

Table of Contents

Introduction

1. A Day's Visit to Thanlyin	1	18. The History of the Sandaw Shin Pagoda	158
2. An Expedition into the Past	13	19. The Brief History of the Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image	164
3. A Visit to Zalun and Dhanubyu	20	20. The Brief History of the Uritaw-dhat Sutaungpyi Ceti	170
4. Yangon Thingyan and Hmaw-zin-gyun	30	21. A Story of Venerable Sariputta	175
5. Kaba Aye: Past and Present	38	22. The Great Victory over Nanadopananda Naga	182
6. A Visit to Room No.113 of the Bago Hostel	49	23. The World's Biggest Book	186
7. A Wave of Nostalgia for my Yangon University Days	64	24. The Importance of the Vinaya	190
8. A Visit to Thaton	80		
9. A Temporary Escape from the Hustle-bustle of City Life	92		
10. A Visit to the Moe-yum-gyi Wet-land Wild-life Sanctuary	100		
11. From the Window of my Bed-room	111		
12. The Burma Research Society	117		
13. The Gantaloka Translation Contest and Thakin Ba Thaung	125		
14. Sayadaw U Ottama	130		
15. The Myanmars and Jealousy	139		
16. A Study on the Relation between Suvannabhumi and Bilugyun	143		
17. The Meanings of the Words "Mon" and "Talaing"	152		

Introduction

Yangon, the commercial capital of Myanmar today, is a city of unparalleled beauty, covering an over 200-square-mile sprawling land spotted with wooded lake-gardens, pagoda-hills crowned with golden spires and colonial-style buildings which attract the interest of tourists and historians, both local and foreign. The author, as a resident of Yangon, is accustomed to taking shelter in wooded lake-gardens, especially in Kandaw Gyi (Royal Lake) when it is too hot, to taking refuge in the shade of the pagodas standing at the top of the hills like Singuttara Hill, etc to seek solace when overcome with woes and worries and to making forays to the colonial-style buildings like the Office of the Secretariat, Yangon University, etc inside the city and even to ancient towns in its environs to study history and socio-economy of the public when he is free from a heavy load of his assigned duties and social obligations and engagements. This book is, in point of fact, an anthology of 24 articles, most of which appeared in the Global New Light of Myanmar, annual magazines of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University and the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon), the Theravada Dhamma Journal and the Pan-soe-dan Journal. The first ten articles depict the history and the socio-economy of the places inside Yangon and the small towns in its environs the author visited and the scenery he saw on the way there. However, out of the above ten articles, the 6th, unlike others, is just about the author's visit to Room No.113 of the Bago Hostel, Yangon University where Bogyoke Aung San lived during his student-life on the 100th anniversary of his birthday,

the 13th February 2015 and about his train of thoughts about the life accounts of Bogyoke during his visit. The 11th highlights the importance of the natural environment by connecting humans' actions and their impacts on trees, animals and climate. The 12th is about the Burma Research Society formed about 100 years ago and 13th narrates the Gantaloka Translation Contest held in Myanmar about 90 years ago, mentioning the elusive translation caliber of Thakin Ba Thaung with the names of some books he translated from English to Myanmar. The 14th portrays the anti-colonialist activities of Sayadaw U Ottama, a Rakhine Sasana hero, who first campaigned courageously against the British Government during Colonial Period. The 15th is on elaboration on the word "Jealousy", which is an unwholesome mental concomitant (Akusala cetasika) and the way of removing it as instructed by the Lord Buddha. The 16th and the 17th are on the relation between Bilugyun at the mouth of the Thanlwin River and Suvannabhumi visited by Vens. Sona and Uttara during the 3rd century B.C and the etymological and lexical explanation of the word "Mon and Talaing". The three articles from the 18th to the 20th describe the brief history of the Sandaw Shin Pagoda, the Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image and the Uritaw Dhattaw Pagoda as claimed by Rakhine traditional chronicles. The 21st relates the life account of Ven. Sariputta, Right-hand Chief Disciple (Aggasavaka) of the Gotama Buddha and the 22nd, that of the victory of Ven. Mahamoggallana, Left-hand Chief Disciple, over powerful Nandopananda Naga (Divine serpent). The 23rd is on 729 marble slabs where the Three Baskets of the Dhamma are engraved, which is collectively called the world's biggest book. The 24th and last article spotlights the importance of the Vinaya (Discipline of the Buddhist Holy Order). It is to

be noted that four more articles are added to the prize-winning manuscript containing twenty. It is possible that, while reading this book, the readers encounter topic-overlapping in some places due to the same references and sources. It is confessed by the author that this is due chiefly to the limited sources referred to by him.

Saw Mra Aung