing many types of infrastructure that would benefit them. Some of those projects included:

- Somdet Phra Piyamaharaj Ramaniyakhet School in Kanchanaburi for needy and poor students, including a hospital of the same name near the school;
- Wat Nyanasamvararam Hospital in Chon Buri, for monks and lay people;
- Supreme Patriarch Buildings, or Sakolmaha-sanghaparinayok Buildings of which there are nineteen in number. Each is within a hospital and are located throughout the Kingdom. Besides being constructed to commemorate the 19 Supreme Patriarchs of Thailand, they are to provide educational as well as medical services to people who still lack such services in their area;
- Three additional structures to house more medical facilities in King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, Bangkok: Vajiranyanavongs Building, Vajiranyana Samakkhi-Phayaban Building and Bha.Pa.Ra. Building.



Devotees were paying respect to His Holiness along the way in Wat Bovoravives Vihara.



When the nation was struck with natural disasters or a crisis; His Holiness would move quickly to repair the damage and aid the victims. For instance, whenever and wherever there was a flood, he would bring provisions, medicines and relief to the affected people, at times personally delivering these supplies to the stricken sites.

On 14 October 1973, when many university students demonstrated their discontent with the government, various groups attacked the students with brutal force at the Phra Meru Grounds and along the Rajadamneun Avenue. His Holiness wrote an article encouraging everyone to maintain national unity. He had the article copied and distributed so as to calm violent emotions and reduce further damage.

In 1991, a fire broke out in the middle of the night among the houses behind Wat Bovoranives. The incident happened not far from His Holiness's residence. People were panicking as the raging inferno spread so his close followers, concerned for his welfare, asked him to move to a more secured building. But His Holiness was so concerned for the welfare of the people that he went immediately to help by calming their fears and asking them to make way for the firemen. His Holiness continued to comfort the community until the danger had passed. He then allowed them to take shelter in the temple's grounds till they could find alternative dwellings.

In 1997, when the 'Tomyamkung' economic crisis erupted, His Holiness went on alms rounds in several areas around Bangkok to console the people and gave them hope in that difficult time.

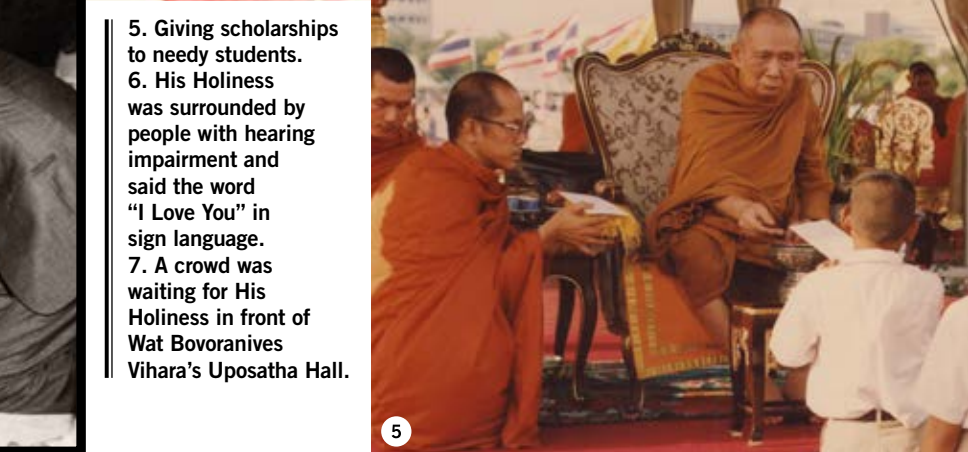
Every time the nation faced a crisis, His Holiness would ask monks from around the country to perform Buddhist chanting together to give spiritual support to the people. For instance, when His Majesty the King suffered ill health, His Holiness would always asked monks throughout the Kingdom to chant together to make merit and offer it to aid the king.

Even though His Holiness did not generally endorse the making of amulets, he usually granted permission to others to do so if it was for a purpose that would be beneficial to the public. And if he was invited to a ceremony to consecrate Buddha statues or amulets, he would rename the gathering as a 'mind pledging' (citta-adhitthana) ceremony so as to focus people's thoughts on the Triple Refuge, i.e. the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha - community of noble monks. He also generously allowed people to engrave his initials 'YSS' on such amulets or images, if that would help unite the people for a good purpose.

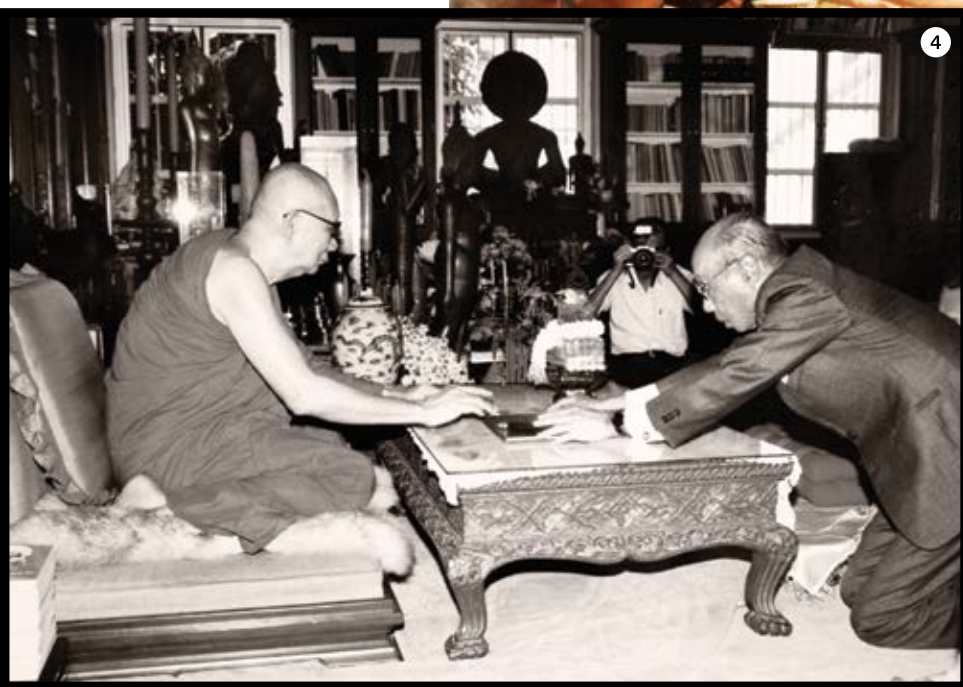


His Holiness recorded the blessing to His Majesty the King on His auspicious Birthday on 5th December 2002, at Vajranyana Samakki-Payaban Building, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital.

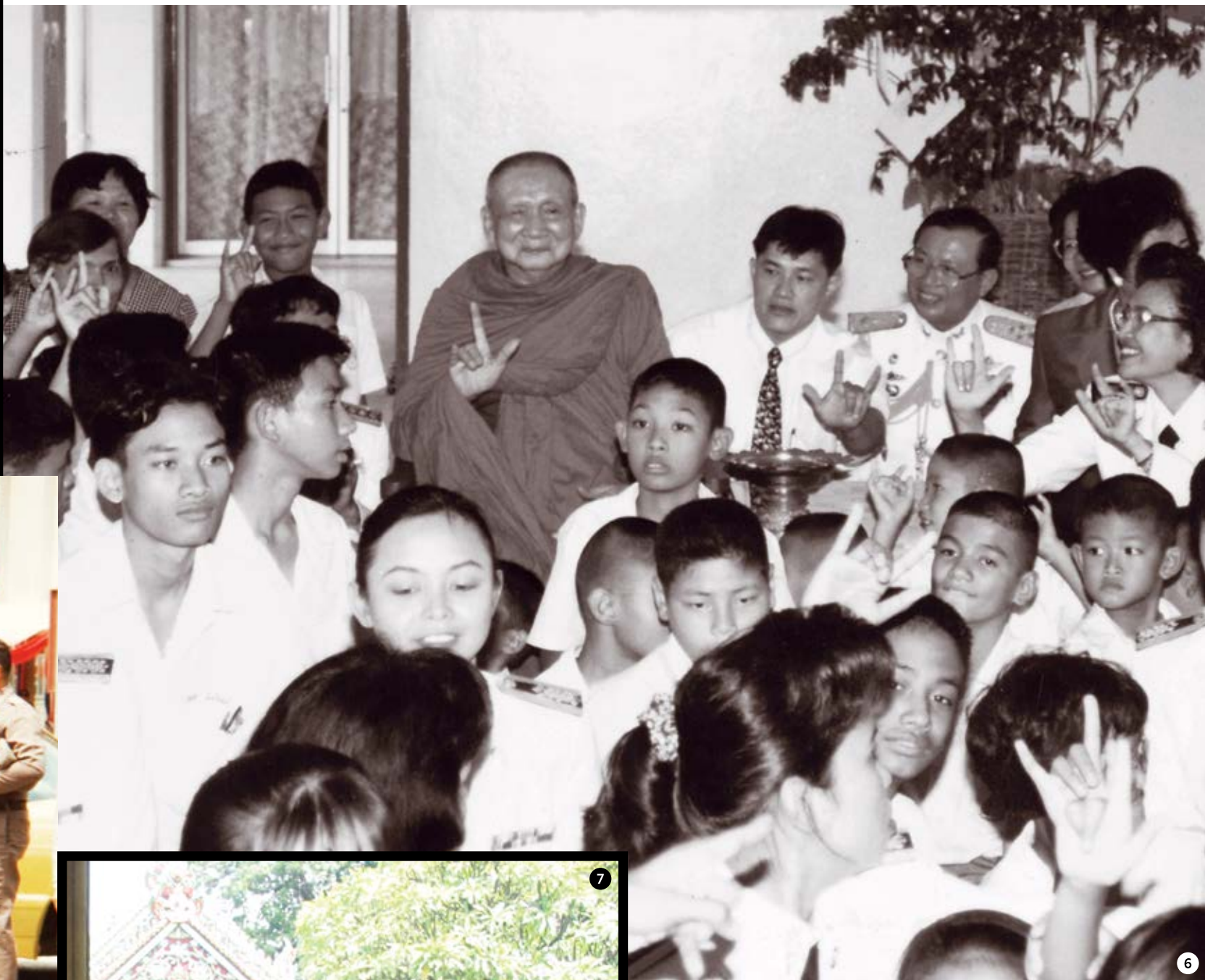




1. His Holiness planted a tree in the opening ceremony of the Faculty of Humanities, Kasetsart University on 23 June 1991.
2. The Supreme Patriarch led a group of monks to pray for the world peace at Wat Phra Si Rattana Satsadaram's Uposatha Hall on 30 October 2001.
3. The year he was appointed as Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Holiness visited and blessed monks, novices and the Buddhists living in the five southern provinces of Thailand, which are Songkhla, Satun, Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat.
4. Mr. Uthen Techapaibul, Chairman of the Board of Poh Teck Tung Foundation paid his homage to His Holiness. His Holiness placed gold, silver and copper leaves for casting Buddha image "Phra Tai Hong Kong" on 7 August 1990.



5. Giving scholarships to needy students.
6. His Holiness was surrounded by people with hearing impairment and said the word "I Love You" in sign language.
7. A crowd was waiting for His Holiness in front of Wat Bovoranives Vihara's Uposatha Hall.



invitations to 'mind pledging' ceremonies steadily increased in number as His Holiness' meditation ability became as well-known as his ability to teach the Dhamma. And, out of compassion for the people, he usually accepted their requests, including invitations to wedding ceremonies, funerals, shop openings and the launching of a naval ship or the commission of the national flag carrier's aeroplane and the like.

His Holiness considered imparting wisdom through the perception of Dhamma as the most inspiring gift to give to the people. But to encourage more people to become interested in Dhamma, a well thought-out approach was needed. When people visited the monastery to pay homage to the Supreme Patriarch, he always gave them a small Buddha amulet together with a Dhamma book that he had authored so as to pass on the message, "Keep the Buddha near you and keep Dhamma close to your heart." Thus his compassion and loving kindness extended to all without exception. He truly lived Dhamma and genuinely lived for others. He was a living example whose very life revealed the wealth of inner peace and skilful means he used to channel his physical and mental resources for the happiness of the people. *Om*







His Holiness distributing relief goods to villagers on his trip to Northeast of Thailand in 1978.





1

1. His Holiness received alms offered by the crowd who had been waiting for him at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital.

- 2. His Holiness was blessing a Thai Airways' aircraft.
- 3. His Holiness initiated a project to construct 19 buildings to honour 19 former Supreme Patriarchs of Rattanakosin. The buildings are named, "Sakolmaha-sanghapharinayok Buildings" followed by the numbers 1 to 19. (The picture shows the Sakolmaha-sanghapharinayok Building 5 Building for sick monks.)
- 4. His Holiness was blessing HTMS Chakri Naruebet.
- 5. His Holiness sprang the Holy water as a spiritual support for Thai Airways' captains and cabin crew.



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9. A new building at Tha Muang Hospital that His Holiness initiated the construction.
10. A Sakolmaha-sanghaparinayok Building Hospital in Kanchanaburi that His Holiness initiated the construction.

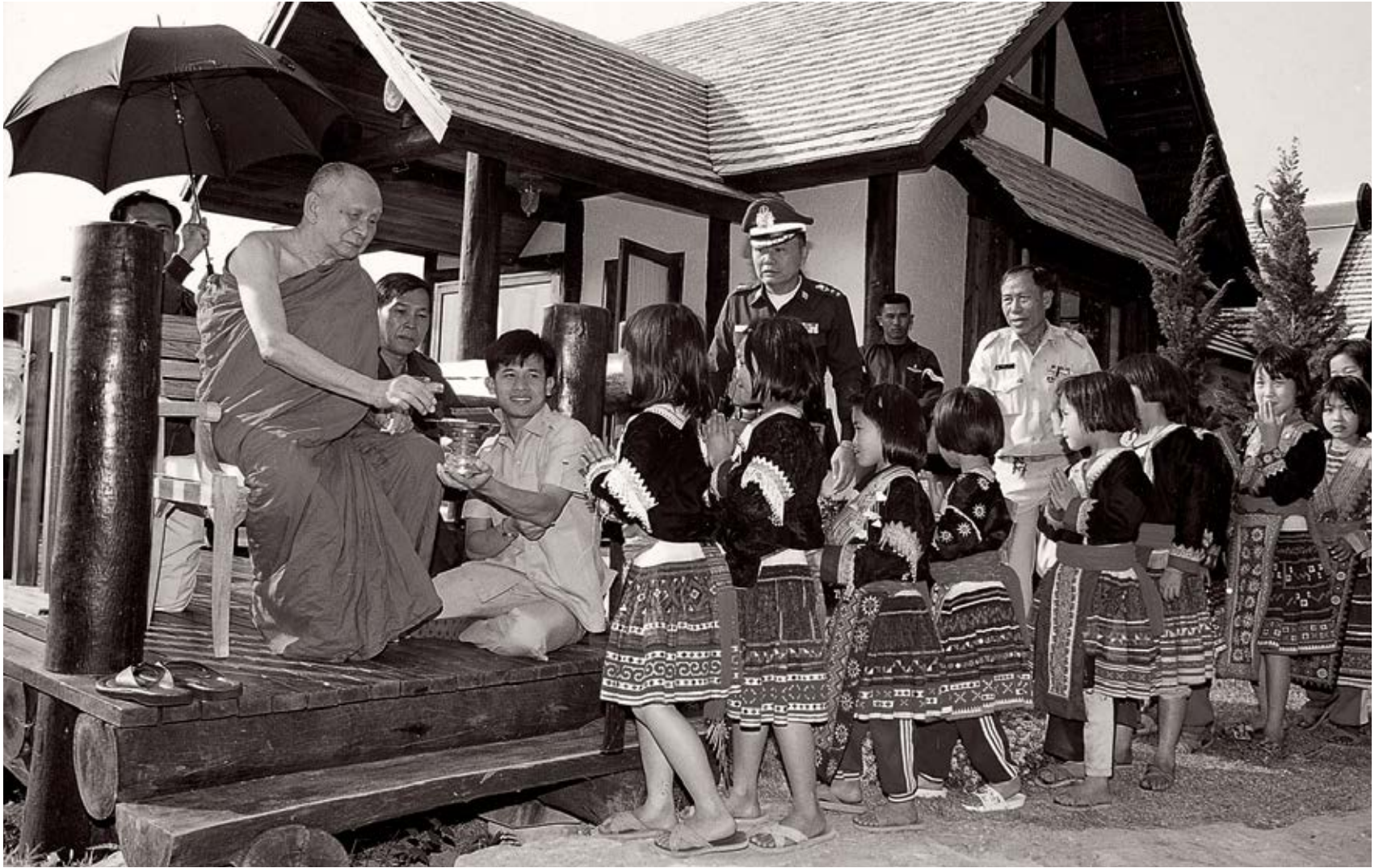
6. Somdet Phra Piyamaharaj Ramaniyakhet School.
7. During the Nargis flood in Myanmar on 4 May 2008, His Holiness donated supplies and medicines and gathered lots of supplies donated by the public for Burmese people. Venerable Dr. Ashin Yanisara, the Chairman of Association of Theravada Buddhist University, was the Burmese representative to receive the supplies at Khoi Tha Pramote Residence, Wat Bovoranives Vihara, on 22 May 2008. The Royal Thai Army and the Royal Thai Air Force also assisted with trucks and airplanes to transport the supplies.
8. His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara was highly revered even among Buddhists in foreign countries. As such, the Myanmar Government bestowed upon him the title of "Abhidhaja Maharathaguru", the highest ecclesiastical title of the Myanmar Sangha.



His Holiness blessing
the people who had
an audience with him
at Samnak Song
Doi Pui in Chiang Mai
in March, 1998.







His Holiness blessed and gave supplies to Hmong hill tribe who paid him homage on 22 February-4 March 1993.



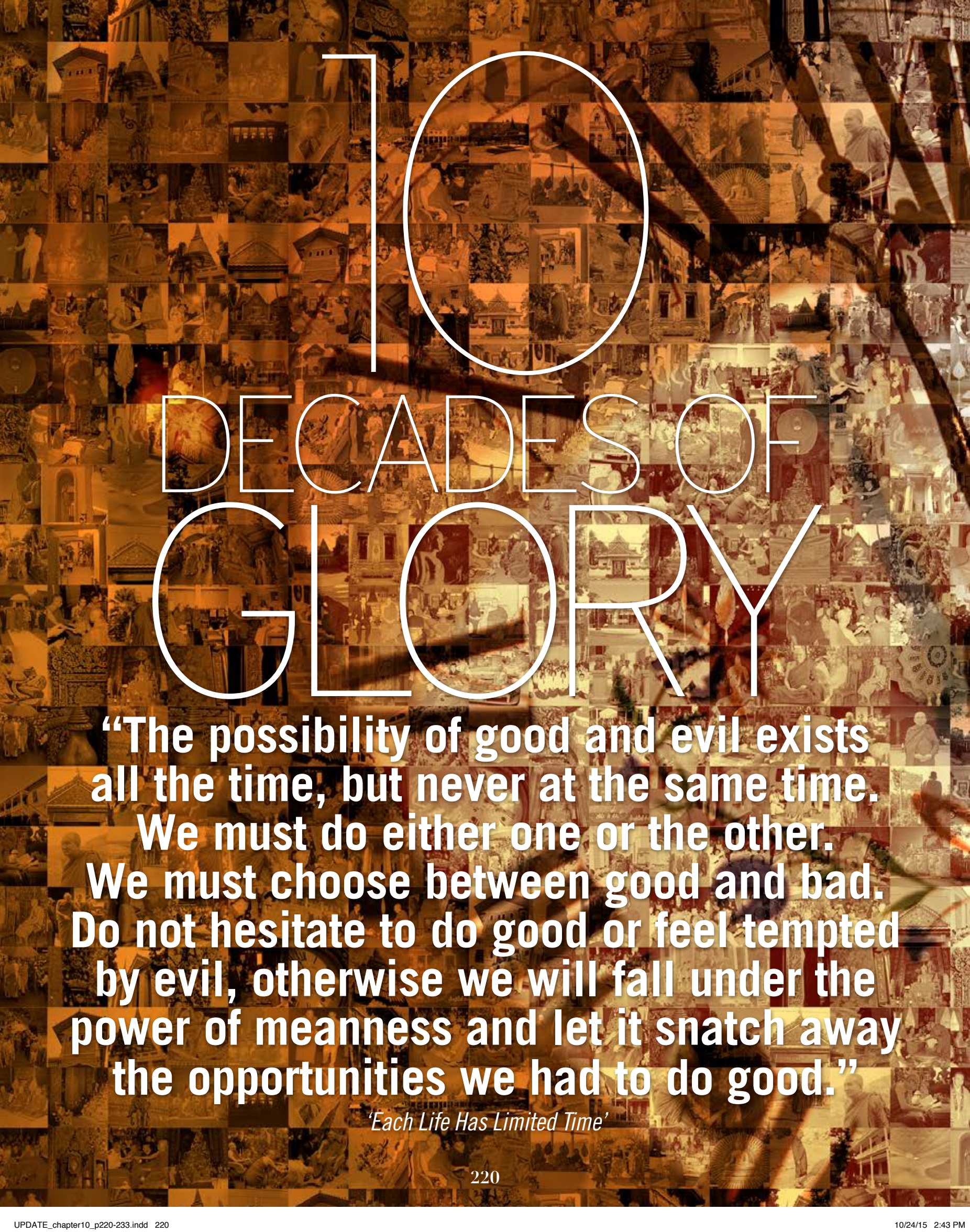
His Holiness travelled to different areas to meet the local people, no matter if it was near or far, on the plain or the plateau. This picture shows his visit to Doi Pui, Chiang Mai.

***“To have one’s mind radiate with joy,
one must work at achieving
this state of mind oneself.
No one can do it for you. How?
By being mindful, and also by being
able to recognise greed, hatred
or delusional behaviour.
One must use wisdom to guard
against their harmful effects.
Never hesitate. It can be compared
to letting fire burn down one’s own
house. The longer one hesitates,
the more difficult it is to put out
the fire, and the more damage is done.”***

Merit Shines So Bright

His Holiness inspected the fire accident near Trok Bovorn Rangsi, behind Wat Bovoranives Vihara, on 20 May 1991. He assisted those who lost their homes by allowing them to temporarily stay at the temple.





10 DECADES OF GLORY

“The possibility of good and evil exists all the time, but never at the same time. We must do either one or the other. We must choose between good and bad. Do not hesitate to do good or feel tempted by evil, otherwise we will fall under the power of meanness and let it snatch away the opportunities we had to do good.”

‘Each Life Has Limited Time’





On every 3rd of October, His Holiness' disciples and devotees would organise a birthday merit-making ceremony for him. In 2007, it was His Holiness' 94th birthday anniversary which he attended the ceremony at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.



In later years of his life, His Holiness seldom visited his residence, Khoi Tha Pramote building at Wat Bovoraniyes Vihara, for he was mostly in hospital. On 18 February 2008, while still in good health, His Holiness made one final visit to his abode for the last time.





Thailand's
Abhidhammaharathaguru title
Sayadaw Bhadanta Nyanasamvara
Age 77, Vassa 57



World Buddhist Supreme Conference

Buddhist Summit

His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara
Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand

Honorary Title

“Supreme Holiness of World Buddhism”

His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara,
Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand,
who has long been highly revered and deeply trusted by
the pious Thai people as the Supreme Patriarch of the land of smiles,
has taught the practice of wisdom and compassion, the teachings of Lord Buddha, and
has led the Kingdom toward the peaceful and prosperous country,
which serves as a model to the entire world.

The highest virtue of His Holiness extends throughout the Kingdom of Thailand and to
the Buddhist countries of the world and all human beings.

His Holiness's sincere devotion to Lord Buddha for many decades is
genuinely praised and admired from all the Buddhists throughout the world.

In appreciation of the glorious achievements of His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara,
along with the supreme Buddhist leaders of 32 countries of the world,

I hereby humbly dedicate this supreme honorary title to
His Holiness with great pleasure
on behalf of the 370 million Buddhists in the world.

September 1, 2012

Most Ven. Dr. Kyuse Enshinjoh
President of Buddhist Summit
World Buddhist Supreme Conference



THE DALAI LAMA

4 September 2013

His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara
The Supreme Patriarch of Thailand
248 Wat Bovoranives Vihara
Bangkok 10200
THAILAND

Your Holiness,

I would like to congratulate Your Holiness on the occasion of your 100th birthday, which will be celebrated on 3rd October this year. I join the millions of your people and people around the world, who will be conveying their heartfelt good wishes and prayers for your continued good health. It will indeed be a joyous occasion and worthy of celebration.

I have the deepest respect and admiration for the way you have carried out your religious responsibility. You are always held in the highest respect from my side.

Over the years I have been able to visit Thailand on a few occasions. I am always deeply moved by the warm friendship I have received from the Thai people from all walks of life. I have also valued the opportunity of meeting with other fellow Buddhist spiritual teachers and practitioners during my visits to Thailand. These will always remain vividly in my memory.

On this happy occasion I once again offer you my hearty greetings on your many years of service to humanity and the wish that you continue to enjoy good health so that the people of Thailand may still be enriched by your wise counsel for many years to come.

With my prayers and good wishes,

Yours sincerely,



VIPASSANA

In the tradition of
Sayagyi U Ba Khin

founder :

Vipassana Meditation
Organisations worldwide
www.dhamma.org

Vipassana International
Academy

Vipassana Research Institute
Dhamma Giri, Igatpuri
www.vridhamma.org

Global Vipassana Foundation
Global Vipassana Pagoda,
Mumbai
www.globalpagoda.org

S.N. Goenka

Principal Teacher

Date: 26th Sep 2013.

His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara,
The Supreme Patriarch of Thailand,
248 Wat Bovoranives Vihara,
Bangkok 10200,
THAILAND.

Sub: Supreme Patriarch 100th Birthday.

Your Holiness,

From our Senior Meditator Madam Sutthi we came to know the auspicious celebrations of Supreme Patriarch 100th Birthday by the joyous Thai people.

The pleasant memories of my meeting with you many years back are still there in my mind, and I highly appreciate the practice of pure Dhamma by your people in the various Vipassana Meditation Centres in the Tradition of U-Ba Khin my Rev. Teacher.

The Thai people are very much proud of your leadership and guidance under which Thailand has prospered immensely.

May dhamma prosper in your country!

On this auspicious and happy occasion, I once again offer you my hearty greetings on your many years of service to humanity and we wish you continue to enjoy good health so that people all around will be enriched by your wise counsel.

With all my metta and good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

S.N. Goenka.

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Fax: +91-22-22664607 Res.Tel.: 022-26796095, 26780945 P.A.Tel.: +91-9867506374
Email: sngoenka@dhamma.org / sngoenka@vridhamma.org

Supreme Patriarch of Patriarchs

S

ince the day of his ordination as a disciple of the Lord Buddha, His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the Supreme Patriarch piously practiced Buddhist disciplines and doctrines. He studied the sacred texts enthusiastically and followed all disciplines strictly like a meditator monk who seeks understanding of content and lives by knowledge and example. He diligently taught theoretical Buddhism and meditation practice to both monastics and lay people, both Thais and foreigners, in Wats, schools and on radio broadcasts nationwide. Likewise, he taught Buddhism in colloquial language to the general public through his own personal example, preaching, and writing. As the head of the Sangha of Thailand, he managed the Ecclesiastical affairs efficiently. In many countries, he also helped revive Buddhism and encouraged establishment of mutual relationships with Buddhists all over the world. He compassionately founded a multitude of educational institutions and hospitals. His loving-kindness radiated far and wide to victims of all kinds of natural disasters in Thailand and abroad.

All these activities were not just occasional incidents in his life because he dedicated his entire life to the people. Accordingly, he was indeed the 'people's monk' who was always present with full of loving-kindness and compassion for every being everywhere.

At the age of 90 in year 2000, his physical condition weakened and he was admitted to the Vajiranyana Samakkhi-Phayaban Building in King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital to receive proper medical treatment. Initially,

“I met the late Supreme Patriarch many years ago and had the deepest respect and admiration for the way he fulfilled his religious responsibilities. Throughout his long and meaningful life he remained thoroughly dedicated to the service of humanity.”

-- H.H. Dalai Lama

His Holiness occasionally returned to Wat Bovoranives Vihara to attend the Patimokha ceremony on each full moon and new moon day at the Uposotha Hall. Later, when his health gradually deteriorated, doctors asked him to remain in hospital for continuous treatment rather than commuting back and forth to the monastery. Consequently, since 2007, His Holiness was hospitalized permanently.

While His Holiness was getting medical treatment in the hospital Buddhists were anxiously awaiting news of his condition. Every year on the 3rd of October, his birthday, Buddhists from Bangkok and up-country went to Wat Bovoranives Vihara to pay him homage and wishing him a happy birthday. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people signed their names to greet him on his birthday; simultaneously, in many provinces, people gathered together to chant for his speedy recovery. People who could travel to the hospital by themselves used to visit to pay him homage up in person—though through a glass doors which was medically sealed to prevent infection. Although it was just a glimpse of His Holiness, and only once a year, people were still overjoyed to get a chance to pay homage to this superlative monk of unsurpassed compassion and understanding. People miss his sincere loving-kindness and clarity of instruction. His teachings are widely available both in book form and audio compact discs. People continuously re-read his books to recall one's mindfulness and to cleanse one's mental defilements.

The longest reigning Supreme Patriarch of Thailand with 24 continuous years of service, His Holiness reached 100 years of age in 2013. On such an unprecedented occasion, His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej patronized celebration of the 100th Birthday Anniversary of His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the Supreme Patriarch of the kingdom of Thailand which was organised at Wat Bovoranives Vihara. Furthermore, His Majesty

the King graced Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn with the honour of presiding over the special royal ceremony organised in the Main Shrine of the Emerald Buddha Royal Monastery, the Grand Palace.

Just ten days after the 100th birthday anniversary, His Holiness' physical condition worsened. His team of physicians, after discussing his case, decided that he required an operation on his large and small intestines. The operation was successful and stabilised his condition; however, his overall condition did not improve. Septicaemia dropped his diastolic blood pressure drastically. On the 24th October, His Holiness was not responding to any medications and his respiration weakened. Finally, at 7:30 p.m., His Holiness stopped breathing completely. He was 100 years and 21 days of age.

“To practise Dhamma until one’s body and mind become one with Dhamma is to disclose Dhamma to both onlookers and seekers. This method is certainly more effective than writing a book.”

Giving Dhamma Conquers All Gifts

A

ll media nationwide promptly announced the official statement of His Holiness' demise made by the physicians of King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital. The next day, people gathered solemnly along the roads as his holy body was moved from the hospital to the temple shortly after noon. Several hundreds of mourners lined the busy road outside the hospital, from where the holy body was due to be shifted to the temple for religious ceremonies. People of all ages - from school students to frail old women kneeled and bowed respectfully next to the heavy traffic. Most were dressed in the mourning colours of black or white.

His Holiness' holy body was transported in a motorcade from the hospital to Wat Bovoranives Vihara, his residence monastery. Legion of Honour of H.R.H. Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn military and police cadets, in white suits, lined both sides of the road from the Wan Chat intersection to the Wat. Behind the cadets were large groups of mourners. The Crown Prince personally gave the royal command to the staff under H.R.H. to take part in the Ceremony of Conveyance of the body to Wat Bovoranives Vihara with full honour and beautification.

At Wat Bovoranives Vihara, people waited to receive H.R.H. who had arrived at Wat Bovoranives Vihara to preside over the Ceremony of the Royal Bath and to pay respect to his holy body. Disregarding hot weather and very long queuing, people were determined to use this opportunity to pay their last respects to His Holiness.

Not even a month has passed since the 100th birthday anniversary of His Holiness but an atmosphere full of joy and happiness changed to sorrow and melancholy. Many pilgrims travelled from afar; many visited every day; but, every one prostrated himself before his holy body with the greatest respect and chanted Buddhist sutras as a dedication to His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch.

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej graciously entrusted H.R.H. Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn to represent His Majesty in presiding over the royal bathing ceremony of the holy body. His Majesty the King graciously received the royal funeral ceremonial procession under the royal patronage for seven days. His Majesty the King gave the royal command to have the funeral ceremony performed by Buddhist monks both day and night--and offered His Holiness every honour according to the ancient royal traditions. Moreover, all government sectors and the general public sponsored the funeral ceremony every day and night throughout the years. People the length and breadth of the Kingdom visited at Tamnak Phet to pay their respect to the holy body of His Holiness. Equally, there were merit making ceremonies in several provinces nationwide to dedicate merit to His Holiness.

The Thai people's mourning is echoed by representatives of many countries, heads of state, and various religious organizations from abroad. Many travelled to attend His Holiness' royal funeral and expressed


their condolences overwhelmingly. Diplomats from 23 countries participated in the royal seventh day funeral ceremony. The Republic of India's Minister of Culture and the Indian Ambassador to Thailand offered a Vajrayana Puja ceremony in the highest tribute to the late His Holiness. The Holy See represented by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Thailand performed a Mass and prayed the funeral liturgy in front of the holy urn. The Chinese Buddhist Lineage of Thailand organized and performed the Kong-tek funeral ceremony honouring His Holiness.

In many other countries, special Buddhist chanting ceremonies dedicating to His Holiness were organised widely including such places as Mexico, Sri Lanka, and Japan. The Nenbutsushu Buddhist Sect of Japan organised an especially grand memorial service chanting with 1,000 monks at their headquarters temple.

The Most Venerable Dr. Kyuse Enshinjoh, the founder priest of Nenbutsushu Buddhist Sect of Japan and President of the Buddhist Summit travelled to Thailand to pay homage to the holy body of the late His Holiness. At Wat Bovoranives Vihara, the Most Venerable Enshinjoh brought condolence messages from 17 Buddhist Summit member countries out of 33 countries; specifically, they include condolence messages from Belgium, Finland, Switzerland, Mexico, United Kingdom, United States of America and Nepal. The Most Venerable also praised His Holiness as truly the Supreme Holiness of World Buddhism--the "Supreme Patriarch of the Patriarchs."

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet, expressed his condolences through his web site and stated that 'in his passing

we have all lost a remarkable spiritual friend. I met the late Supreme Patriarch many years ago and had the deepest respect and admiration for the way he fulfilled his religious responsibilities. Throughout his long and meaningful life he remained thoroughly dedicated to the service of humanity.'

This commendation exemplifies the deepest respects by Buddhists from around the world. Indeed, it is rare to have a Buddhist leader who is universally recognized as the paramount example of Buddhist piety like the late His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara Sakalamahasanghapharinayaka, the 19th Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand, the "Supreme Patriarch of the Patriarchs," the "People's Monk," the monk of Supreme Veneration and the mental refuge of all Buddhists forever. 

“His Holiness’ sincere endeavor and great achievements, truly worthy of the honorary title of Supreme Holiness of World Buddhism, will be greatly praised from all over the world and will shine in the Buddhist history forever.”

--Most Venerable Dr. Kyuse Enshinjoh



THE LONGEST-REIGNING SANGHARAJA: A CENTENNIAL OF GREATNESS

THAILAND

1910
23 OCT 1910
The Crown Prince Vajiravudh enthroned as King Rama VI.

1915
1 JUL 1913
Enactment of the Surname Act.

1916
26 MAR 1916
The formal visit of Somdet Phra Mahasamana Chao Krom Phraya Vajiranyanavarasa to the monastic order at Kanchanaburi and Wat Devasangharam.

1920
26 NOV 1925
King Prajadhipok (King Rama VII) ascended to the throne.

1925
12 MAY 1932
Suan Mokkh at Surat Thani province was established by Venerable Buddhadasa Bhikkhu.

1927
20 SEP 1925
H.R.H. Prince Ananda Mahidol was born in Heidelberg, Germany.

1930
26 MAR 1934
The establishment of the first university in Thailand, Chulalongkorn University.

1932
26 NOV 1925
King Prajadhipok (King Rama VII) ascended to the throne.

1934
27 JUN 1934
Thammasat Lae Karmuang University, the second university in Thailand, was inaugurated.

1939
25 DEC 1943
The completion and official opening of the railway bridge over the River Kwai.

1943
25 DEC 1943
The completion and official opening of the railway bridge over the River Kwai.

1946
5 MAY 1950
The coronation of H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

1947
9 JUN 1946
H.R.H. Prince Bhumibol Adulyadej ascended to the throne as King Rama IX.

1955
24 JUN 1955
The first black and white television broadcast by Thai Television Channel.

1956
22 OCT-5 NOV 1956
Queen Sirikit was appointed the Regent during the King's ordination.

1964
DEC 1964
The visit of Crown Prince Akihito and Crown Princess Michiko to Chiang Mai, Thailand.

1967
15 JUN 1962
The International Court of Justice upheld the submissions of Cambodia concerning sovereignty over Preah Vihear temple.

1972
10-15 FEB 1972
The visit of Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh to Thailand.

1978
5-14 NOV 1978
Deng Xiaoping started his Southeast Asian trip in Thailand.

1984
22 MAY 1984
Queen Rambhai Barni of Siam died at the age of 79.

1988
JUL 1988
The world's first digital edition of Tipitaka created by The Mahidol University Computing Center.

1989
3 NOV 1989
Typhoon Gay, the strongest wind storm ever, struck many provinces in Southern Thailand.

1994
1994
Phra Bhramagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto) was awarded the 1994 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education.

1996
28 OCT-1 NOV 1996
The formal visit of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh in celebration of the 50th of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej to the Throne.

2006
8-13 JUN 2006
The 60th Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne.

2011
30 JAN 2011
Phra Dharma Visuddhi Mangala (Bua Nanasampano) died at the age of 97.

2012
8-12 APR 2012
The royal cremation of H.R.H. Princess Bejaratana, the daughter of King Rama VI.

1911
6 MAY 1911
The establishment of Sua Pa Organization or Home Guard, aiming at conducting military training activities for civilians and businessmen.

1914
30 MAY 1914
The opening day of King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, with the contribution of King Rama VI and his brothers and sisters to the construction.

1917
22 JUL 1917
Siam's declaration of war against Germany and Austria.

1922
3 OCT 1913
His Holiness was born in Kanchanaburi province.

1925
1922
His Holiness' father, Noi Gajavatra, died at the age of 38.

1926
5 DEC 1927
H.R.H. Prince Bhumibol Adulyadej was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America.

1927
24 JUN 1932
The 'People Party' carried out the coup d'état to change the country's administration from the absolute monarchy to democracy system.

1932
24 JUN 1932
Premier Pibulsonggram's announcement of the changed country's name from Siam to Thailand.

1939
8 DEC 1941
Japan entered the Second World War and invaded Thailand.

1941
1 AUG 1946
The first release of Bangkok Post, Thailand's first local English-language newspaper.

1946
10 APR 1947
The appointment of Mr. Edwin F. Stanton as the first U.S. envoy with rank of Ambassador to Thailand.

1952
6 OCT 1952
His Holiness as Phra Sobhanaganabhorn attended the ceremony celebrating the Holy Relics at the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

1956
22 OCT-5 NOV 1956
His Holiness was appointed as His Majesty the King's advisor chaperone through the period of His Majesty the King's monkhood.

1960
15 JUN 1962
When the World Court declared Cambodia's sovereignty over the Preah Vihear temple, as His Holiness visited the temple.

1967
17 NOV 1967
Tibet's Supreme Religious Leader - the Dalai Lama paid his first state visit to Thailand. During this trip, he had an audience with His Holiness at Wat Bovornives Vihara.

1972
23 JAN 1972
His Holiness greeted the Dalai Lama at Wat Bovornives Vihara.

1973
11 FEB 1972
The visit of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh at Wat Bovornives Vihara.

1973
21 APR 1989
His Holiness was promoted to Somdet Phra Sangharaja Sakalamahasanghapaninayaka or the Supreme Patriarch with the titular name of Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara.

1973
1973
His Holiness sent his disciple monks to establish Thai Theravada Buddhism in Australia for the first time.

1973
OCT 1973
His Holiness distributed leaflets "From Thai Monastic Order" to the protesters of the 14th October Movement.

1975
8 DEC 1970-2 JAN 1971
His Holiness went on a study tour of religious affairs and education in Pakistan, India and Nepal. He also represented Thai monks in visiting the monks and Buddhist citizens of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) who suffered from major flood that year.

1975
1 APR 1975
The establishment of Apple by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne.

1975
16 JUL 1969
The launch of Apollo 11 lunar landing mission. Neil Armstrong, American astronaut, became the first human to walk on the moon.

1975
13 NOV 1970
Bhola cyclone hit the densely populated Ganges Delta region of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), killing an estimated 500,000 people (considered the 20th century's worst cyclone disaster).

1975
30 APR 1976
The fall of Saigon marking the end of the Vietnam War and the capture of Saigon by North Vietnamese forces.

1975
4 APR 1975
The establishment of Microsoft Corp by Bill Gates and Paul Allen.

1975
17 APR 1975
Phnom Penh, a major city in Cambodia, fell to the communist forces.

1975
24 JAN 1984
Apple Computer introduced the original Macintosh computer.

1975
28 JAN 1986
The explosion of Space Shuttle Challenger occurred 73 seconds after liftoff.

1975
22 FEB 1997
Scientists in Scotland announced the birth of the world's first successfully cloned mammal, Dolly the sheep.

1975
4 JUL 1997
NASA's Pathfinder space probe landed on the surface of Mars.

1975
11 SEP 2001
A devastating terrorist attack left 3,000 dead in the United States of America.

1975
29 AUG 2005
Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast near Buras, Louisiana, causing floods devastating New Orleans.

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29 APR 2011
The Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

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S.N. Goenka passed away at the age of 90.

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His Holiness' father, Noi Gajavatra, died at the age of 38.

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His Holiness passed the first-class Boy Scout test and completes Pratham 5 at the age of 12.

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The novice ordination of His Holiness at Wat Devasangharam.

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His Holiness was elevated to the title of Phra Sobhanaganabhorn (Rajagan) - the first monk to be given such a rank of nobility.

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His Holiness' monk ordination at Wat Devasangharam and his re-ordination under Dhammayutika Order at Wat Bovornives Vihara in the same year.

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The British Duke of York was proclaimed King George VI.

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Completed the ninth Grade of Pali studies and became an official member of the Sangha Council.

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Acting as a secretary to Somdet Phra Sangharaja Chao Krom Luang Vajiranyanavangsa.

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1954
1954
His Holiness' participation in the second meeting of the Sixth Rehearsal to Settle Questions of Doctrine and to fix the Text of the Scriptures in the Tipitaka in Yangon, Myanmar.

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The Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

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S.N. Goenka passed away at the age of 90.

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The registration of surname 'Gajavatra', by His Holiness' father.

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Beginning of his education at Wat Devasangharam School.

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HIS HOLINESS... THE GUIDING LIGHT OF BUDDHISTS



1989 He was the first Supreme Patriarch who did not come from a royal descendant to be given a special title of the ecclesiastical rank.

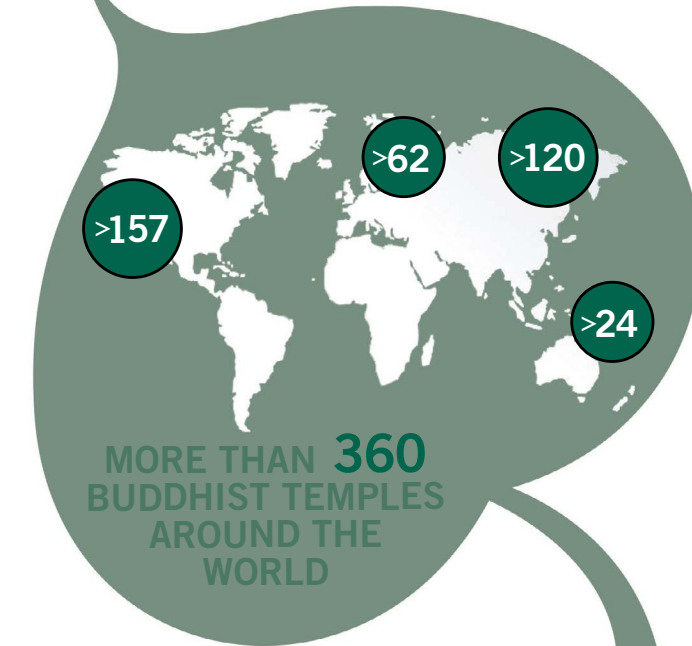
1972 He was promoted to Somdet Phra Rajagana rank named Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara. His Holiness was the second monk in 152 years who was given this special titular name.

1956 He was promoted to the title of the fourth rank entitled Phra Dhammanavarbhorn. This ranking was a new title of the ecclesiastical level. His Holiness was the first monk to be given such a prestige and honour.

1947 He was elevated to the title of Phra Sobhanaganabhorn (Rajagana) — the first monk to be given such rank of nobility.

1991 On 14 November 1991, The Myanmar Government bestowed upon His Holiness the title of "Abhidhammaratthaguru", the highest ecclesiastical title of the Myanmar Sangha.

1993 He was the first Buddhist patriarch in the history to officially visit China.



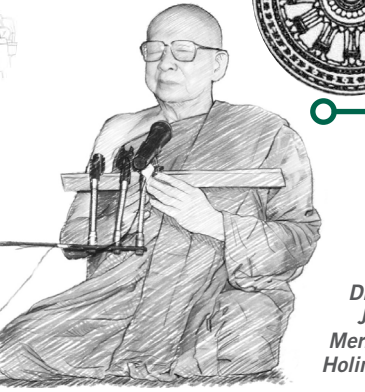
OVERSEAS:

- Promoted Buddhist activities around the world.
- Supported the building of Thai Buddhist temples around the world.
- Revived the status of Theravada Buddhism in Indonesia.
- Initiated the dissemination of Buddhist teaching in Australia.
- Revived and supported Buddhism in Nepal.

THAILAND:

- Gave Sunday sermons to foreigners at the Uposatha Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara.
- Held Dhamma Classes at his own residence in the Wat.
- Offered the training of Theravada Meditation to the Dalai Lama when he paid his first visit to Thailand.

Mrs. Josephine Stanton, spouse of the United States' first Ambassador to Thailand, His Holiness' former student.



A FAR-REACHING DHAMMADUTA
who disseminated Dhamma to the international community and spread Buddhism around the world.

A Meditator's Diary, written by Jane Hamilton-Merritt, one of His Holiness' students.



A MASTER OF SEVERAL LANGUAGES: Sanskrit, Chinese, English, French and German. (Reading and writing Pali scripts: Burmese, Khmer, Sinhalese, Devanagiri)

A MEDITATION MASTER: His practical experiences enabled him to confirm the correctness of Buddhist scripture.

A PALI SCHOLAR: He completed the ninth grade of Pali studies which is the highest level of education of the Thai Sangha.



A GREAT READER: His Holiness loved reading. He read various books, secular and religious, in Thai and other languages.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC LEARNER
who loved to study and was always keen on acquiring new knowledge.

PUBLIC

- He set up a scholarship named 'NOI GAJAVATRA TRUST' in honour of his parents. The purpose of the trust is to provide scholarships to monks, novices and other youths.
- He commanded the TIPITAKA and its commentaries translated into Thai.
- He initiated the establishment of the FOREIGN LANGUAGE BUDDHIST BOOK SECTION in the Mahamakuta Foundation.
- He had textbooks for Dhamma studies NAKDHAMMA TRI, THO AND EK translated into English.

UNIVERSITY

- He Lectured on Buddhism and the Thai Culture at 'Thammasat University'
- He was the first high-ranking monk to be invited to teach about Buddhism in government universities.
- He Lectured on the Practice of Samatha and Vipassana at 'Kasetsart University'

THE SANGHA

- He suggested The Sangha Supreme Council to recognise both Mahamakut Buddhist University and Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University as accredited monastic educational institutions.
- He initiated the idea that there should be post-graduation education programs at both aforementioned universities.

A VISIONARY PERSON
who initiated a number of activities that have proved to be very beneficial to Buddhist education.

AN HONOURABLE MONK

who deserved the recognition for his devotion and contribution for Buddhism.

A HIGHLY CHARISMATIC INDIVIDUAL

who was revered by the Thai Royal Monarchy, the world leaders and Buddhists all over the world.

A GREAT GIVER

who dedicated structures for public use. There were nearly 100 construction and restoration projects initiated by His Holiness.



THE PEOPLE'S PATRIARCH

who lived humbly like an ordinary monk despite his high ranking.

A ROLE MODEL WITH REMARKABLE VIRTUES:

- Respectfulness
- An inquisitive mind
- Gratefulness
- Patience
- Modesty



Laung Phoe Dee built this Dhamma school at Wat Devasangharam, awaiting His Holiness' return as a teacher. His Holiness returned and helped Laung Phoe Dee, his preceptor, to teach Dhamma study.

A TEACHER OF DIVINE EXAMPLES

whose way of life as a monk was indeed admirable and worth following as a role model.



A NATIONAL SPIRITUAL LEADER:

- In the 14 OCTOBER 1973 CONFLICT, he issued a statement entitled 'The Right Consciousness' in forms of handbills to warn everyone involved.
- In 1977 TOM YUM KUNG FINANCIAL CRISIS, he showed his presence collecting alms in several areas of Bangkok to strengthen the people's spirits.

A KIND AND MERCIFUL PERSON

who acted as a spiritual guidance in time of national crises and sent helps to those in need.

In 2012 BANGKOK GREAT FLOOD, he granted aids to victims in many areas.

A PHILOSOPHER

who was the chief of both Pariyatidhamma and Vipassana sectors. His Holiness explained about Buddhist theory and practical Buddhism clearly through his works.

HIS WRITINGS: 150
He wrote more than volumes of books on comprehensive Buddhist teaching.

A PRACTICAL TEACHER WHO:

- Taught meditation at night on the Buddhist Sabbaths and the day after Buddhist Sabbaths (twice weekly).
- Held all-year meditation workshop.
- Made Dhamma popular via the radio show 'HOW TO MANAGE ONE'S MIND' through the Or Sor Royal Radio.

Forty-Five Years of the Buddha, a Dhamma Descriptive writing

Wrote Dhamma articles in 'Sri Sapdah', a women magazine.

Wrote Various articles in 'Dhamma Caksu', a Buddhist journal.

The Mind City, a Dhammic narrative writing.



AN INTERNATIONAL SPIRITUAL LEADER:

- When East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) was hit by a cyclone in 1971, he acted as a Thai Sangha representative to visit the Buddhists and monks in that country.
- When the Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar in 2008, He made donations to help the victims. The Royal Thai Army and the Royal Thai Air Force also assisted with trucks and airplanes to transport the supplies.

STRUCTURES BUILT WHILE HOLDING THE TITLE OF THE ABBOT OF WAT BOVORANIVES VIHARA:

The Bha.Pa.Ra. Museum Building

Mae Chan Hospital, Chiang Rai, in honour of the 5th Supreme Patriarch (Don).

Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara Hospital, Chiang Rai, in honour of the 13th Supreme Patriarch (Somdet Krom Luang Vajiranyanavangsa).

The Ecclesiastical School at Wat Chedi Luang Worawihan, Chiang Mai, in honour of the 7th Supreme Patriarch (Somdet Krom Phra Paramanujit Jinoros).

Phu Kradueng Hospital, Loei, in honour of the 16th Supreme Patriarch (Chuan Uthayai).

The Ecclesiastical School at Wat Phrabat Ming Mueang Worawihan, Phrae, in honour of the 6th Supreme Patriarch (Nag).

Phen Hospital, Udon Thani, in honour of the 4th Supreme Patriarch (Suk Nyanasamvara).

Nikhom Kham Soi Hospital, Mukdahan, in honour of the 10th Supreme Patriarch (Somdet Krom Phraya Vajiranyanavaras).

Kuchinarai Crown Prince Hospital, Kalasin, in honour of the 7th Supreme Patriarch (Si).

Lahan Sai Hospital, Buri Ram, in honour of the 2nd Supreme Patriarch (Suk).

Chom Bueng Crown Prince Hospital, Ratchaburi, in honour of the 3rd Supreme Patriarch (Mee).

Chon Buri Hospital, Chon Buri, in honour of the 9th Supreme Patriarch (Sa Pussadeva).

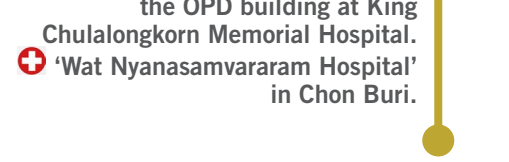
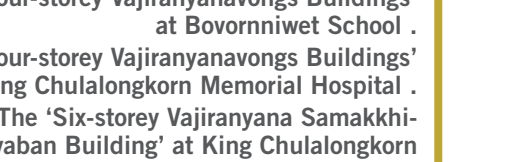
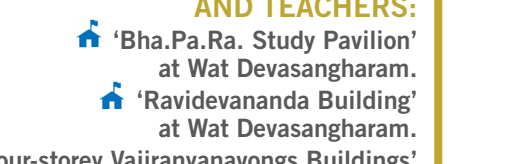
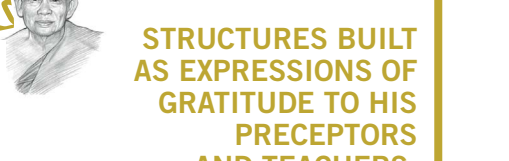
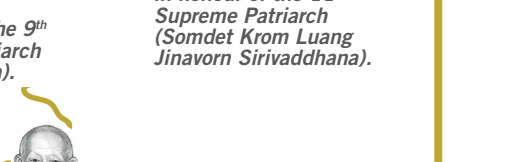
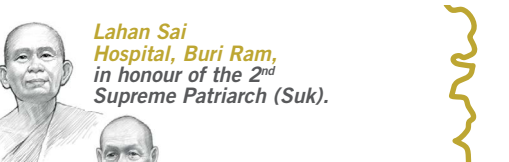
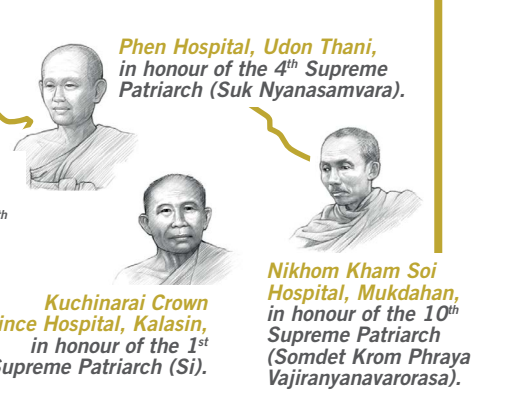
Nang Rong Hospital, Buri Ram, in honour of the 11th Supreme Patriarch (Somdet Krom Luang Jinavorn Sirivaddhana).

Trat Hospital, Trat, in honour of the 15th Supreme Patriarch (Yoo Nanodayo).

Chaiya Hospital, Surat Thani, in honour of the 18th Supreme Patriarch (Vasana Vasana).

Lan Saka Hospital, Nakhon Si Thammarat, in honour of the 17th Supreme Patriarch (Pun Punnasiri).

Ao Luek Hospital, Krabi, in honour of the 14th Supreme Patriarch (Plod Kittisobhana).



STRUCTURES BUILT AS EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE TO HIS PRECEPTORS AND TEACHERS:

- 'Bha.Pa.Ra. Study Pavilion' at Wat Devasangharam.
- 'Ravidevananda Building' at Wat Devasangharam.
- The 'Four-storey Vajiranyanavongs Buildings' at Bovorniwet School.
- The 'Four-storey Vajiranyanavongs Buildings' at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital.
- The 'Six-storey Vajiranyana Samakkhi-Phayaban Building' at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital.

STRUCTURES BUILT FOR PUBLIC BENEFITS:

- The '24-storey Bha.Pa.Ra. Building' the OPD building at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital.
- 'Wat Nyanasamvararam Hospital' in Chon Buri.

THE LIGHT MOVES ON, THE BRILLIANCE STAYS







1



3

1. & 2. After the King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital had announced the demise of His Holiness the Royal Household Bureau, Royal Thai Government and the Sangha jointly prepared Tammak Phet Royal Hall at Wat Bovoranives Vihara to enshrine the Royal Urn of His Holiness. At noon on 25 October, His Holiness' holy body was transferred in motorcade with the highest honours from the hospital to Wat Bovoranives Vihara. Along the road of 14.6 km people were waiting in crowds to pay their final respects to His Holiness.



2

3. H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn attending the royal funeral ceremony on 25 October 2013.



4

4. People from all walk of life paying homage to the holy remains of the late His Holiness, with each person receiving a booklet and a photo of His Holiness.



5

5. His Holiness had been popularly considered to be "the people's patriarch". People were deeply saddened with the demise of His Holiness. As soon as the news of his demise was announced, mourners from every walk of life queued to pay their respects to the deceased body in several thousands. It was an unprecedented picture to witness mourners waiting for over 8 hours just to get a glimpse and pay their final respects. Everyone who was in the queue had their own personal stories relating to His Holiness in one way or another. Indeed, His compassion and contributions were limitless.

6. People gathered in prayer to mourn the passing of His Holiness.



6



(ABOVE) H.R.H. Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, deputizing for His Majesty the King in a royal bathing ceremony of His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand at Tamnak Phet Royal Hall, Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 25 October 2013.
(BELOW) H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn Walailak and H.R.H. Soamsavali Kitiyakara attending the royal funeral ceremony on 28 October 2013.



INTERNATIONAL GARDEN OF GALLERIES ENTER



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
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E-mail: stmarys@163.com

CICT No. 114201



His Holiness Samdech Preah Abhisiri Sugandha
Maha Sangharajah Dhipati Bour Kry
Samdech Preah Mohasangharateach
Dhammagajitta Order of the Kingdom of Cambodia

CONDOLENCE LETTER

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THAILAND TO CAMBODIA
HONORABLE PREAH ABHISIRI SUGANDHA MAHA
PANDITA BOUR KRY THE GREAT
SANGHARAJAH ANIKAYA ORDER OF KINGDOM
OF MONKS, NUNS, AND CAMBODIA

PLEASE OUR CONDOLENCE
FROM THE KINGDOM OF
CAMBODIA TO THE WORLD AND
THE HEART OF THAI AND
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TO THE WORLD AND
THE HEART OF THAI AND
THAILAND AT HIS



Mathukon, 08.11

Condolence from
Thailand and Sangha
With greatest respect
Supreme Patriarch

Our Sangha is gath
I feel feel deeply for
He was an

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Mr. Muneyuki Suro
Acting



中國佛教協會
THE BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION OF CHINA

唁 电
Date:

泰王国最高僧伽委员会：
泰王国曼谷波旺尼威寺：
惊悉贵国僧王、曼谷波旺尼威寺住持颂德·帕耶·纳桑文尊者于二零一三年十月二十四日晚安详示寂，山河含悲，我会同仁不胜悲痛，深表哀悼！这不但是佛教界的一大损失，也使我们失去一位老朋友。颂德·帕耶·纳桑文尊者毕生致力于弘法利生，对佛法的真谛，以慈悲的愿力与不凡的智慧，为佛教的弘扬与发展，功德巍巍，垂范后世，深受泰国僧俗的崇敬与爱戴。僧王座下还致力于推动中泰两国佛教的友好交流，法谊殷殷，感念至深！曾于1993年6月促成中国佛指舍利、佛牙舍利先后莅泰瞻礼，谱写了两国佛教友好的不朽篇章。

Address: 25 Fuchengmennei Dajie, Beijing, China
100034

Letters of condolence poured in from all around the world., while Buddhists of various denominations and countries held prayer vigils.



universal dhamma vihara
 Buddhist Theravada Foundation
 attached to Ananda Rajavidyalaya - Nepal
 Founder and Abbot: Bhaddanta Bhaddanta
 Buddhadasa@vsnl.com

To: Mr. Mureyuki Suzuki
 Acting Secretary General of
 Buddhist Sumo



Tai Sangha Council
 Wat Pitakut
 Panglong,
 Shan State, the Union of Myanmar
 Tel. 0095 949593802



မရပ်မရပ်စေ
 သန္တာမဂ္ဂလေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့
 သံဝေဝေကျ

- (1) သူဝတ်ဆင်ဆင်ချေ မရှာတေချေ၊ ဟိုဝေကျ လှူဆောင်ချေ၊
 သံခရုကျ မရှာတေချေ၊ တိရိစ္ဆာန်ကျ သတိပဋိပက္ခ
 - (2) ချေပိတေကျ ဖြေသခင်တေကျ၊ ဝခင်ထခင်တေကျ သေချေ လာ
 ချေချေခင်တေကျ လိပ်ခေကျ၊ တခေဝေခင်တေကျ
 - (3) တတုလတေကျရလှုံလှုံ လာ ဝင်ရတုပရလှုံလှုံ လာ
 တေသုပသမ်ပခင်ခေကျလေ၊ ထမ်မဝိခေကျလေ
 - (4) သီလသမုထိပလှုံလှုံ၊ ချေချေခေကျ သမ်ပခင်ခေကျ
 လက်လီပေသလှုံလှုံ လာ မကျလှုံခေကျ
 - (5) ဧဝမုထိခေကျ ထမ်ခေကျ၊ သမ်ပခင်ခေကျ တမ်ပပင်ခေကျ
 သကျေ ချေချေခေကျ၊ တခေတေကျ သုခင်စုတေကျ
- တေသု ခခင်စုတေကျ တေတသံသ၊ သုသခေသံသ ရက်ဆသံသ ဝေ
 သံခေသံသ ဝေ မကျလှုံခေကျ ထမ်မံ ဖြေဝေထ သုထေကျ
- သင်ခေကျ တခေလံလှုံလှုံ၊ ယထာ ပလှုံလှုံယ ပသံသတေကျ
 ခခင်တေကျ တုင်ခေကျ တေသ မခေကျ ပိသုတ်ထိလှုံလှုံ

自耶·纳桑
 人天眼灭，
 仅是泰国佛
 利生，实践佛
 致力于泰国佛
 泰国各界民众
 国佛教交流发
 月成功访华，并
 礼供奉等盛事因

66160771 Fax: 66160771
 CHINA BUDDHIST, Beijing

Handwritten signature and text in Burmese and Thai script.

เนपाल (ALL NEPAL BHIKSHU)
 नेपाल (ALL NEPAL BHIKSHU)
 Ref: 49070/2557

PHOTO BY TANAPOL KAEWPRING, STYLE BY JANITMA SMITHAVEJ



1

1. Mr. Anand Panyarachun, Chairman of the Board and Independent Director of Siam Commercial Bank lighting candles at the funeral ceremony of His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch at the Tamnak Phet in Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 28 November 2013.

2. Invited Ambassadors and Charge d'Affairs from different countries residing in Thailand paid their respects at the Royal Urn of His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand on 30 October 2013.



2



3

3. Ms. Arvind Majit Singh, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Culture of India and H.E. Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, the ambassador of India to Thailand placing a wreath to pay respect to the late His Holiness at the Tamnak Phet Royal Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 19 March 2014.

4. The Royal Household Bureau invited the heads of diplomatic missions residing in Thailand to Participate in the royal meriting ceremony marking the seventh day of passing away of His Holiness at Tamnak Phet Royal Hall, Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 30 October 2013.



4





5. & 6. The Most Venerable Dr. Kyuse Enshinjo, President of the Buddhist Summit, World Buddhist Supreme Conference and founder Priest of the Nenbutsushu Buddhist Sect of Japan together with the administrative committee members of Nenbutsushu paid respect to the holy body of His Holiness at the Tamnak Phet of Wat Bovoranives Vihara, where the royal urn was place for funeral ceremonies till the date of royal cremation on 12 November 2013.



PHOTO BY BANGKOK POST PHOTO/THITI



7. & 8. Archbishop Paul Tschang In-Nam, the Apostolic Nuncio to Thailand along with an 18-member delegation of the Thai Bishops' Conference reciting a funeral prayer in front of the royal urn of His Holiness at Tamnak Petch Royal Hall, Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 8 November 2013. On the same occasion, Archbishop In-Nam handed over the condolence letter from Pope Francis on the demise of the Supreme Patriarch, Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara.



9. Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and his wife paid respect to the holy body of the Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand on his official visit to Thailand on 15 November 2013.



(ABOVE) H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presiding over the seventh-day royal funeral ceremony on 1 November 2013.
(BELOW) Four monks were chanting Buddhist funeral discourses as a part of daily funeral rites.





A ceremonial fan with the emblem of His Holiness specially designed for Chinese and Vietnamese sangha of Thailand.



1

1. & 2. The Chinese Buddhist Order of Thailand performed a Chinese Buddhist Funeral Rite (Kong Tek) for His Holiness at the Tamnak Phet Royal Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 12 December 2013.
 3. Thai-Vietnamese Buddhist monks who performed the ritual.
 4. The Vietnamese Buddhist Order of Thailand performed a Vietnamese Buddhist Funeral Rite (Kong Tek) for His Holiness at the Tamnak Phet Royal Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 7 February 2014.



3



2



4



Thais of Mon ancestry performed Ramandakshina Puja for His Holiness at the Tamnak Phet Royal Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara on 21 April 2014.



In Japan a lavish and solemn ceremony was conducted in His Holiness' memory at the Royal Grand Hall of Buddhism in Kyoto on 4 November 2013.

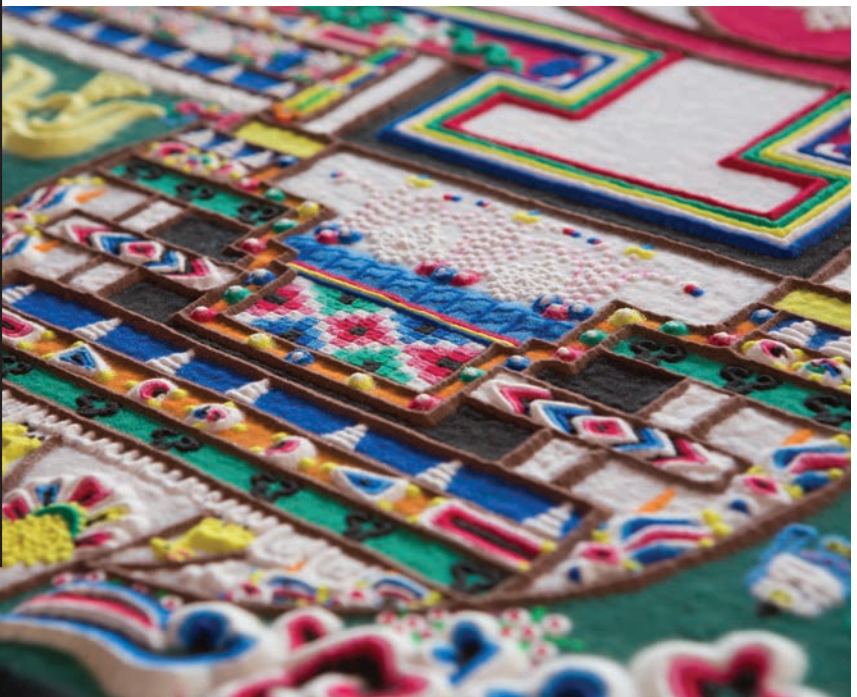


Grand Memorial Services for the late His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara Supreme Patriarch of Thailand



Venerable Sangha of Nenbutsushu Buddhist Sect of Japan were performing dedication ceremony to His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch at the Main Hall of the Royal Grand Hall of Buddhism at Nenbutsushu Headquarters Temple in Osaka, Japan, on 4 November 2013.





Vajrayana monks from India performed Vajrayana Puja by creating elaborated sand Mandala and ritual dances in tribute to His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch.





Sand Mandala
created as
offering to
His Holiness
by Venerable
Lamas of India.



HISTORY OF THE PHRA KOSA KUDAN YAI ROYAL URN

The Phra Kosa Kudan Yai Royal Urn was made in the reign of the King Rama I in 1799. Legend says that the original Phra Kosa or royal urn was broken. H.R.H. Prince Chaofa Krom Phraya Bamrabparapaksha found only the body part of the royal urn. The Prince then had the lid and the base of the royal urn fashioned and named the newly restored urn as 'Kudan Yai.' The second royal urn which was made in the same period was not broken and it was named 'Kudan Noi'. Artistically, the Kudan Yai royal urn is more elegantly and beautifully carved. It is considered that Kudan Yai is higher in hierarchy than the Kudan Noi. The KudanYai royal urn is mostly used to enshrine only the holy remains of the Supreme Patriarchs.



The Late His Holiness was enshrined within the royal urn for daily funeral rites at the Tamnak Phet Royal Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara.



THE PEOPLE'S PATRIARCH

A Tribute to His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the 19th Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand

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