

## The Myanmar Arts Generation to new Generation Legacy

In the field of Myanmar Arts History, there happened to emerge many a famous Artist. Most of them got famous by the virtue of their own and unique masterpiece. In their entire lives, they could manage to leave their dynamic and artistic legacies which they had portrayed and composed with brushed and hilarious multiple spectrum of colours. In this constellation, U Ba Nyan, the Great Grand Myanmar Artist (1897-1945) who was regarded as the very Master who altered the course of Myanmar Arts History in his own way.

As he could leave a lot of masterpieces, so also he took pains to hand over his arts and skills to the next generation. He had imparted most of his mastery and wisdom to his followers and student artists. His followers and learners of his school of thought gave birth to very promising and educated Artists in Myanmar. Many Myanmar artists trained by Sayagyi U Ba Nyan were famous in the latter era.

In the post colonial late Era and in Independent Era, and in the present era there are emerged many out of them.

In this emergence there are many Sayagyi U Ba Nyan like teachers who impart their skills and wisdom. They are earning Artists as well as teachers like Sayagyi U Ba Nyan. But there was only one scholar who had imparted his mastery and arts to the follower that is Grand Master was Sayagyi U Thein Han (1910-1986) the unique Great Artist of his era.

He was born of U Shwe Lwin and Daw Thein, at Mayan village, Mawlamyaingkyun Township, Ayeyarwaddy Division in 1910 in Myanmar. He was the fourth child of his six siblings. His nickname was Maung Sit and Sayagyi U Ba Nyan named him "Thein Han"

Though the parents were Rice mill owner and paddy-field land-lords, he did not take interest in Parents' profession and he was fond of painting portraying pictures. Parents had an urge to educate him and become an educated officer. He was simple and few-spoken and was free from pleasure. But he was not interested in Academic Education and keen to study in the fields of Arts. In 1929 while he was under study, fled from home, knowing that his parents would not let him engage in Arts and arrived in Yangon. His cousin U Pandisa, the Buddhist monk sent him to Sayagyi U Ba Nyan and he started his studies in Arts.

For nine years he studied at the foot of Sayagyi U Ba Nyan did everything for his Master. After properly taught to the second World War, he got engaged in commercial Arts works along with his Arts class-mate at Sayagyi U Ba Nyan for ever one year, he performed his duties as an Arts Teacher at the Myanmar State High School. During the Second World War, he went back to his native and

engaged in his parents' work, but he painted. After the war he came back to Yangon and painted. In 1952 the government had established Arts school and Theatrical and Music School under the conduct of the Ministry of Culture. He performed his duties as a tutor.

Since in 1961 from the Jubilee hall (previous old building standing at the corner of the Shwedagon Pagoda Road and Pantra street), the Pagoda Road to I.F.L new building, then in 1967 he worked as Arts tutor at the Yangon Fine Arts School, Ko Min Ko Chin Road, through arts many times happily. He had imparted his Arts to students at the Yangon University Arts Society for many years. In 1970, even though he took his pension he attached himself as a part-time tutor at the Yangon School of Fine Arts. After two years he took fulltime retirement from the school.

With effect from 1972, he had been running a home, own studio and school imparting his wisdom and skills for arts students and lovers till to his eternal sleep.

Though he had a great capacity to paint a lot of paintings in his life, he did not do this. He devoted more in teaching to the Arts students. He had charged 25 kyats, per month as school fees at his school in 1972. He thought great to offer among the firm and studious students. Saya U Lun Gywe was one of them when Saya U Lun Gywe performed his duties as a tutor at the Yangon Fine Arts school he met with Saya Gyi U Thein Han in the year 1958. Not only working together at Sayagyi U Thein Han's, but also he had golden chance to live with him and studied all his findings in Arts for many years at full time.

Saya U Lun Gywe lived with Sayagyi U Thein Han for five years up to 1963.

As to Saya U Lun Gywe Sayagyi U Thein Han was lost in his talks on the Arts for getting his meals. Saya U Lun Gywe had learned almost all the arts and findings. Sayagyi U Thein Han, Saya U Lun Gywe had to study the nature and its law, the lighting, the dark, the colours in detail and painted as to the Master's instruction. He, Sayagyi U Thein Han, imparted on from A to Z as to the curriculum in stages. The taught the difference between the Arts of Arts and the Artistic Arts.

Sayagyi U Thein Han said, "Earn money by using the art of painting but not with the Arts". The rare arts is look like rare lion oil. To much arts one should collect it in a golden bowl which is pride-free in reality. It will last long such words are the educative words of Sayagyi U Thein Han. He used to praise on the fact that an artist is a mentally-powered who he is capable of differentiating right and wrong, and law and nature, mild-mindedness. His pupils said the Sayagyi U Thein Han used to educate his pupils not to make money in arts before mastery but to earn by fetching water and cutting wooden sabots. They were told in loving kindness tinted with anger.

Since 1960 up to now, the outstanding Myanmar artist happens, as to his age, Seniority, mastery, Sayagyi U Lun Gywe wisdom from Sayagyi U Thein Han in this publication, it became

and centred on these teacher and pupil's masterpieces to the most industry. It is a real pillar in the Myanmar Arts History.

For this particular article I have interviewed Saya Maung Han Htut (Sayagyi U Thein Han's Son), Saya Aung Yin (Sayagyi U Thein Han's nephew) and many students artists, followers of Sayagyi U Thein Han.

**Sein Myo Myint**  
**Arts Critic**