



Forword

The Buddhist textbooks known as "Tipitaka" contain all the teachings of Buddha (Sākyamuni) and constitute the most valuable treasure of mankind on Earth from its early days till the present time. The original texts are in Pāli language.

From generation to generation these teachings have been continuously recited, memorized and learnt and taught by Buddhist monks. Ven. Prof. Dr.W. Rahula wrote as follows:

"Three months after Buddha's Parinivāna (death), a Council of the disciples closely associated with him was held, at which all his teachings, discourses and rules of discipline, as they were remembered, were recited, approved as authentic, and classified into Five Collections called Nikāyās which constituted the Tipitaka (Triple Canon). These Collections were entrusted to various Theras or Elders and to their pupillary succession to be passed on verbally to future generations for their benefit."

In order to ensure a continuous and authentic verbal transfer of this knowlege, regular and systematic recitation was necessary. It is important to note that this recitation was not the act of a single person, but of a group. The texts intact, without any change, or modifications. If one member of the group forgot a word, another would remember it or if one modified, added or omitted a word or a phrase, another would correct him. This system ensured all teachings were repeated and remembered correctly and with high accuracy over centuries.

The texts were passed in through a continuous verbal tradition,

which was considered to be more reliable and authentic than any record of teachings set down by an individuals and a groups of Buddhist monks in many years after passing away of The Buddha. The teachings of Buddha were recorded in a written format for the first time at a Council held in Ceylon in the fourth century B.E., four centuries after Buddha's Parinibbana (death). Up to this time, the whole content of the Tipitakas had been passed on from generation to generation.

Buddhasasana (Buddhism) spread into many countries, markedly in Southeast Asia. The three Pitakas had been complete. In case of discrepancies of duplication are found, they were fully corrected from time to time at Councils in those countries. In Thailand they were confirmed by the councils under the Royal Patronage in the early days and this custom has been preserved until present.

In Myanmar, The Sixth great Council took place about B.E. 2500 Theravada Buddhist monks from five countries were invited to participate in the Sixth Council (Chatthasangiti) under the patronage of the Government of Myanmar and Buddhist people in that country and others.

The Tipitakas were confirmed by this Council and by all Therevada Buddhist countries to be the most comprehensive and complete ones contemporary in our times. These Tipitakas were recorded in Myanmar Pāli for over 50 years and have been preserved until today in that country.

We announce, with a great pleasure, that International Buddhist Academy of Sagaing Hills, Sagaing, Myanmar under the leadership of Ven. Ashin Nānissara has romanized the Sixth Council Tipitakas for the benefit of the people in the world to have an easy access to the original Pāli Tipitakas Buddhist textbooks. As many people all over the world are

interested in Buddhism, English publications of these Pāli Tipitakas will be available to them for future educational and research purposes.

Ven. Sayadaw U. Nānissara has appointed Haw Trai Fund (Tipitakas Library Fund) of Thailand, under my direction, to publish these Romanized Pāli Tipitakas in Thailand, to make them available to interested one and to preserve the Buddha's teaching in order that the teaching will last for a long time in the right condition for the benefit of the many all over the world in this and future generation.

May the Dhamma (the teachings) of Buddha be the everlasting light to mankind on earth (ciraṃ tiṭṭhatu Buddhasāsanā) and may all who have been involved in this project progress in the Dhamma until they reach Nippāna.

- A) Committee of Consultants
- B) Supreme Executive Council
- C) Executive Committee
- D) Working Group



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