

SHORT HISTORY OF SHWE OO MIN DHAMMASUKHA TAWYA

Shwe Oo Min Sayadaw was residing in Shwe Oo Min Tawya in Pe Ywek Seik Kone quarter of North Okkalapa Township when foreigners started coming to learn meditation from him. He realised there was a need to set up a suitable place for them to practise.

In 1997, on hearing of Sayadaw's vision for a meditation centre, U Min Zaw, Daw Kye Myint and their family donated an initial three acres of land to Sayadaw upon which work began to build a modern centre.

A further two acres of land were donated by Major Kyaw Khaung, Daw Khin Mar Kyi and their family; and the sisters, Daw Than Nyunt and Daw Khin Myint Myint. Three acres more were donated by U Maung Maung and Daw Sann Sann Winn. A total of eight acres became available. For Sāsana purposes the exact land area was recorded at 6.22 acres.

In May 1998, U Ye Swe and Daw Mya Mya Oo donated the cost of fencing the land with a barbed wire fence.

In June that year, the building of the Sāsanapāla Sīma Hall was begun with a donation of five million Kyats from Daw Nyo Nyo Min. On Wednesday, February 3rd 1999, the construction and consecration of the Sīma Hall was successfully completed and the Sāsana flag flew for the first time in Shwe Oo Min Dhammasukha Tawya.

Shwe Oo Min Sayadaw's personal kuti, opposite the Sīma Hall, was donated by U Yi Sann, Daw Tin Aye and family and was completed in November 21st, 1999.

Meanwhile, on the right hand side of the Sīma Hall the first men's block, Pītipāla, was begun in January 1999 and completed in May of the same year.

Also in 1999 construction was begun on Samādhipāla, another men's building, located to the right of Pītipāla. The donation of this block was made by Daw Khin Lay Nyo and her daughter Moe Sandar Kyaw in memory of her late father, U Kyaw Nyein.

The generosity of Vietnamese devotees from all over the world made Mettāpālī, the first women's building, possible. Construction began in March 1999 and was finished in September 1999.

Towards the end of June 1999, Karunāpālī, a second women's block, was constructed with the combined donations of local and Korean yogis and it was completed by April 2000.

Building was begun on Āyupāla, the dining hall, in 1999 and was completed in February 2000. The adjacent kitchen was completed in May 2000.

The owner of Shwe Zin Goldsmiths & Jewellers, U Tin Oo and Daw Hla Myint undertook the construction and donation of Sukhapāla which is to the north of Sayadaw's kuti, around April 1999. This was completed before the end of the year.

In April 2000, the construction of the 80 feet by 100 feet Dhammasukha Dhamma Hall began and was completed in November.

Building began on a new women's block, Muditāpālī, towards the end of the monsoon in the year 2000 and it was completed in time for the Myanmar New Year in April 2001.

Cittapāla, which houses the office and the clinic, was donated by U Kyaw Than and Daw Khin Swe Yi, their daughter Yi Mon Kyaw and son, Thiha Nyunt. Building began at the beginning of the Rains 2000 and was completed in April of the following year.

U Hla Win, Daw Pheik Tin and family donated the women's building, Khamāpālī, located to the north of Mettāpālī. Construction took from January until June 2001.

The car park and a visitors' area in front of Cittapāla were built with the generosity of Major Sein Win, Daw Phyu Phyu Aye and their son, Kaday Aung. This was completed on October 3rd 2001.

For visiting monks, particularly senior and respected monks, Therāvāsa house (including furnishings) was donated by U Moe Myint and Daw Ohn Mar Moe Myint, U Zaw Tint and Daw Nilar Myint, U Thein Myint and family in memory of their grandmother Daw Mya May. All merits for the donation were shared on December 20th, 2002.

In 2003 when an additional men's block became necessary, Satipāla was built with the generosity of Shwe Nan Daw (Golden Palace) Jewellers and Goldsmiths, Dr Aung Kyaw Win, his wife Dr Thet Thet Khine and their daughter Thet Yadanar Kyaw Win.

Across from Therāvāsa, beside the Dhamma Hall, the Shwe Oo Min Dhamma Library was built and completed in November 2003 under the auspices of the Venerable Khippapañño, Vietnamese Sayadaw from America, together with his devotees.

Owing to the growing number of yogis, construction of a new building for women, located near the north gate, began in August 2004.

It was Shwe Oo Min Sayadaw's esteemed presence that made all this possible in the awesome span of a few short years.

No noise from traffic, far from people, in the shade of trees as in a forest, Shwe Oo Min Dhammasukha Tawya is a place to live in the joy of the Dhamma. And many are the people who have come from all over the world and Myanmar in all seasons, driven by their thirst for the Dhamma, to seek out the guidance and instruction of Sayadaw with respect, deference and perseverance on the path to true liberation.

On Wednesday, November 20th 2002, at 3.30pm, Sayadawgyi passed away in his own kuti here at Shwe Oo Min Dhammasukha Tawya. His cremation was carried out at this spot at 3pm on Tuesday, November 26th 2002. In remembrance of Sayadaw's enduring qualities and so future generations will know the history of this centre, we commemorate the place on which Sayadaw was cremated.

This project to erect a memorial began on Thursday, November 20th 2003 and has come to its completion on Saturday, November 20th 2004.

May these merits be shared with all beings as we celebrate this occasion with great rejoicing.