

Contents

CHAPTER	FACTS	PAGE
	Preface	
1.	The Meaning of the Word "Rakhine"	1
2.	A Brief Rakhine History with Special References to Traditional Chronicles	6
3.	A Study on the Anandacandra Stone Inscription	20
4.	A Nostalgia for the Banks of the Lemyo River	41
5.	Righteous King Minthi	52
6.	The History of Ancient Khrait City	58
7.	Byala, a Rakhine National Emblem	65
8.	The Account of Suvannabhumi Culled from Various Literary Sources	71
9.	A Study on the History of the Shwedagon Pagoda	98
10.	A Study on the Nativity of Venerable Buddhaghosa	110
11.	A Study on the Life of Venerable Dhammavilasa and His Dhammasat Kyan	121
12.	The History of Old Taikkala City	128

CHAPTER	FACTS	PAGE
13.	King Dhammaceti and the Kalyani Stone Inscription	140
14.	What the Term "Dhukkha" Means to Buddhists	151
15.	The Concept of Anatta	156
16.	What is Kamma?	164
17.	Faith in the Buddha Dispelling the Darkness of the Night	175
18.	Beauty is but Skin-deep	180
19.	Memoires of Venerable Sayadaw Koasalla	185

Preface

Myanmar is a country inhabited by different ethnic peoples invested with colourful traditions, customs and beliefs and long history. Sandwiched between the two giants -India and China, it is taken for granted that it would have contacts with them and been influenced religiously, culturally, racially, politically, economically, etc by them before the advent of the Christian Era. This is proved true by the frequent discoveries of archaeological evidences, vestigial or excavated, in the sites of ancient cities dotting Myanmar. Since 1998 when he started to join the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University to date, the author, as an enthusiast for history and Buddhism, have been occasionally contributing articles and research papers on these two subjects to Theravada Dhamma Journals, the annual magazines of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University and the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon), the Global New Light of Myanmar (previously the New Light of Myanmar), the

Light of Majjhima published by U Candramani Foundation in India, the Southeast Asian Research Journal published by Phusan University, South Korea, etc. In fact, this book is just an anthology of the 19 articles and research papers selected from what he has contributed to the afore-said journals, magazines and newspapers. To be exact, out of 19, only two articles titled "The History of Ancient Khrait City" and "The History of Old Taikkala City" remain unpublished so far. The first seven articles are dealt with ancient Rakhine history. Of them, the article titled "A Nostalgia for the Banks of the Lemyo River" which appeared in the Global New Light of Myanmar dated 16 November 2014 is on the author's reminiscence of his sweet childhood in the native town Minbya, a small sleepy town in the northern Rakhine State and the socio-economic and political conditions of Rakhine State and the reform measures of the Union Government which occurred in Rakhine State from May 2012 to the time of writing the article. The six articles from the 8th to the 13th centre about ancient Myanmar and Mon history. The remaining six articles from the 14th to the 19th focus on Buddhism, of which the first three are devoted to fundamental teaching of the Buddha, the fourth and the fifth are the fictionalized ones set in Buddhist literature and the last and 19th a memoir of the author's teacher Ven. Kosalla under whom he had studied Buddhist literature for seven years at the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University. As the topics in some

articles correlate with one another, topic-overlapping is inevitable. In the main, it is hoped that this manuscript can provide readers with a quick glance into part of ancient Myanmar history and fundamental concepts of Buddhism.