

# Contents

Acknowledgements .....	v
Abbreviations .....	xii
Figures and Tables .....	xiii
A Note on the Name Myanmar .....	xiv
Conventions for Transliterations, etc.....	xv
Map of Myanmar .....	xvii
 Introduction: From the Śākyamuni Buddha to the Shwegyin	
Tradition .....	1
The Setting of the Study .....	1
From Śākyamuni . . . ..	6
. . . To Monastic Organization and Practices . . . ..	9
. . . To the Shwegiyn.....	17
Vicissitudes of Modern Burmese Political History .....	23
Sources and Approach for Studying the Story .....	27
 Chapter One: The Shwegyin Tradition and Its Traditionalism .....	32
Tradition: Invented and Reinvented.....	32
Shwegyin Tradition and Traditionalism.....	34
A Genre of Traditionalism: <i>Sāsana</i> Histories and Monastic	
Biographies.....	41
Histories, Biographies, and the Ethics of Traditionalism.....	46
Buddhist Histories and Biographies in and beyond Myanmar .....	48
Case Study 1: The <i>Abridged History</i> and Aspects of Lineage .....	51
The Silānandābhivaṃsa's Introduction: Supporting a	
Lineage.....	52
Paṇḍita's Verse and Commentary: Types of Lineage .....	55
Paṇḍita's Verse and Commentary: Dynamics of <i>Kilesas</i> and	
<i>Sila</i> .....	58
Case Study 2: The Kyauntawya Sayadaw and Being a Son of the	
Buddha.....	60
Dreams: Signs of a Good Disciple-Son.....	61
A Son's Lineage: The Role of the <i>Vinaya</i> and Higher	
Ordination .....	62

A Son and His Practice.....	65
Sons of the Buddha: A Classic Conflict and a Shwegyin	
Solution .....	67
Traditions and the Past, Present, and Future .....	70
Chapter Two: Institutional Moorings.....	73
From Lineage to <i>Nikāya</i> .....	74
Monastic Groups in Myanmar: A Snapshot.....	75
Inclusion and Exclusion among Burmese <i>Nikāya</i> and <i>Gaing</i> .....	77
Records and Meetings of the Shwegyin <i>Nikāya</i> .....	83
The Meetings and the Texts .....	87
Relations with Classical Pali and Other Sources .....	91
The Hierarchy of Shwegyin Leaders and	
Administrators .....	95
Keeping Track of Shwegyin Membership .....	99
Discipline in the Shwegyin <i>Nikāya</i> .....	101
The <i>Sāsana</i> 's Care Groups.....	102
The Work of Leaders and Administrators.....	105
Chapter Three: Classic Ritual Permutations .....	107
Militating against <i>Sāsana</i> Decline and Social Disruption .....	107
The Higher Ordination: Interpretive Issues .....	110
A Shwegyin Higher Ordination .....	116
<i>Sīmā</i> and <i>Parisā</i> : The Harmony and Unity of the	
Community .....	118
<i>Vatthu</i> : Eligibility to Live in the <i>Sāsana</i> .....	119
<i>Ñatti</i> and <i>Anussāvana</i> : Verbal Concord with the Buddha .....	127
Post-Accomplishments: Explaining Life in the <i>Sāsana</i> .....	132
Records, Hierarchy, and Property .....	132
The Four Foundations .....	133
The Four Actions Not To Be Done .....	135
Taking Leave.....	137
<i>Arahants</i> in Training .....	138
Chapter Four: Existential Ruminations.....	139
Oceans, Everywhere .....	139
The <i>Abhidhamma-piṭaka</i> and the <i>Paṭṭhāna</i> .....	144
The Work of <i>Abhidhamma</i> Specialists.....	146
The <i>Abhidhamma</i> and <i>Paṭṭhāna</i> in Contemporary	
Myanmar .....	148

The Buddha's Contemplation of <i>Paṭṭhāna</i> .....	149
<i>Nibbāna</i> , <i>Samsāra</i> , and <i>Abhidhamma</i> .....	151
<i>Paṭṭhāna</i> Sermons: "Introduction" by U Htun Hlaing .....	152
<i>Paṭṭhāna</i> Sermons by the Janakābhivaṃsa .....	156
Faith in the Buddha the <i>Arahant</i> .....	157
The Place of the <i>Paṭṭhāna</i> in the Quest for Arahantship .....	158
Comprehending the <i>Paṭṭhāna</i> .....	161
Root Condition .....	161
Rapturous Joy and the Work of an <i>Abhidhamma</i> Specialist .....	165
Conclusion: Continuities and Ruptures .....	169
Burmese Religious Culture and Beyond .....	169
Other Implications for Theory and Method .....	179
Epilogue: A Comment on Continuity and Rupture, from Afar .....	188
Appendix A: Figures .....	194
Appendix B: Tables .....	199
Appendix C: Letter to the Penang Sayadaw .....	219
Bibliography .....	223
Burmese Sources .....	223
Pali Sources .....	225
European/other-language Sources .....	225
Websites .....	234
Index of Authors .....	236
Index of Burmese Terms .....	239
Index of Pali and Sanskrit Terms .....	241
Index of Subjects .....	244