

CONTENTS

<i>About the Series</i>	v
<i>Preface</i>	vii
<i>Choice of Terminologies</i>	xi
<i>A Note on Transliteration and Translation</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xv
<i>Figures</i>	xxi
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xxix

1	Introduction.....	1
	The Backdrop	4
	Mediating between Purity and Defilement	14
	Gender and Power in Representations of Buddhist Nuns.....	21
	Ethnographic Fieldwork at Nirodharam Bhikkhuni Arama.....	24
2	Gendered Access to Power in Thailand and Southeast Asia.....	27
	Thai Buddhist Constructions of Gender and Merit	27
	A Southeast Asian Perspective of Gender and Power	32
	Merit, Protection and Renunciation in Thailand	37
	Menstrual Taboos, Women and the Sacred.....	44
	Women between Renunciate Ambiguity and Charisma	64

3	The Setting, the Community and a Way of Life	79
	Introducing Nirodharam	79
	The Community	89
	Creating a Renunciate Body	95
	The Monastic 'Way of Life'	113
4	Contextualising Gender and Defilement	137
	Downplaying and Respecting Beliefs in Menstrual Pollution	138
	Reproducing and Redressing Gendered 'Defilement' and 'Purity'	142
	A Discursive 'Sanitisation' of Menstrual Pollution?	148
	Mental 'Defilements' (<i>kilet</i>): an Antithesis to Spiritual 'Purity'	150
	Chapter Summary	161
5	Reconfiguring Gendered Access to Merit and Power.....	163
	Restraint: a Powerful Platform for Negotiating Purity	164
	The Emergence of a Charismatic Female Teacher.....	177
	Merit, Protection and Refuge in a Female Monastery	195
	Revisiting Gender and Action in the 'Hierarchy of Merit'	215
	Chapter Summary	231
6	The Potency of Restraint in the Face of Contestation.....	235
	Maintaining a Passive Stance	236
	Celibate Purity, Non-self and the Narrative of Legitimacy	242

	The Power of Heritage.....	252
	Chapter Summary	254
7	<i>Bhikkhunī</i> and the Power of Monks' Protection.....	257
	Taking Refuge in Local Monks	259
	Northern Identities and Buddhist Revitalisation Projects	266
	Recalling <i>Bhikkhunī</i> Imageries in Lan Na,.....	270
	Re-inventing a Female Monastic Tradition.....	274
	Chapter Summary	313
8	Summary and Conclusions	317
	Mediating between Purity and Defilement	318
	Redressing Defilement and Accessing Powerful Domains	321
	GLOSSARY	327
	APPENDIX	337
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	341