

This unique book is like a knowledge link between old and young generation among Myanmar people.

Meiji excavated the nation's intangible hidden treasures and presented in this book.

This book reveals the innermost of Myanmar people's hearts and some topics in this book are unaware by even local people before.

Sometimes, this book will bring you to the deep forest, mountains, villages, history and many places where the real stories took place and share the author's highlighted memories and knowledge which she was told in life.

'Culture & Beyond - Myanmar' won the Third prize for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2011. The author spent nearly 3 years to complete this book.

### The Author

Meiji Soe (May Ji Soe) was born in the city of memories – Toungoo (Kaytumadi) – where the Second Myanmar Kingdom was established. She received Honours degree in English from Yangon University and worked in a publishing industry and a top Management company for about a decade. Reading, writing and music are her passion.

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### PREFACE

This is my very first book. Writing spirit started to cling to me since while I was in my University days. A will to write did not wane although I continued to walk on my Life journey either at work or at home. Finally, I promised myself to fulfil what is pending in my inner mind.

The little book in your hand consists of two parts; one is 'Culture' and the other is 'Beliefs & Superstitions'. You may notice that some topics can be regarded as culture as well as beliefs. The second part is more personal than informative writing because I simply want to share my highlighted memories, personal experiences & knowledge what I was told in my life, before all those things are fading away from my memory; plus a glimpse of the culture of a beautiful and conservative country called 'Myanmar', formerly known as 'Burma'.

Although this book comes out from the deep emotion of sharing my knowledge to others (local & abroad), without the invitation of Sarpay Beikman to local inspired writers to submit their unpublished manuscripts in English language, this book will never be accomplished.

For me, to write a book is like a collection of uncountable small single sands which becomes a hard rock. If the readers find any weakness in this book, it is not the fault of the country or its people or any association or any individual. I am the only one who has to take the blame.

Three Gems, my parents, all my teachers are always in my mind. Special thank is due to my beloved family who inspired me to write this book. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the beings - seen & unseen and every single character - inside or outside this book which supported me to make 'Culture & Beyond' possible. Last but definitely not the least, my thanks go to Ashin Khemacara and uncle Milton who helped me as mentors in writing this book.

Meiji Soe  
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