

## CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
	Foreword	
	Introduction	
I.	Pertaining to Wisdom ...	1
II.	An End to Wavering ...	19
III.	The Voice of Travellers ...	29
IV.	Aim of Good Conduct ...	45
V.	A Pleasant Environment ...	54
VI.	For A Good Pearl ...	65
VII.	I, The Helmsman ...	86

## FOREWORD

I feel it a duty to inform the reader something about the author, his works, the original of this translation and how the translation itself came about. But should the reader wish to avoid being side-tracked by this foreword, he may best skip these pages. But when he has come to the end, he should flip back to this page so as to get a well-rounded picture.

The author, Nandar Thein Zan, is a man of letters. In the course of thirteen years before his first book was published in 1975, he had ploughed the literary field with his contributions. As essayist, translator and critic, his pen wandered in the world of periodicals. But not until his first book "Life, Its Meaning And Its Essence" came out did he win acclaim. At first, it was hardly expected that the

readers would interest themselves in a book with such an imposing title and an academic touch. However, to the surprise of all including the author, the book followed the river and found the sea. It came to be the rave of many a reader and critic. Nandar Thein Zan is also a man with a philosophic frame of mind. He got his Master's degree in Philosophy with credit. An assistant lecturer, he is presently teaching the subject in the Rangoon University. So it is not surprising that his works, altogether five now, centre on the subject in which he specializes. No less surprising is the fact that his pen hooked him from his desk and placed him on the podium. He became a much sought-after speaker. One finds him beyond the campus, giving occasional lectures and talks. So the writer, the scholar and the speaker have now merged into one.

About the original of this book, it is the fourth of his published works. First printed in 1979, new editions keep coming out yearly. This clearly shows how

much the book has captivated the hearts and minds of the Burmese readers. One reason may be that, unlike his former written works, this one is a compilation of his talks delivered extempore to a college gathering. So with this book, the reader's mind is not taxed with heavy reading but is easily carried along the current of his thoughts. From all that he had said, one can adduce the simple fact: "Life rests on the pivot of wisdom and effort." As regards his eloquence, I leave it to the reader's judgment. And as to what impact the book has, that too is left to the reader himself. I, for one, believe that it is the tonic of the times.

As for the translation, I have but little to say. Never had I imagined that I would be the one to translate this work. I had long yearned for someone to do so. It was only after the third edition came out with still no translation in sight that I felt impelled to take up the task myself. The original being an impromptu-talk and, moreover, as Burmese and

English are different in syntax, it was quite a burden for me—an outsider in this field. But for the encouragement and guidance of writer Khin Zaw Wun of Bauktaw, Rangoon, this work would not have come through. I am greatly indebted to him. My thanks are due also to my colleague, May Pyone Han of 33rd Street, Rangoon, for her patient typing. I hope the readers will enjoy this work as much as his auditors do Nandar Thein Zan's talks. If so, I would be happy to feel that I've done some service.

MOE HEIN  
30-7-83

12, Thirizeyar Street,  
Bauktaw, Pyitharyar,  
Rangoon.