

Contents

Foreword 6

Introduction 7

Myanmar Thingyan Festival and Tha-Gyar-Min 9

Myanmar Alphabets and Myanmar Days 19

Myanmar Letters (in Myanmar Pronunciation) and The Days Concerned 23

Preparation 45

More About Seven-Day-Born and Loving Kindness 50

Epilogue 57

Foreword

My mother and Junior Win's grandma, Khin Myo Chit is well known for her writings in English Language about the Myanmar Way of Life, Customs, Buddhist Religion, festivals, performing arts, and so on. The book Colourful Myanmar covers many topics on these subjects.

It seems that there is nothing more to be added on the subject until I came upon the subject of Thingyan Pot. Each year during the water festival which welcomes the Myanmar New Year which falls on the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April, we make the Thingyan Pot. It is a pot of flowers representing the seven-day born to welcome Tha-Gyar-Min, king of the celestials.

Thingyan Pot is culturally Myanmar and Buddhist in nature. This book is an attempt to explain it. It is a kind of scholarly research which her mathematical training has given as well as a work of art: a gift from her grandma.

May readers gain knowledge and may they enjoy reading it as much as the author enjoyed in creating it.

Dr.Khin Maung Win  
Retired Professor of Mathematics,  
University of Yangon  
Myanmar

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to my parents who have encouraged and advised me in the preparation of this book. My father – Dr. Khin Maung Win who edited my book and I received information from my mother – Takatho Shwe Yi Win, my aunty Kyi Kyi Nyunt, Aunty Myint and Aunty Thandar Phyu. My twin brother, Maung Yit (Editor of Moemaka Media) who drew the illustration of Thingyan Pot and an illustration of Tha-Gyar-Min, and he is always helpful to me.

Introduction

I wrote it from my interest in Thingyan Pot which is a welcomed symbol of Myanmar New Year that occurs every year in April. Myanmar Thingyan Pot also welcomes Tha-Gyar-Min; King of the celestial who comes and visits the human abode during Thingyan festival. The reader will see how important seven-day-born is to Myanmar people. *Seven-day-born* is represented not only in Thingyan Pot, but also in the Buddhists way of life. The reader will have the knowledge of Myanmar Days and Flowers which is not only for Myanmar people but also for all the people around the world, and I hope that the reader will become interested in making their own 'Thingyan Pots'. I also added my articles which concerns Myanmar tradition and customs, never fail to be remembered by Myanmar people.

Myanmar Buddhists show their loving kindness to all the human being by offering the 'Seven-Day-Born' flowers or leaves at the foot of the pagodas. (We believe there is no enemy among the 'what-day-born'. All is given equally our loving kindness.)

At the foot of the Buddha image, we recite:  
'I take refuge in Buddha;  
I take refuge in His Teachings,  
I take refuge in the Sangha, His order of the Yellow Robe.'

After reciting and praying, we put a set of flowers and leaves which represent *seven-day-born*, into a large vase placed at the foot of the Pagoda. At that time, we believe that such good deeds can save all the seven-day-born people around the world, wishing that they will be happy and healthy for the coming year.

This book includes more articles which concern seven-day-born and the meaning of loving kindness. The act of offering at the foot of the pagoda, flowers, colored flags and streamers, which means '*dhana*' or giving, an important aspect of Buddhist teaching that may be the secret of our happiness, our fortitude, our stay, protecting us from all the dangers even from the natural disasters.

Junior Win  
(Author of *Walking Through the Wonderland, My Life Will Go On* and *Burmese Days and Flowers* published as Amazon Kindle books.)