

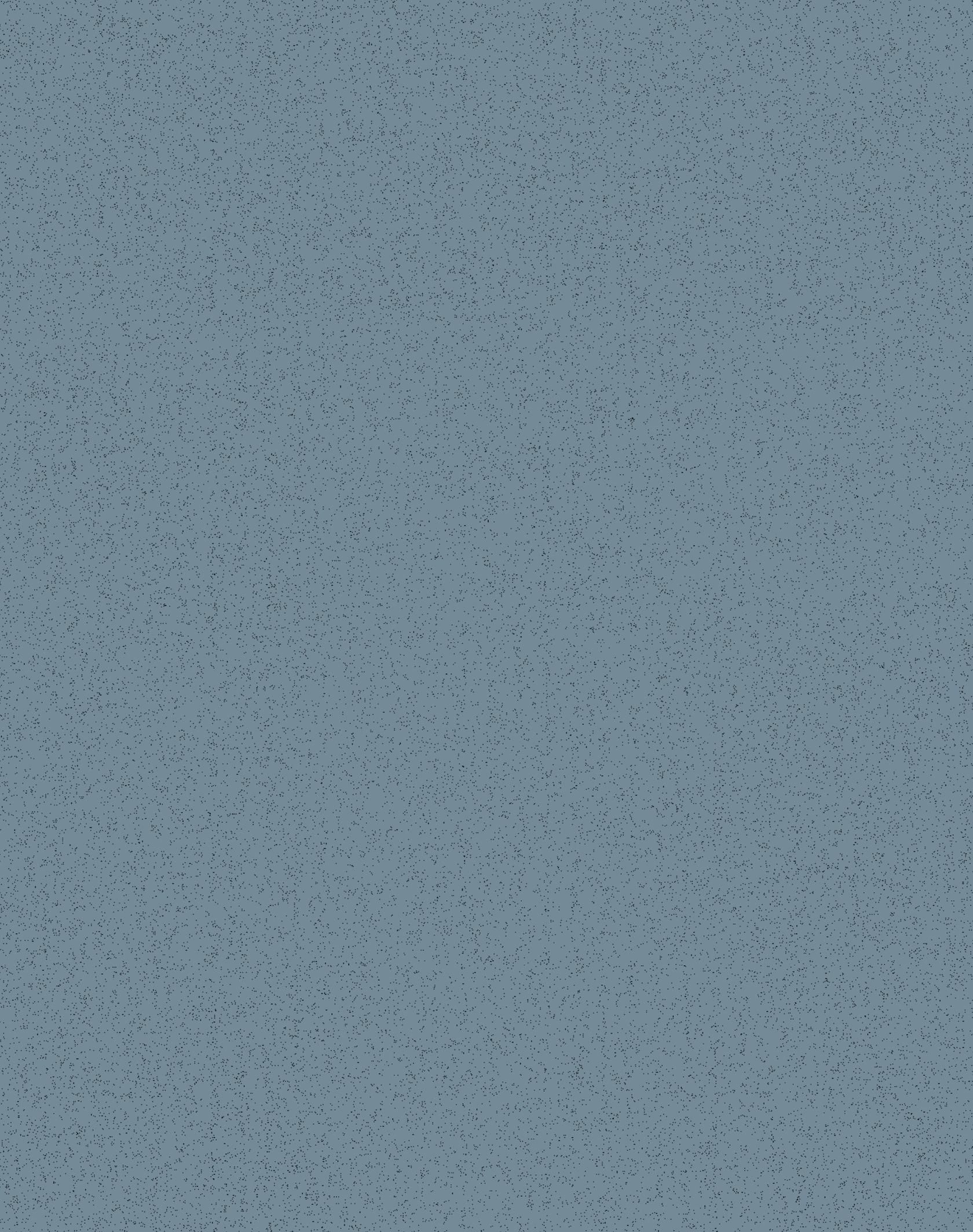


สมเด็จพระญาณสังวร

# The Sangharaja Man, Monk & Monarch



A Tribute to H.H. Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara,  
The Late 19<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch of Thailand



# The Sangharaja

## Man, Monk & Monarch



A Tribute to H.H. Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara,  
The Late 19<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch of Thailand









# PREFACE

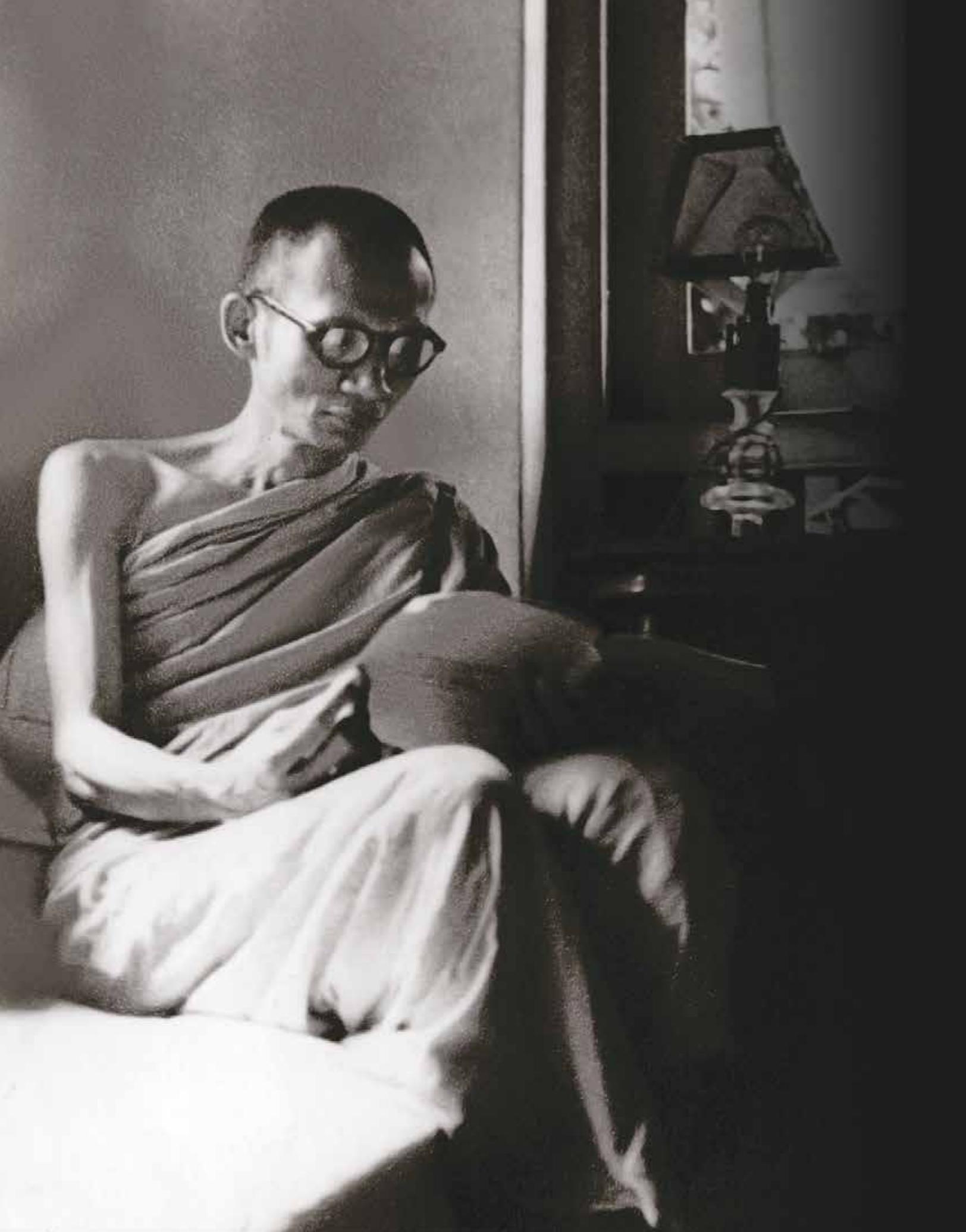
“Dhamma is the treasure that adorns one’s mind, nourishes it until the mind grows and prospers, makes a human truly humane and graceful so as to become a learned, happy and serene human being. If compared to worldly treasure, Dhamma is like nourishment that nurtures body and sustains life, like jewellery that beautifies our appearance.”

— His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand

As the country of his birth, Thailand has been blessed beyond description, for it is not every day that the world experiences the marvel of a man as holy and pure of faith and benediction as was Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the 19<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand, who walked this Earth for 100 years and received the highest honour of being titled Supreme Holiness of World Buddhism.

His Holiness dedicated his entire life to the selfless pursuit of loving kindness, compassion and humanity. His saintly conduct will continue to provide lifelong lessons for us all. With deepest and respectful gratitude for his benevolence, this book has been published so that people from all walks of life throughout the world may come to know the heights of perfection a human being can attain when he commits himself to doing good not only for the fellow man but for all living things.

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**HIS HOLY LIFE**

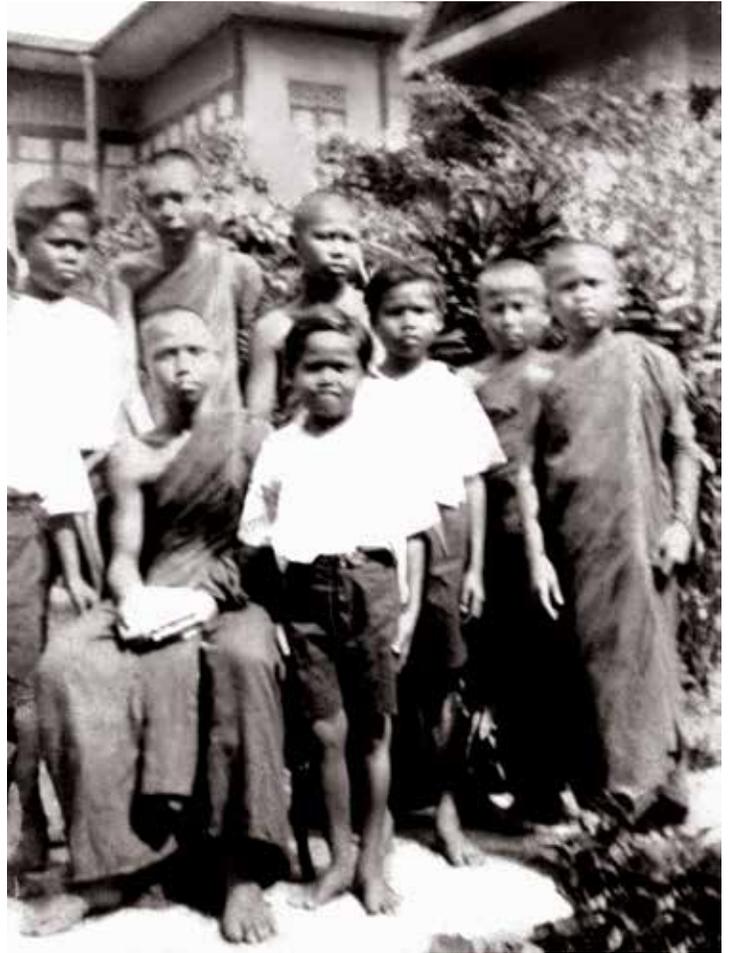
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# A LIGHT BEFORE DAWN

**T**he arrival of a great soul does not go unremarked, no matter how subtly the signs may tiptoe past human perception. And so it was, that 101 years ago on the night of Friday, October 3, 1913 in the wee hours before sunrise, a temple bell pealed the hour of prayer and the soft, rhythmic chanting of monks wafted over the community of Ban Nuea, not far from the River Kwae in Kanchanaburi Province.

Without knowing it, the Gajavatra family were rejoicing in the birth of one who was destined to head the monastic order of the very temple whose bell had just marked the hour of his advent. Without knowing it, the first sounds the infant heard were of holy chanting.



With novice friends and his two younger brothers, at Wat Devasangharam in Kanchanaburi (H.H., tallest, back row).

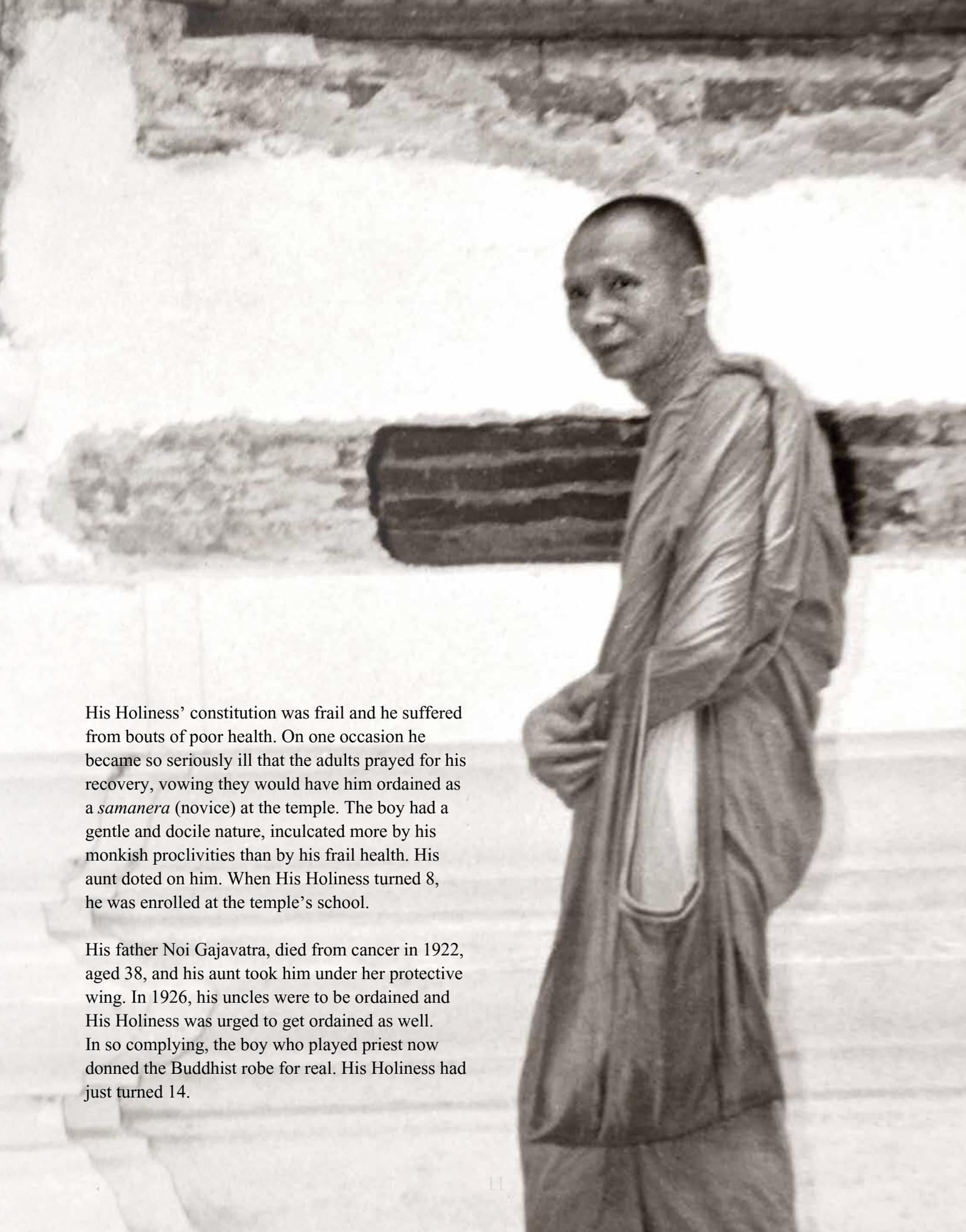
Facing Page: His Holiness, as Samanera Charoen, having completed his first year as a novice at age 15.



Wishing the child to thrive and prosper, the parents named their son Charoen. As devout Buddhists, the boy's mother and aunt visited the temple regularly, never failing to attend the ceremonies and festivals. They also never failed to bring along little Charoen (the future His Holiness) who thus grew up nurtured by loving kindness and moral instruction. The boy became so steeped in the saffron of his surroundings that he would invent games which recreated something of the religious sights and sounds he had experienced. Robing himself with the yard-long *pha-khao-ma* all-purpose cloth, the boy would fancy himself a monk and give ponderous sermons to his cousins and friends; at times he would chant prayers, holding a palm leaf in front of his face to represent the talipot fan used in Thai Buddhist ceremonies. Years later, family members would say, "He's been a monk since childhood."

H.H., seated 4<sup>th</sup> from left, with other monk students while studying Pali at Wat Bovoranives Vihara Institute in Bangkok in the late 1930s.

Right: As abbot of Wat Bovoranives Vihara, H.H. began major renovations to the royal temple.



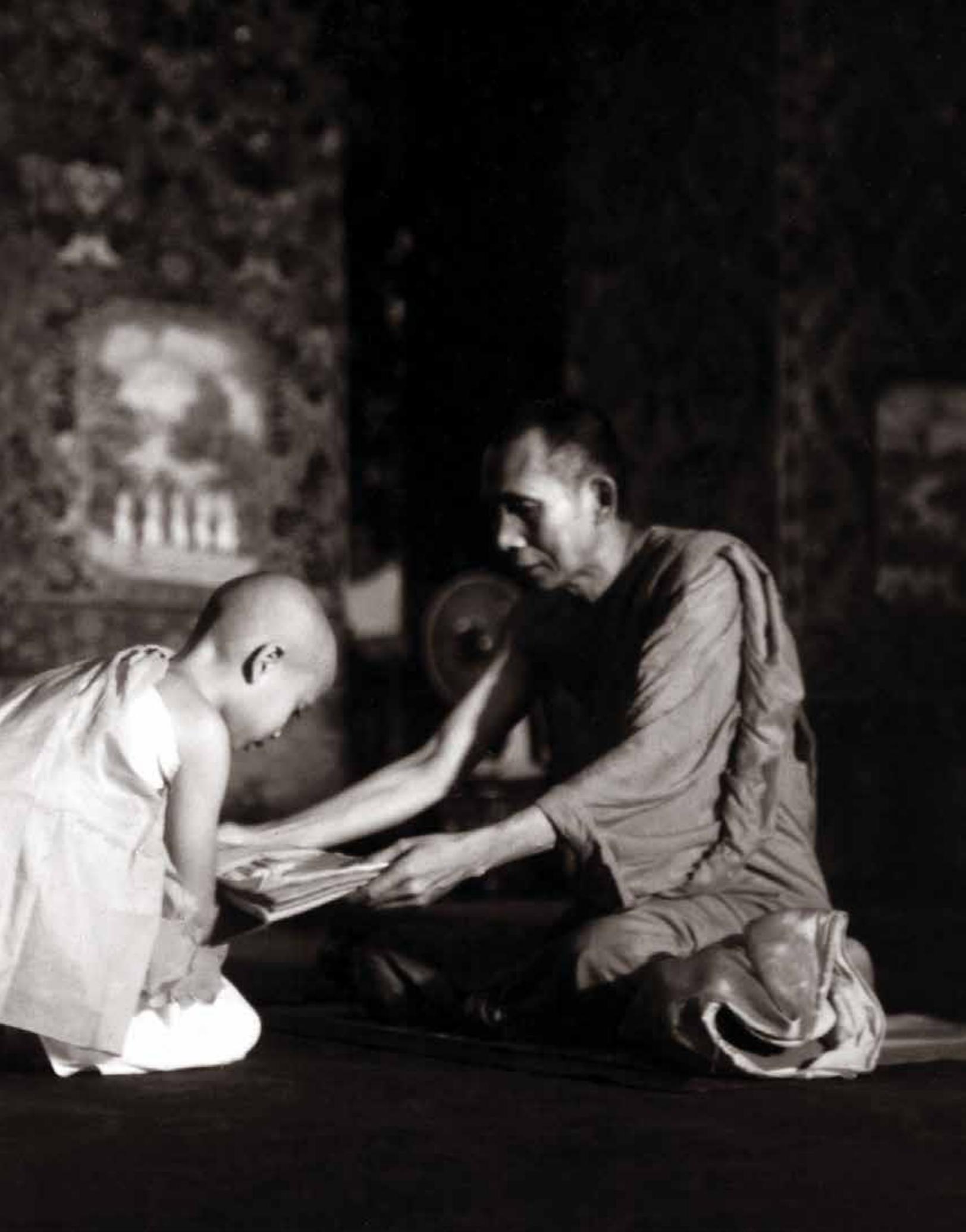
His Holiness' constitution was frail and he suffered from bouts of poor health. On one occasion he became so seriously ill that the adults prayed for his recovery, vowing they would have him ordained as a *samanera* (novice) at the temple. The boy had a gentle and docile nature, inculcated more by his monkish proclivities than by his frail health. His aunt doted on him. When His Holiness turned 8, he was enrolled at the temple's school.

His father Noi Gajavatra, died from cancer in 1922, aged 38, and his aunt took him under her protective wing. In 1926, his uncles were to be ordained and His Holiness was urged to get ordained as well. In so complying, the boy who played priest now donned the Buddhist robe for real. His Holiness had just turned 14.

H.H., as Phra Sasanasobhana,  
presents robes to a child novice  
at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

The boy novice studied hard and practised harder. He also looked after his guardian teacher who at night would recite the Dhamma, making the novice learn by heart all of the teachings. In 1929, His Holiness was sent to the royal monastery of Wat Bovoranives Vihara in Bangkok, whose abbot was His Holiness Somdet Phra Vajiranyanvangsa, the 13<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch. Throughout the first 21 days of his stay there, His Holiness complied with all the temple's regulations so diligently that the abbot conferred a new monastic name upon him, Suvaddhano, the 'cultivated one'. At this institution of higher learning and amongst the Sangha (community of seekers), the novice thrived in Dhamma and Pali studies. So engrossed was he in his books that the 13<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch admonished: "I hear that you are very diligent. Don't be too studious. Be sure to meditate, too," and became His Holiness' first teacher in meditation. When he turned 20, the novice was re-ordained as a monk by His Holiness the 13<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch on February 15, 1933.







Despite poor health, His Holiness made good progress and excelled in his studies. At times, when he was ill, the monk refused to be bedridden and would wrap a thick woollen cloth around his chest to keep warm while continuing to study. From the time he completed Grade 5 in Pali studies, His Holiness began teaching Dhamma and Pali at Wat Bovoranives Vihara Institute. He was self-taught when he went on to study Grade 6-7 in 1934. That year, he spent as much time as he could spare to study Sanskrit with Professor Swami Satyanandapuri Vedantapradipa, an Indian expert in Hinduism, Sanskrit and English who opened an educational exchange centre opposite the temple. This period became the foundation and beginning of his self-education. Through



H.H. on one of his many trips upcountry to inspect Buddhist monasteries. Wherever H.H. went, large crowds gathered to pay their respects.

Far Left: Novices ordained for the summer are led in prayer by H.H. at the Uposatha Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

self-learning His Holiness was able to acquire English language skills. He followed this accomplishment by developing an interest in other languages, including German, French and Chinese. His linguistic studies were curtailed as he gradually shouldered more and more responsibilities. In 1941, at the age of 28, His Holiness attained the highest grade in Pali studies, Grade 9, and was appointed as director of Wat Bovoranives Vihara Institute, where he supervised the curricula for monks and novices. In 1945, he became a teacher at the Mahamakut Buddhist University and a member of the Ecclesiastical Judicature. In 1946, he was named Private Secretary to the 13<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch. And though it would take him 20 years, he established a master's degree course for monks.



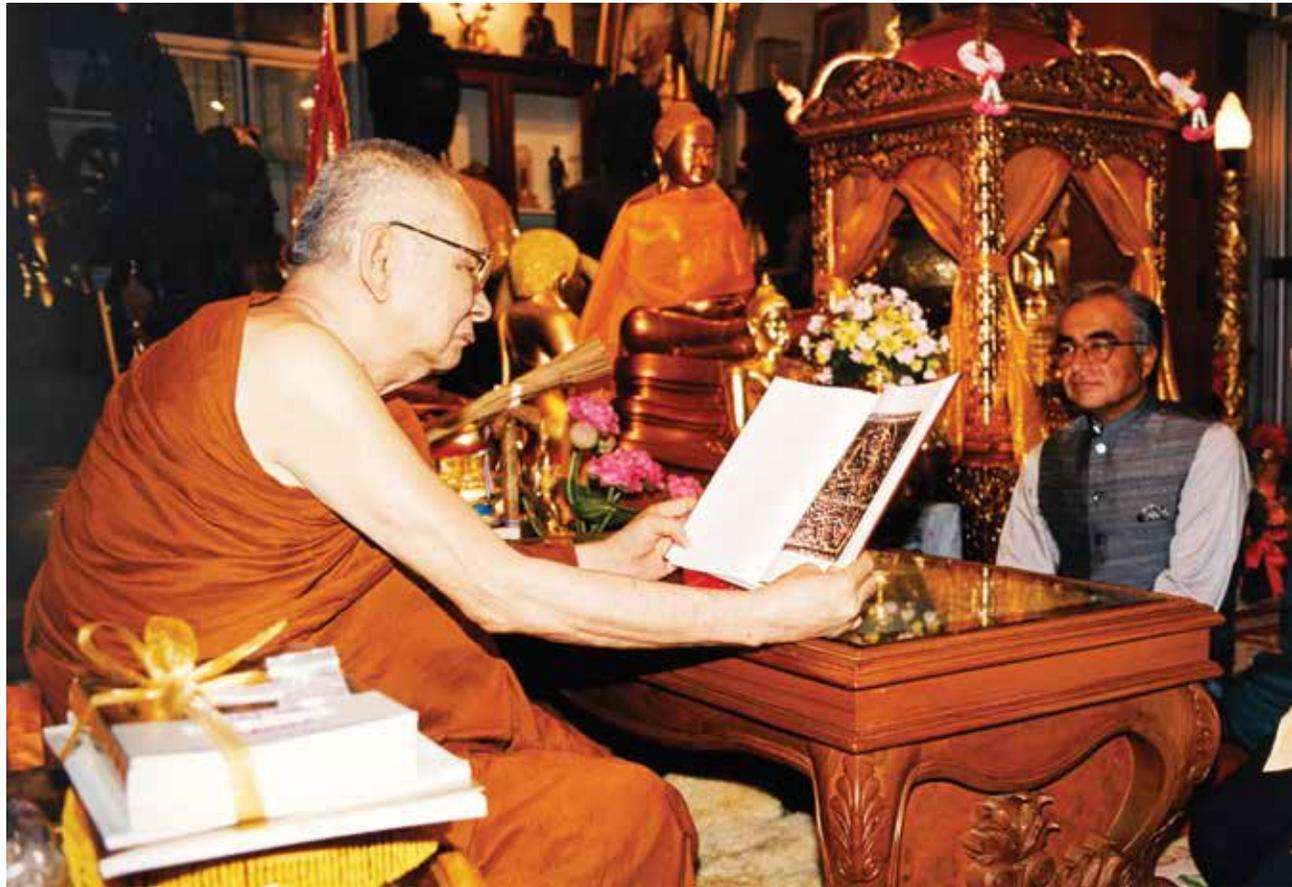
Despite the urban environment, His Holiness still managed to live a contemplative life conducive to his spiritual development and meditation. He was a paragon of virtuous self-discipline and self-restraint. He researched Dhamma carefully in both theory and practice, and travelled to visit other monks, particularly those who had attained higher enlightenment through meditation.

Despite the burden of heavy responsibilities, His Holiness continued to focus on teaching, a role he never delegated no matter how busy he was. Twice a week he would teach and then guide his audience in meditation. From 1961, when he became abbot of Wat Bovoranives, this became a regular assignment. From 1969, he began conducting Dhamma classes in English.



H.H. teaches Buddhist scripture and Dhamma to monks at the Uposatha Hall of Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

Below: Upon being posted to Bangkok, the envoys from various countries would pay a courtesy call on the Supreme Patriarch.

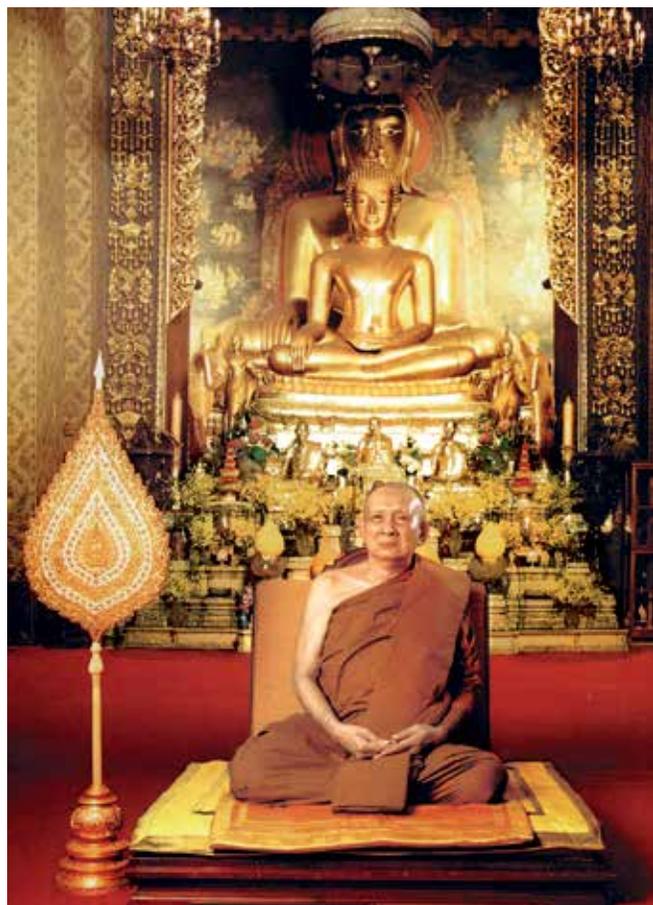


His Holiness was the founder of the Training Institute for Dhammaduta Bhikkhus Going Abroad (Dhammaduta means emissary of Dhamma). As Chairman of the Board of Mahamakuta Rajavidyalaya Foundation, he had the *Tipitaka* (Pali Canon) and the *Atthakatha* (Pali Commentaries on the Canon) translated into the Thai language for the first time.



On April 21, 1989, in a ceremony presided over by Their Majesties the King and Queen at the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, His Holiness (as the Venerable Phra Charoen Suvaddhano Bhikkhu) was installed as the 19<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch of Thailand, with the titular address of His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara. The child Charoen had indeed thrived, reaching the pinnacle of the country's religious leadership; yet his humility, dignified simplicity and compassion made him widely known as 'the people's monk'.

His intelligence and great experience of Buddhist affairs imbued all the books he wrote, which included highly popular titles such as *Sixteen Questions*, *A Guide to Awareness* and *45 Years of the Buddha*. He also published numerous textbooks and works of religious scholarship. At the behest of H.R.H Princess Mother Srinagarindra, he started the Sunday morning radio broadcast 'Mental Management', which taught audiences how to train their own mindfulness and use it in everyday life. He also initiated nearly 100 construction and restoration projects in remembrance of, and with gratitude towards, his preceptors, teachers and other benefactors. Through his Dhammaduta (religious emissaries) he promoted Theravada Buddhism abroad and helped to set up many temples and monasteries around the world.



Health problems dogged His Holiness as the years wore on. He was admitted to Chulalongkorn Hospital on February 20, 2000, where he remained for the next 11 years till he departed this earthly abode on October 24, 2013 – after turning 100 and becoming the longest reigning Supreme Patriarch in Thai history.

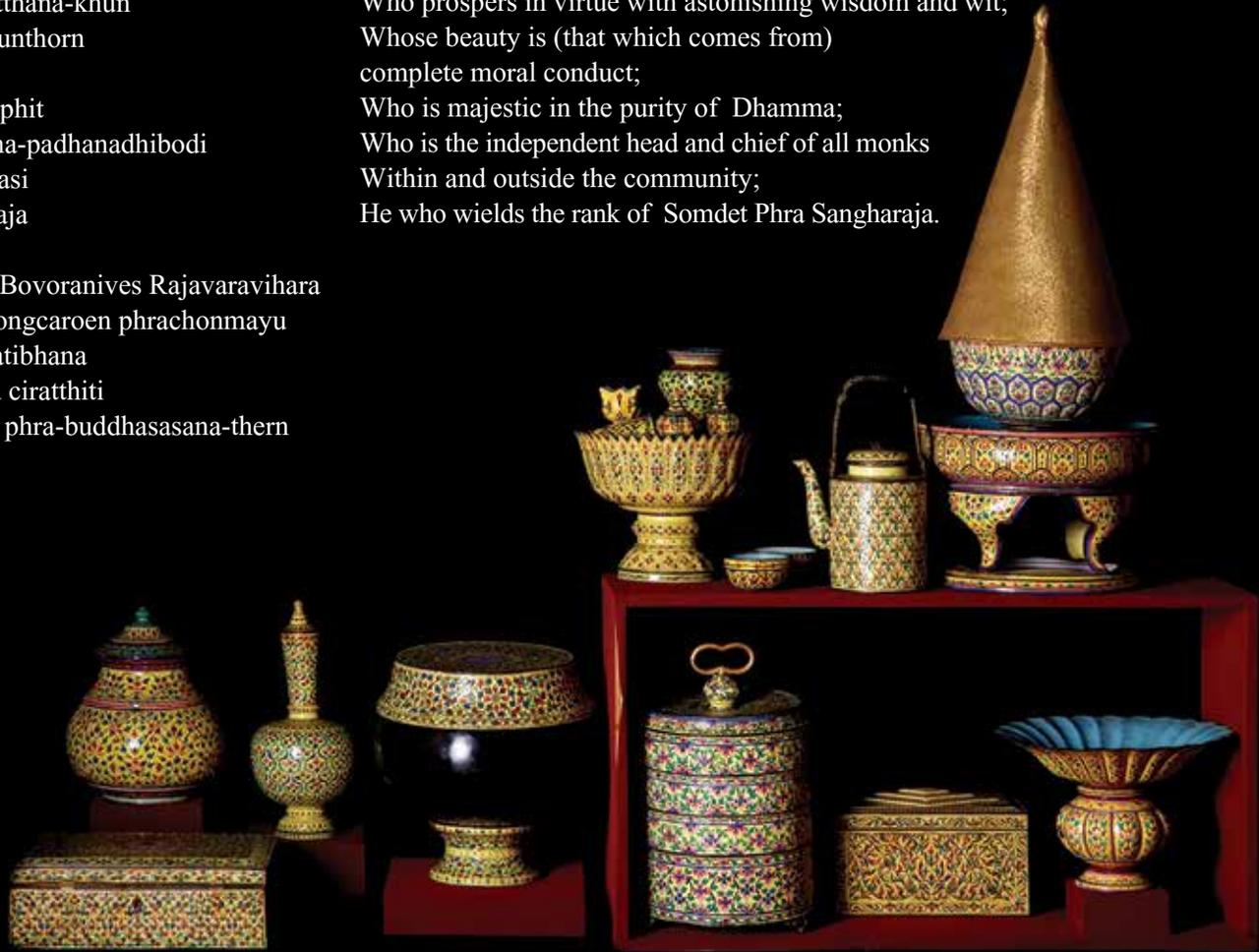
His office issued a statement saying His Holiness always reminded his followers about the ‘Three Marks of Existence’ – impermanence, suffering and non-existence. True words. Yet the accomplishments of a man who persevered on the path of Truth will continue to resonate in the minds of multitudes, lighting the way to purity and lessening the burden of humankind’s suffering with loving kindness and compassion.

His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara is anointed and receives a ceremonial talipot fan from His Majesty the King on April 21, 1989, upon his elevation to the highest position as the 19<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch of Thailand.

Upon his installation as the 19<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch of Thailand, His Holiness was granted ceremonial fans and items of rank from His Majesty King Rama IX, including the titular name which translates as:

Name	Translation
Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara	Somdet — the monk who is protected by Dhamma restraints which include wisdom;
Barom-narishorn-dhamma-nitiban	Who offers advice and instruction in Dhamma to the great leader of people King Bhumibol;
Ariya-vongsha-gata-nyana-vimon	Who is pure and without defilement through Wisdom bequeathed by the noble lineage of sanctified monks;
sakol-maha-sangha-parinayok	Who is the leader of the Holy Order of all Monkhood;
tripitaka-pariyatti-dhada	Whose mind is steeped in the Pariyatti Dhamma (Learning of Truth) which is the Tipitaka (Buddha’s Teachings);
visuddha-cariyadhi-sombat	Who, with perfect ethical behaviour, is made wondrous pure
suvaddhana-bhidhana-sangha-visut	To receive in the Holy Order the name ‘Suvaddhana’ (‘Cultivated One’);
pavacanuttama-phisarn	Who has broad and expansive wisdom in the ultimate Dhamma-Vinaya (Truth and Discipline);
sukhum-dhamma-vidhan-thamrong	Who is steeped in the way of Dhamma in every intricate detail;
vajiranyanavongsha-vivat	Who follows in the footsteps of the Supreme Patriarch Krom Luang Vajirayanavangsa;
Buddha-borisad-garava-sathan	Who is the altar of reverence for all Buddhists;
vicit-patibhana-phatthana-khun	Who prospers in virtue with astonishing wisdom and wit;
Vibun-silacaravat-sunthorn	Whose beauty is (that which comes from) complete moral conduct;
bovorn-dhamma-bophit	Who is majestic in the purity of Dhamma;
sabba-ganisorn-maha-padhanadhivodi	Who is the independent head and chief of all monks
gama-vasi aranya-vasi	Within and outside the community;
somdet phra sangaraja	He who wields the rank of Somdet Phra Sangharaja.

sadet-sathit na Wat Bovoranives Rajavaravihara  
 Phra Aramhluang songcaroen phrachonmayu  
 vanna sukha bala patibhana  
 guna-sara-sirisawad ciratthiti  
 virulha-paiboon nai phra-buddhasasana-thern





## THE MONARCHY



H.H. receives alms offered by His Majesty the King at the Grand Palace in Bangkok.

# TWO INSTITUTIONS, SIMILAR MISSION

**T**he monarchy and the monkhood have long comprised two out of the three pillars of the Thai nation, the third being the people. The monarchy supports the monkhood's wellbeing and vice-versa. And the relationship has held good and strong through history all the way to the reigning Monarch and the Supreme Patriarch.

The Supreme Patriarch rises to the position on the strength of his knowledge of the Dhamma and exemplary conduct. His Holiness, while being Phra Sobhanaganabhorn, was assigned in 1956 to mentor His Majesty King Bhumibol in the ways of Dhamma when the young Monarch was ordained as a monk for 15 days at Wat Bovoranives Vihara royal temple in Bangkok.



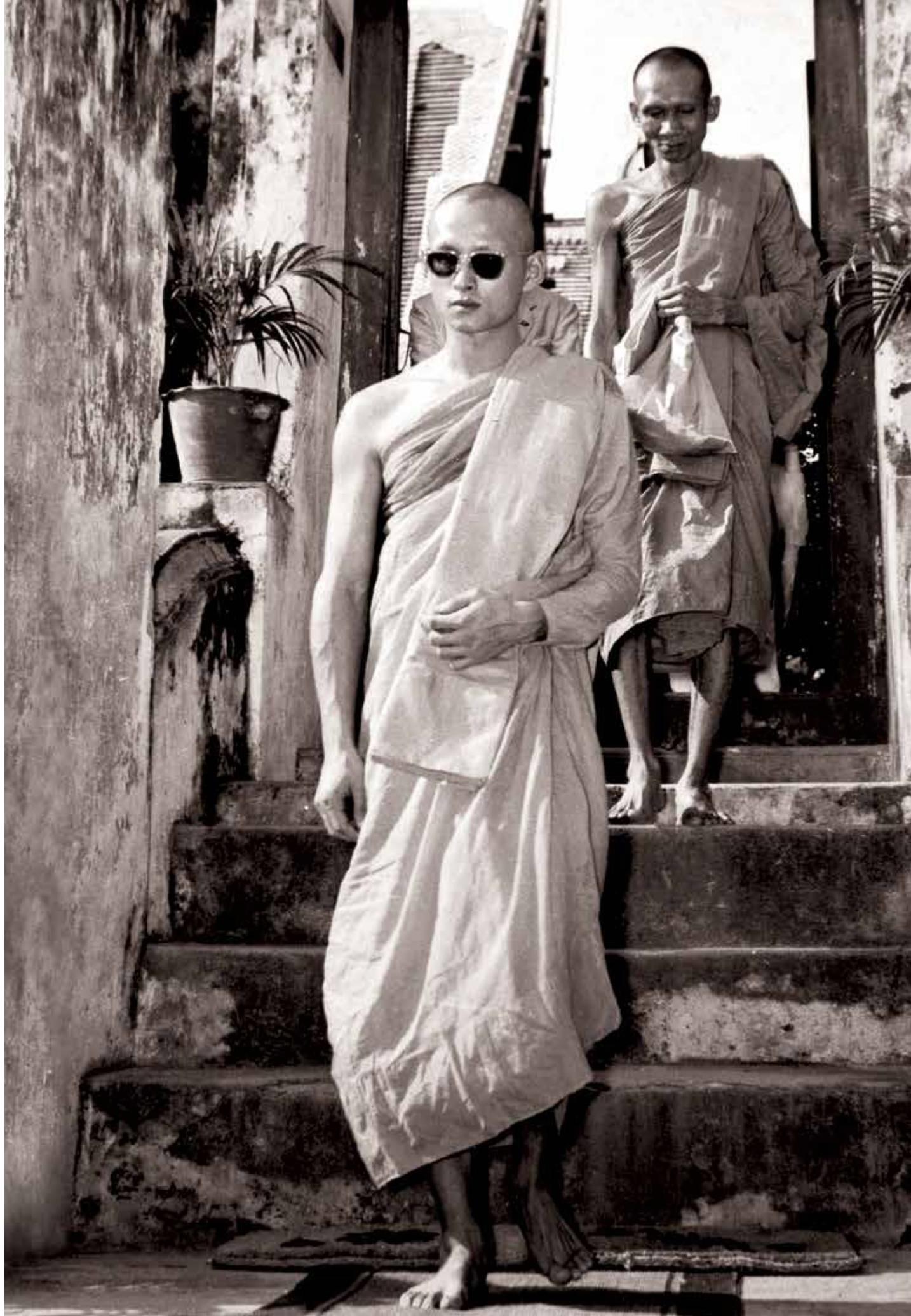
H.H., as Phra Sasanasobhana, converses with His Majesty the King.

Right: H.H. was chosen to mentor His Majesty the King in the ways of Dhamma when His Majesty was ordained as a monk and resided at Wat Bovoranives Vihara from October 22 till November 5, 1956.

Monk-King Bhumibol's knowledge and practice of Dhamma duly deepened as he continued to confer with, and receive Dhamma guidance from, His Holiness. Working keenly with the venerable monk, King Bhumibol became ever more adept at putting his profound Dhamma knowledge into practice in every aspect of his private and royal life. And so Thailand was blessed with a King exceedingly wise in the ways of Dhamma who would reign accordingly with grace and honour.

Later, in 1978, when King Bhumibol's son, H.R.H. Prince Vajiralongkorn became of age to enter the monkhood, like his father spending 15 days as a monk, Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara was once again the man chosen as mentor.

His Holiness continued coaching King Bhumibol in Dhamma after he left the monkhood. The respectful monk was always chosen to lead His Majesty in his Dhamma studies and was particularly valued for his contributions to the Monarch's royal birthday celebrations. In the history of the Thai monarchy, there is nothing unusual about a supreme patriarch or a highly venerable monk instructing a king in Dhamma.





When Their Majesties the King and Queen, along with H.R.H. Princess Ubol Ratana and H.R.H. the Crown Prince visited Wat Devasangharam in Kanchanaburi for a Kathin ceremony in 1963, H.H. as Phra Sasanasobhana, received the Royal Family and acted as their guide.

His Majesty the King held His Holiness in the highest respect and esteem, as clearly seen in this picture, where His Majesty gently helps support His Holiness, as does a devoted disciple with his teacher.





However, it was exceptional for Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara to be trusted in the role of royal teacher and leader of ceremonies for some 58 years, even before he became Supreme Patriarch and continuing through to his ascension to chief monk in 1989, and beyond.

Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal Family also treated Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara both respectfully and warmly. On special occasions, it was always to the temple where His Holiness was to be found that they would proceed to make their merit.

Their Majesties King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit were frequent visitors to Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara to pay their respects. Moreover, whenever the King and Queen would visit various provinces, the revered monk was politely invited to accompany them. For example, when the King and Queen went to Bhuping Rajanives Palace, the royal residence in Chiang Mai every January, Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara would stay at a nearby temple where he was much sought after for Dhamma discussions and merit making.

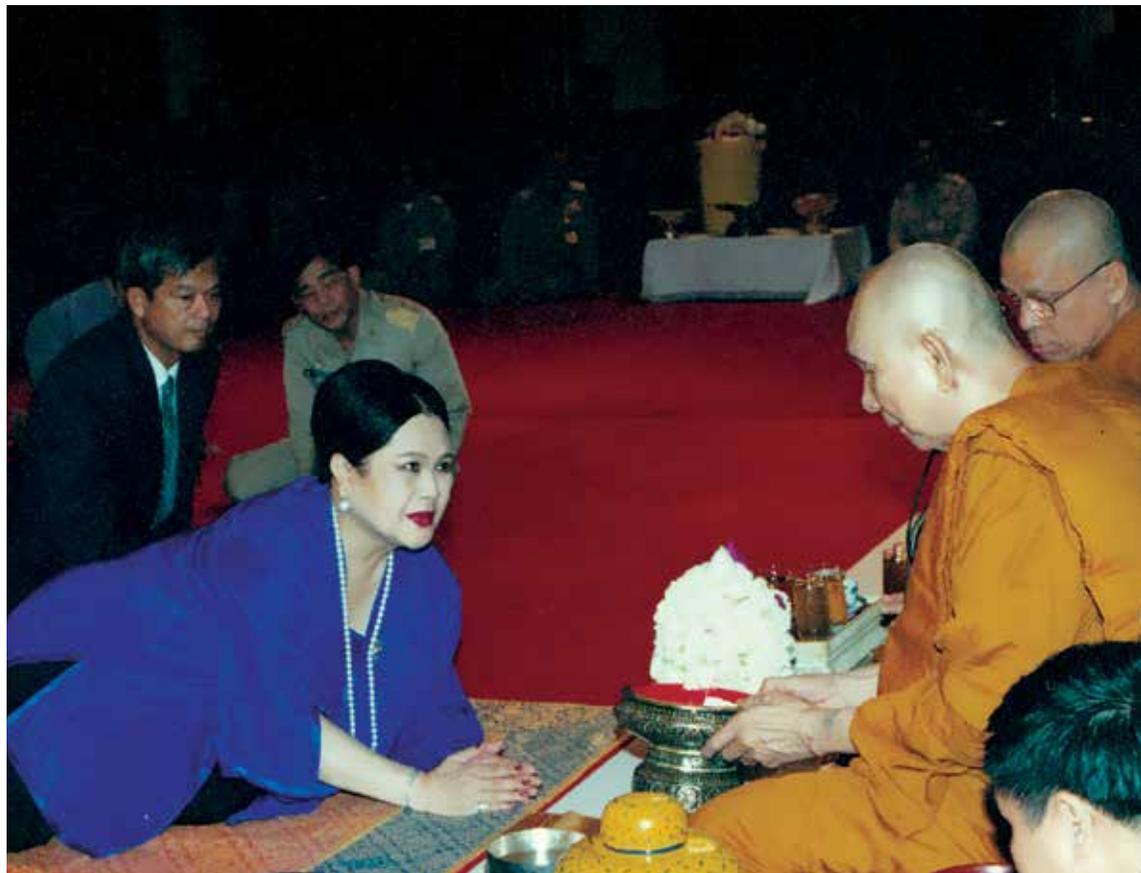


Their Majesties the King and Queen, along with two young Princesses, attend the auspicious occasion of H.H.'s induction as Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara at Wat Bovoranives Vihara in October 1973.

Below: Her Majesty the Queen pays her respects during a visit to H.H.

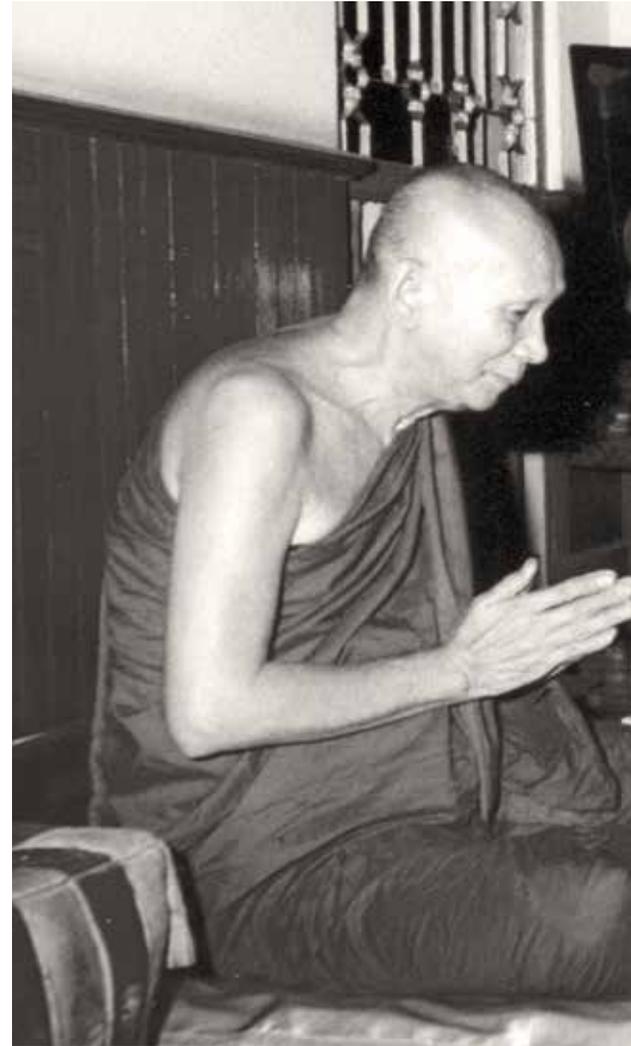
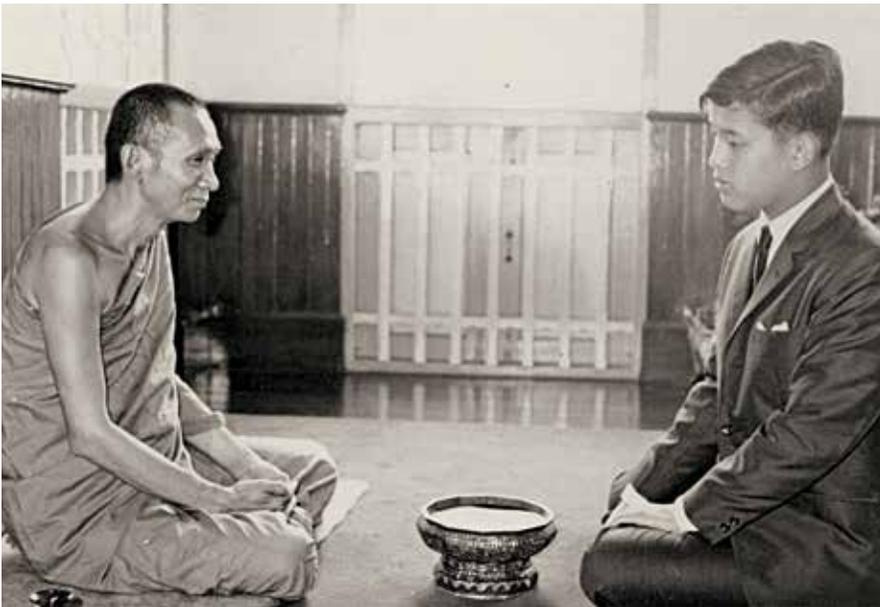
It wasn't a vacation for His Holiness. While he was in the North he visited local temples and villages, receiving offerings like other monks, and conversing with the villagers. With the understanding which he gained of their living conditions, he initiated several projects for them which the King always supported, including temple repairs and construction works and ordinations.

Meanwhile, King Bhumibol asked palace officials to record His Holiness Dhamma sessions for His Majesty to study and make copies of to distribute to others. The King would counsel the recipients of the tapes to listen, ponder on what they heard and put it into practice. Those who followed this advice reported back how their lives were transformed.



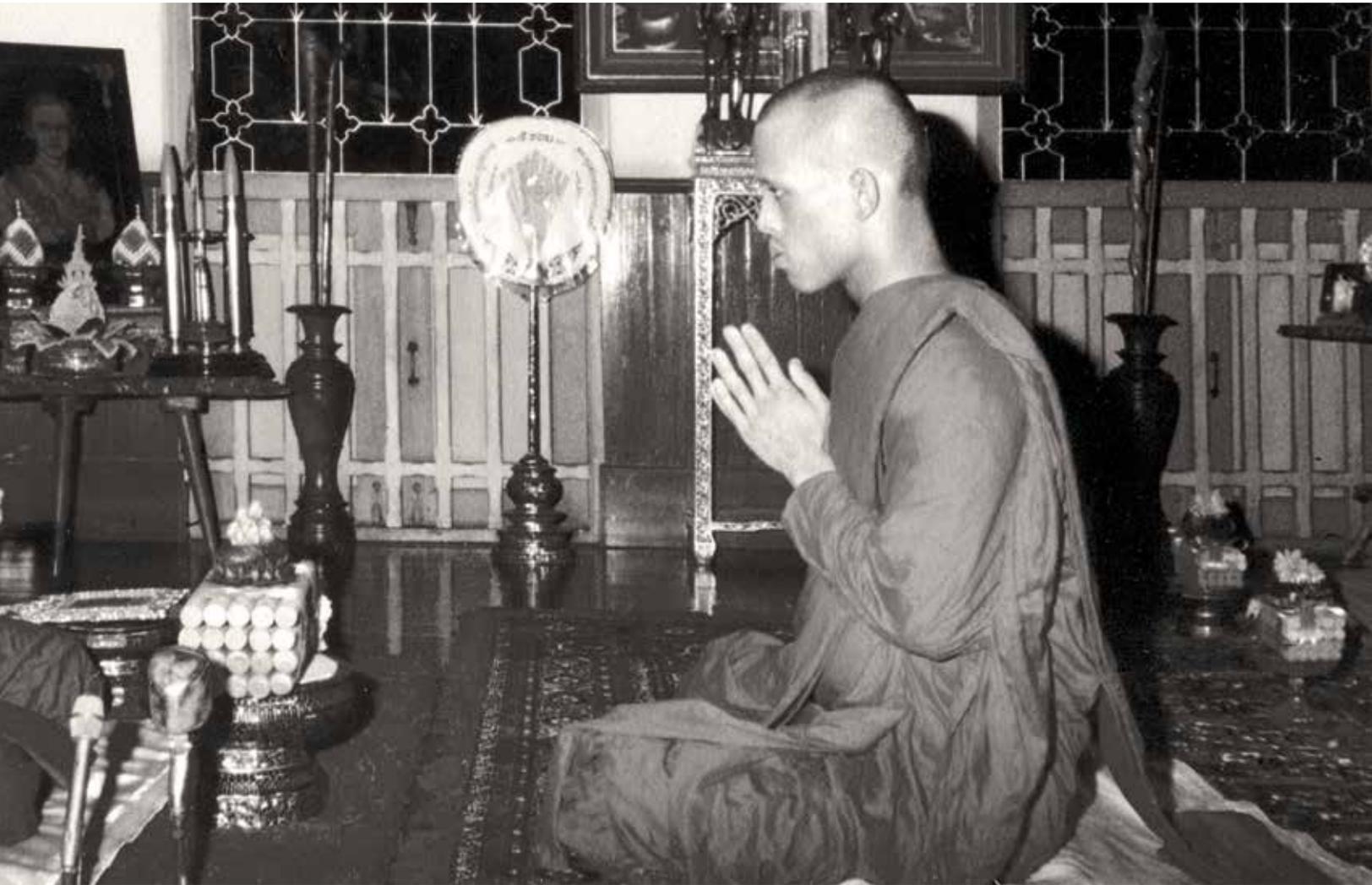
Right: When H.R.H. the Crown Prince was ordained as a monk and resided at Wat Bovoranives Vihara during November 6-20, 1978, H.H. was his teacher in the ways of Dhamma and Vinaya.

Below: H.H. as Phra Sasanasobhana, acted as guide and mentor to H.R.H. the Crown Prince during his childhood.



Seeing how they could be useful to more people, the King also had transcriptions made of Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara's talks which he then edited. One of the early transcriptions, entitled *Right View Explained by Phra Sariputra* was published and widely distributed.

This was indeed not different from what the King's mother, whom the people lovingly addressed as Somdet Ya (Royal Grandma), had been doing. She too was deep in Dhamma studies. Indeed, she taught all her children moral behaviour and worked to encourage more Thai people to follow the Dhamma.



Somdet Ya asked His Holiness to teach Dhamma in simple terms so that it would be clear to all people and they could apply it in their everyday lives. From this evolved 'Mind Management', the programme on Or Sor radio presented by His Holiness, for which Dhamma codes were specially rewritten in the most accessible terms.



When H.H. travelled to Europe, the United States and Canada in 1980, he had the opportunity to call on H.R.H. the Princess Mother at her residence in Lausanne, Switzerland.

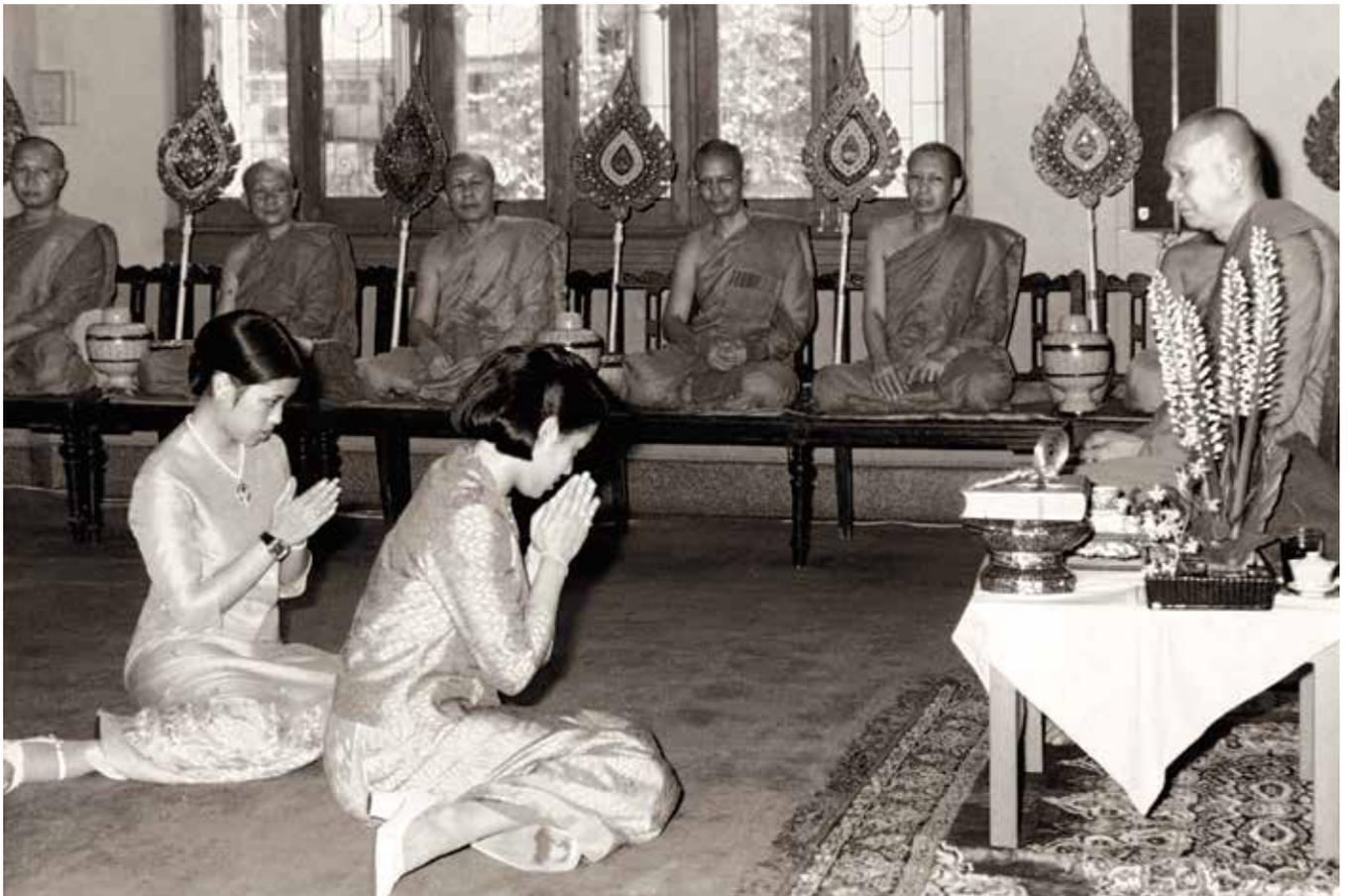
Right, top: H.H. converses with H.R.H. Princess Galyani Vadhana, H.M. the King's sister.

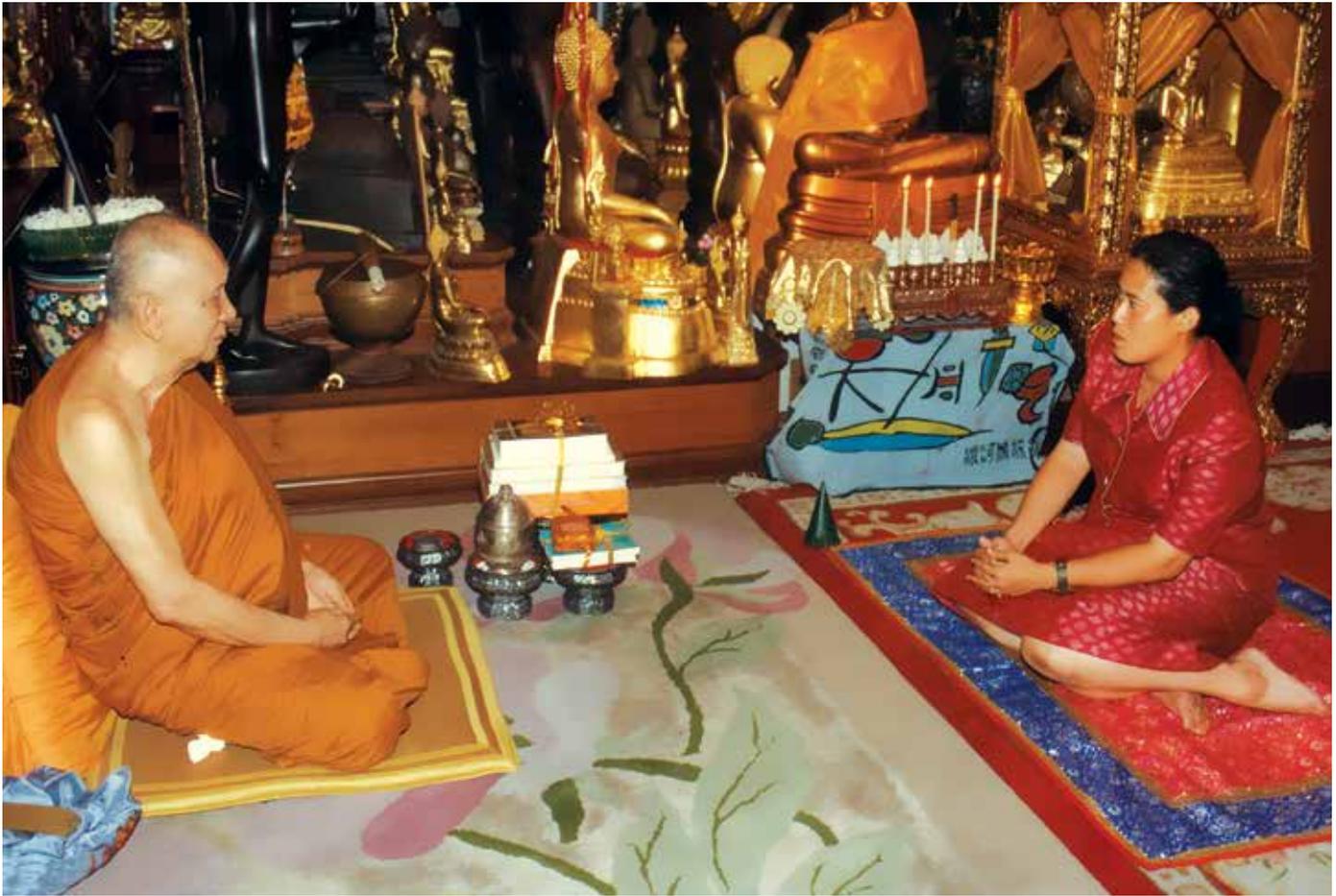
Right, below: H.R.H. Princess Sirindhorn and H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn pay their respects to His Holiness.

Somdet Ya also decided to disseminate more widely the *Milinda Panha* Buddhist texts. She had a dialogue recorded in which King Menander posed questions on Buddhism to the sage Nagasena. In the scripts, she underlined key words and annotated the margins in Thai, English and French. The original text demands deep thought to achieve true understanding but the revisions His Holiness did for Somdet Ya made it easy for everyone to understand.



The revised *Milinda Panha* was published in commemoration of Somdet Ya's 7<sup>th</sup> cycle birthday and the King later had it republished at the time of her cremation ceremony on March 10, 1996. Other Buddhist texts given similar treatment included *What the Buddha Taught*, *Sila*, *The Four Brahma Vihara*, *Right Ways to Dhamma* and others.





H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn pays a visit to H.H. at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

Right: H.R.H. Princess Soamsawali and her daughter H.R.H. Princess Bajrakitiyabha offer robes to H.H. at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

Somdet Ya and His Holiness worked on the projects together and revised copies were sent through Kwankaew Watcharothai.

Somdet Ya always praised His Holiness' clear writing. After reading the rewriting of *Sila*, she noted: "The preface to *Sila* has turned out very well and we can proceed to publish it. Please tell His Holiness that he has done a very good deed for the people. Moreover, he has done a similarly fine job with all the other texts I proposed to him as well."

After Somdet Ya had given each manuscript a thorough review, they were published and distributed.



Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara was highly revered not only by the King but by the entire Royal Family. He always performed his duties in exemplary fashion and came to be widely appreciated for how he mentored the King. However, when this concept was put to Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara himself, he explained that the King was the King and nobody could ‘mentor’ him. Rather, they could only perform their duty to the King to the best of their ability, which he had always tried to do.



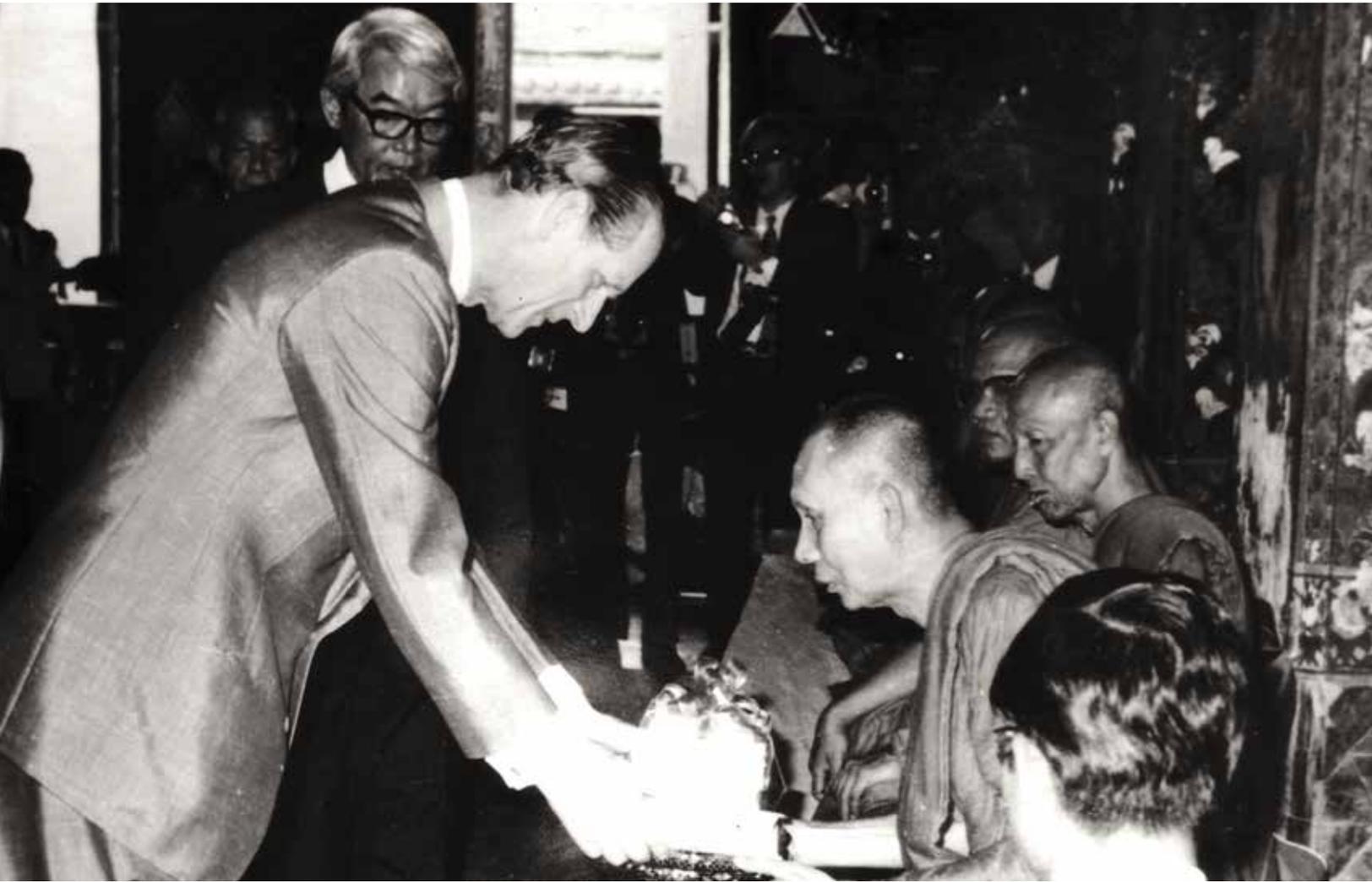


# THE REACH OF HIS DHAMMIC RADIANCE

**T**he Supreme Patriarch dedicated his indefatigable endeavours not only to the welfare and betterment of the Sangha and the people of Thailand, but to the happiness of the entire world. Through all the years of his monkhood, he placed the highest priority on the teaching of Dhamma and the spread of Buddhist goodwill, a responsibility which he took seriously and with the utmost care. His sermons were a labour of love, always well-prepared and in simple language; he spoke slowly so that listeners had the time to fully absorb and understand the meaning of his discourses. He made it his routine to teach monks and novices, and never delegated his classes no matter how occupied he was with administrative work or other responsibilities. He made it his steadfast duty to deliver Dhamma sermons on Buddhist holy days and other befitting occasions.

A first for the Buddhist Sangha in Thailand was the initiation by His Holiness of Sunday sermons in English for the benefit of foreigners. These sermons were delivered at Uposatha Hall in Wat Bovoranives Vihara. He began the practice in 1969, and was bestowed the title of Phra Sasanasobhana ('Religion's adornment', meaning one who adds to Dhamma's beauty).

When H.H. visited Nepal in 1985 to preside over the opening of Thai Kirti Bhawan at Wat Srikirti Vihara, where 73 Nepalese men of the Sakya clan were to be ordained as monks, the route from the airport to the town of Kirtipur was thronged with people welcoming his arrival.



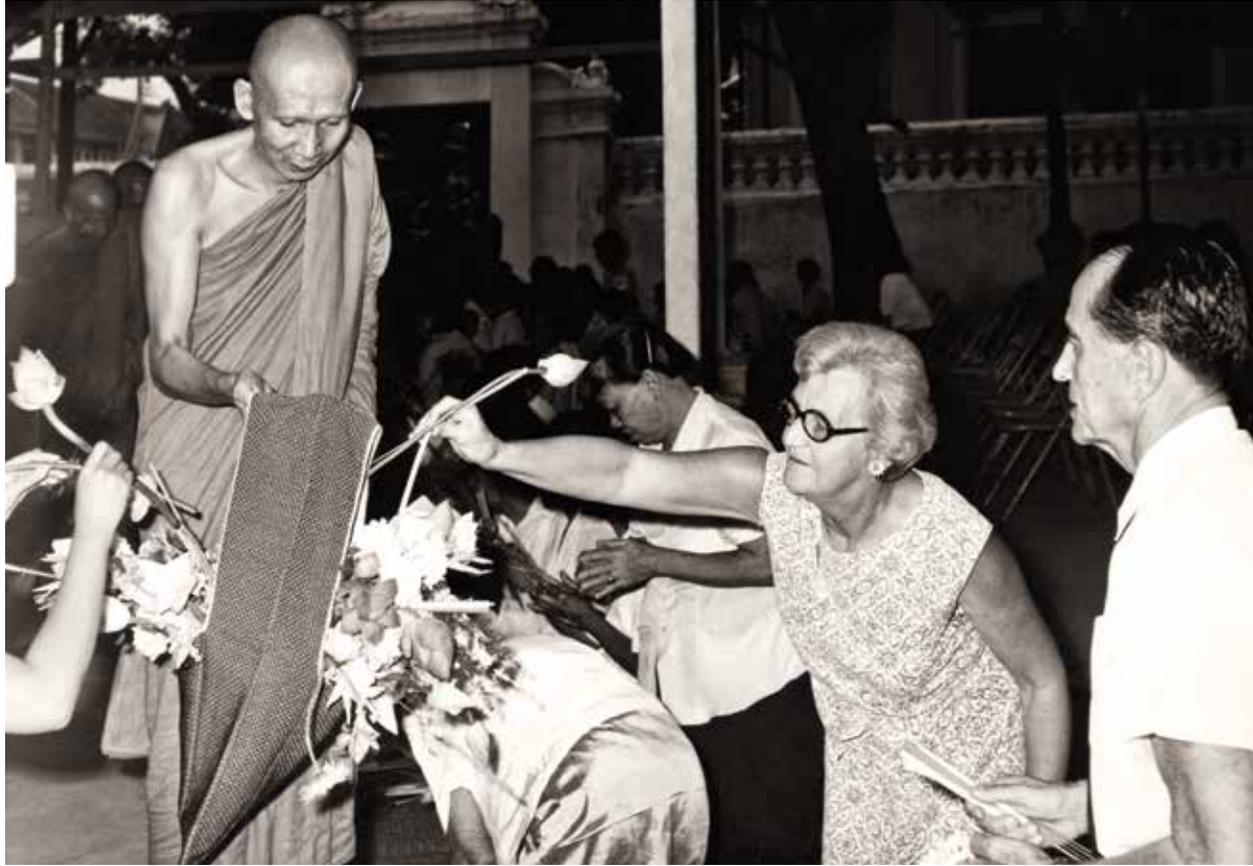
During a visit to Thailand, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, presents a gift to H.H. at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

Right top: As is customary at the start of the Rains Retreat (Vassa), H.H. receives offerings of lotus flowers from devotees, including foreigners.

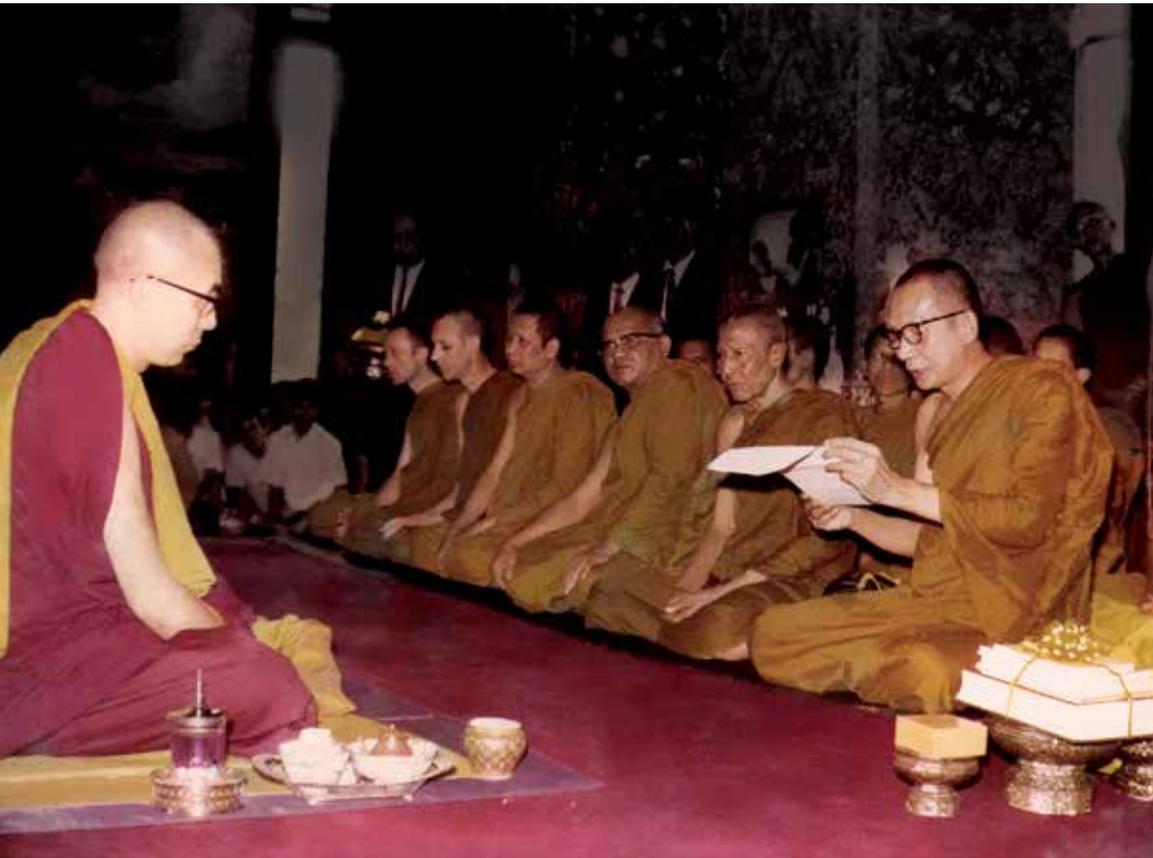
Right: Josephine Stanton, wife of the first US ambassador to Thailand, pays her respects as a student of Dhamma.

Besides delivering the sermons himself, he also assigned monks who had attended courses at the Training Institute for Dhammaduta Bhikkhus Going Abroad, as well as foreign initiates who had been ordained at Wat Bovoranives Vihara, to take turns giving the sermons on Sundays. As it turned out, the Sunday sermons drew large crowds of people, both foreign and Thai. Sadly, this practice could not be sustained over a long period of time due to the lack of Thai monks who could deliver sermons in fluent English.

Nevertheless, His Holiness' efforts to disseminate Buddhism among foreigners did not cease. In 1971, he resumed the activity and delivered the sermons himself. At that time, more and more foreigners from Europe, America and Asia were entering the monkhood at Wat



Bovoranyes Vihara. Besides, more and more foreign laypeople had expressed an interest in studying Buddhism, especially the practice of meditation. Some of them had even requested private lessons. Among these enthusiasts was Josephine Stanton, wife of the first US ambassador to Thailand, who commenced her intensive study in 1969. In order to promote Buddhism and respond to the desire of interested laymen, His Holiness offered a Dhamma class at his own residence in the temple compound.



Left: Tibetan Spiritual Leader the Dalai Lama, meet converses with H.H. during an official visit to Wat Bovoranives, and developed a close friendship with His Holiness.

Right: His Holiness gifts an offering to the temple abbot during his 1952 visit to celebrate holy relics in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Below: H.H. is seen with H.R.H. Prince Philippe (now king) of Belgium on October 13, 1993 when he paid a courtesy call while on a visit to Thailand.

Foreigners, including monks and laypeople, attended this Dhamma class. His Holiness taught them in English, with some assistance from foreign monks. After each lecture, there would be a brief question-and-answer session, followed by meditation training. For each class, he prepared his own lectures in English (the scripts of which were published and distributed widely afterwards). At first, few foreigners attended the Dhamma class but the number soon increased and the lecture room had to be moved to a more spacious place. This practice continued for over a decade until it was discontinued in 1984, the reason being that His Holiness had so much work to attend to and there was no one to run the Dhamma class in his place.





In November 1967, Tibet's Supreme Religious Leader, the Dalai Lama, paid his first state visit to Thailand. During this trip he visited Wat Bovoranives Vihara and had an audience with His Holiness (as Phra Sasanasobhana). The Dalai Lama expressed an intention to study Theravada meditation. The officer in charge made arrangements for His Holiness to offer the training to the Dalai Lama at a monastery. Over the years, the Dalai Lama paid more visits to Thailand and each time he would go to Wat Bovoranives Vihara to meet and have discussions with His Holiness. The two religious leaders became close friends. During his last trip in February 1993, the Dalai Lama stayed overnight at Wat Bovoranives Vihara. Upon meeting His Holiness, the Dalai Lama addressed him as 'my elder brother'.

Not only did His Holiness closely oversee the dissemination of Buddhist teachings locally (within the temples and across the country), he also undertook the same responsibility overseas. His Holiness was among Thai representatives visiting Cambodia in 1952 to join the celebration of holy relics of the Buddha and disciples in Phnom Penh. The relics were granted by an Indian Buddhist institute and conveyed through Thailand to Cambodia. Two years later, he attended the Sixth Tipitaka Rehearsal (Chatthasangayana) in Yangon, Myanmar, and took this chance to visit many monasteries there. This emphasised the depth of religious ties between the two nations. The Burmese government later conferred upon His Holiness the special title of Abhidhajahamaratthaguru, which was comparable to the title of Supreme Patriarch in that country.



Above: On his visit to Nepal, H.H. was received by H.M. the King of Nepal.

Left: H.H. at the 1966 inauguration, in London, of Wat Buddhapadipa, the first Thai temple in Europe.

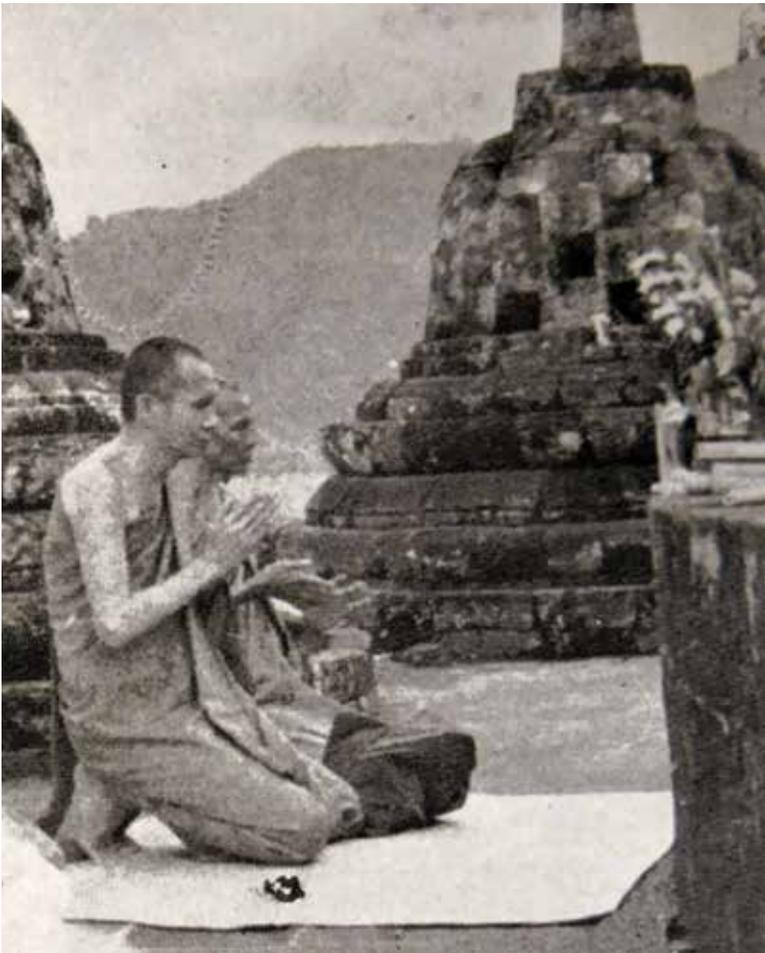
Right, top: With Singhalese Buddhists who came to pay their respects to the 16<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch (Utthayi Mahathera), whom H.H. accompanied on a trip to Sri Lanka in 1967.

Right: Satya Narayan Goenka (centre), a noted teacher of Vipassana meditation, greets H.H. during a visit to Bangkok.

In 1966, His Holiness presided over the inauguration of Wat Buddhapadipa – the first Buddhist temple in England and Europe, which was officially opened by King Rama IX and Queen Sirikit on August 1 that year. During that trip, His Holiness also had the opportunity to join a study tour of religious affairs in England and Italy.



In 1967, as a member of the executive committee of the Sangha Supreme Council and chairman of the executive committee of the Training Institute for Dhammaduta Bhikkhus Going Abroad, he accompanied the then Supreme Patriarch (Utthayi Mahathera) to Sri Lanka on an official visit aimed at promoting religious goodwill.



In 1968, as President of Mahamakut Buddhist University and with the permission of the Sangha Supreme Council, he went on a study tour of religious affairs and education in Indonesia, Australia and the Philippines.

In Indonesia, the Buddhists requested him to send monks to revive the status of Theravada Buddhism. The following year, 1969, the Training Institute for Dhammaduta Bhikkhus Going Abroad and the Department of Religious Affairs sent four Thai monks to Indonesia.



In 1970, His Holiness went to Borobudur to preside over the first ordination of Indonesian men in modern history. This event signalled the first full establishment of Siamvongsa (Siam lineage) Buddhism in Indonesia.

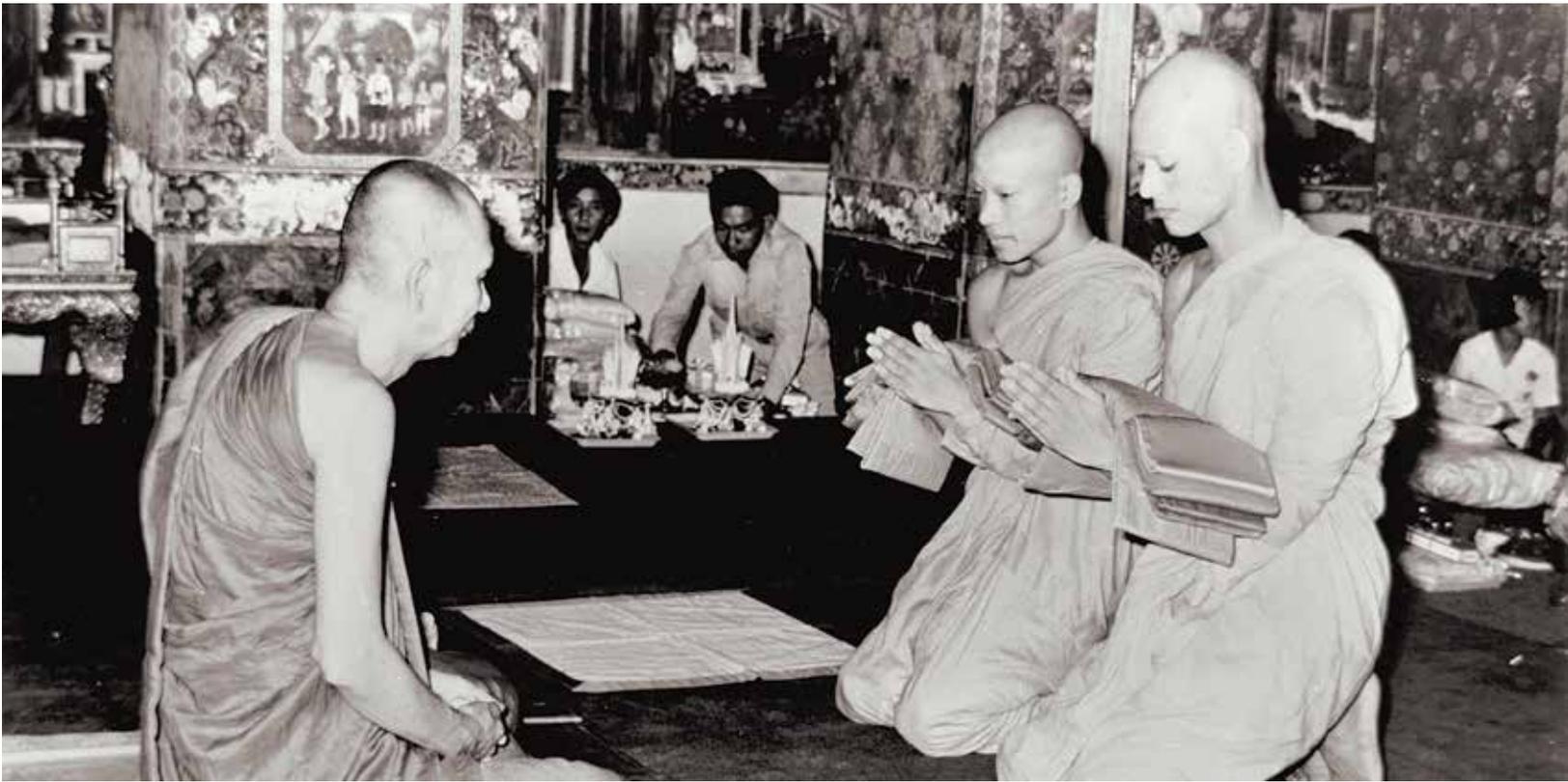
Far Left: H.H. venerates at the ancient Buddhist shrine in Borobudur, Indonesia, where he also presided over the ordination of Indonesian monks.

A series of Thai monks took turns going to Indonesia continuously for over the next 10 years, by which time Theravada Buddhism once again became well-established there. Today, there are a large number of Buddhist temples all over Indonesia and the Indonesian Theravada Buddhist monks have a firm place in the country, just like 500 years before. Later on, he attended many ordination ceremonies. It can thus be said that His Holiness was the founder of the Indonesian Theravada Sangha in contemporary times.



Encouraging the spread of Theravada Buddhism both at home and abroad, His Holiness attended the ordination of foreigners, such as Australians (above) at Sydney's Wat Buddharangsi (centre) and (far right) of the first batch of Nepalese monks at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

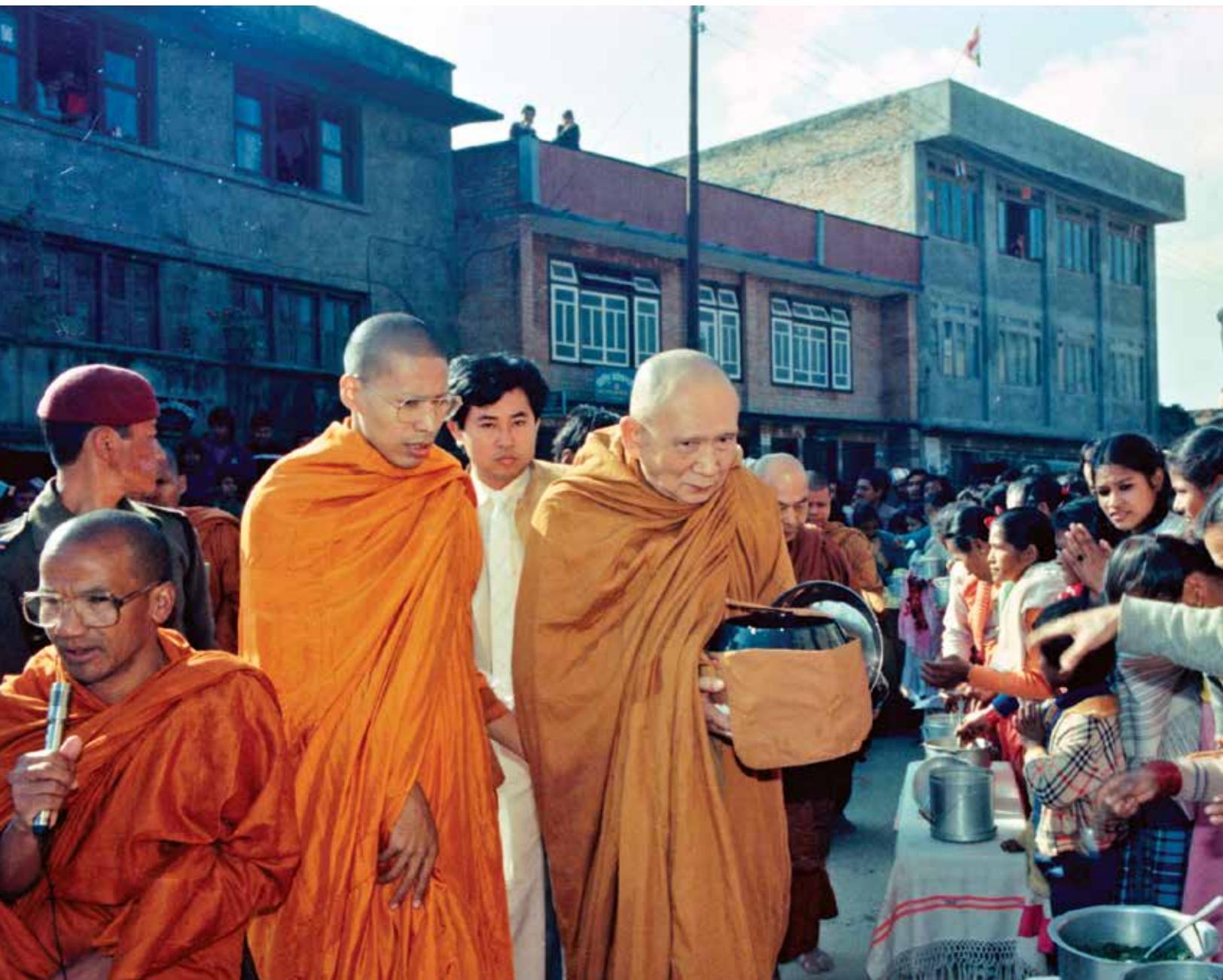
A large number of Buddhists living in Australia expressed a desire for a temple where Buddhist monks could disseminate the Dhamma. Upon receiving the request, His Holiness authorised the establishment of a monastery under the patronage the Mahamakuta Rajavidyalaya Foundation in Sydney, in 1973. He also sent Thai and foreign monks who were ordained at Wat Bovoranives to live and disseminate Buddhist teachings there. This monastery made considerable progress and was soon upgraded to a Buddhist temple, which His Majesty the King named Wat Buddharangsi. The grand opening ceremony of this first Thai temple in Australia was presided over by H.R.H. the Crown Prince in 1975. The dissemination of Buddhist teachings in Australia initiated by His Holiness in 1973 led to a rapid increase in the number of Buddhist temples all across that country.



In 1970, as President of Mahamakut Buddhist University, His Holiness went on a study tour of religious affairs and education in Pakistan, India and Nepal. With permission of the Sangha Supreme Council, he also represented Thai monks in visiting the Buddhists of East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh) who had suffered from major floods that year.

At the end of the tour, His Holiness learned that the status of Buddhism in those countries was critical and in dire need of revival and support from other Buddhists.

This was especially true of Nepal, where Buddhism had suffered a great setback over the past several hundred years. It was only in 1930 that Buddhism began to be revived, hence the need for a major renewal. As President of Mahamakut Buddhist University, His Holiness responded to this need by offering scholarships to two Nepalese monks. They were to stay at Wat Bovoranives until the completion of their Buddhism studies and then return to their homeland to disseminate the faith. This led to the start of good religious relations between Thailand and Nepal, and over the years right up to the present, many Nepalese monks and novices have visited Thailand to study Buddhism, thus reviving the Dhamma in Nepal to a considerable degree.



In 1985, His Holiness attended the ordination ceremony of 73 Nepalese men in Kirtipur. This was a unique event in the history of Thai-Nepalese relations, because all 73 initiates were of the Sakya clan (the clan to which Siddharta belonged). For this ordination, 20 sets of robes were offered by Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand. It was an unprecedented event in the history of Buddhism in the Kingdom of Nepal. This was the first ordination under Thai Royal Patronage in Nepal and the Sakya initiates had come together from all corners of the country. This led to a growing and earnest interest in entering the monkhood for the purposes of studying and reviving Buddhism among the Nepalese people.

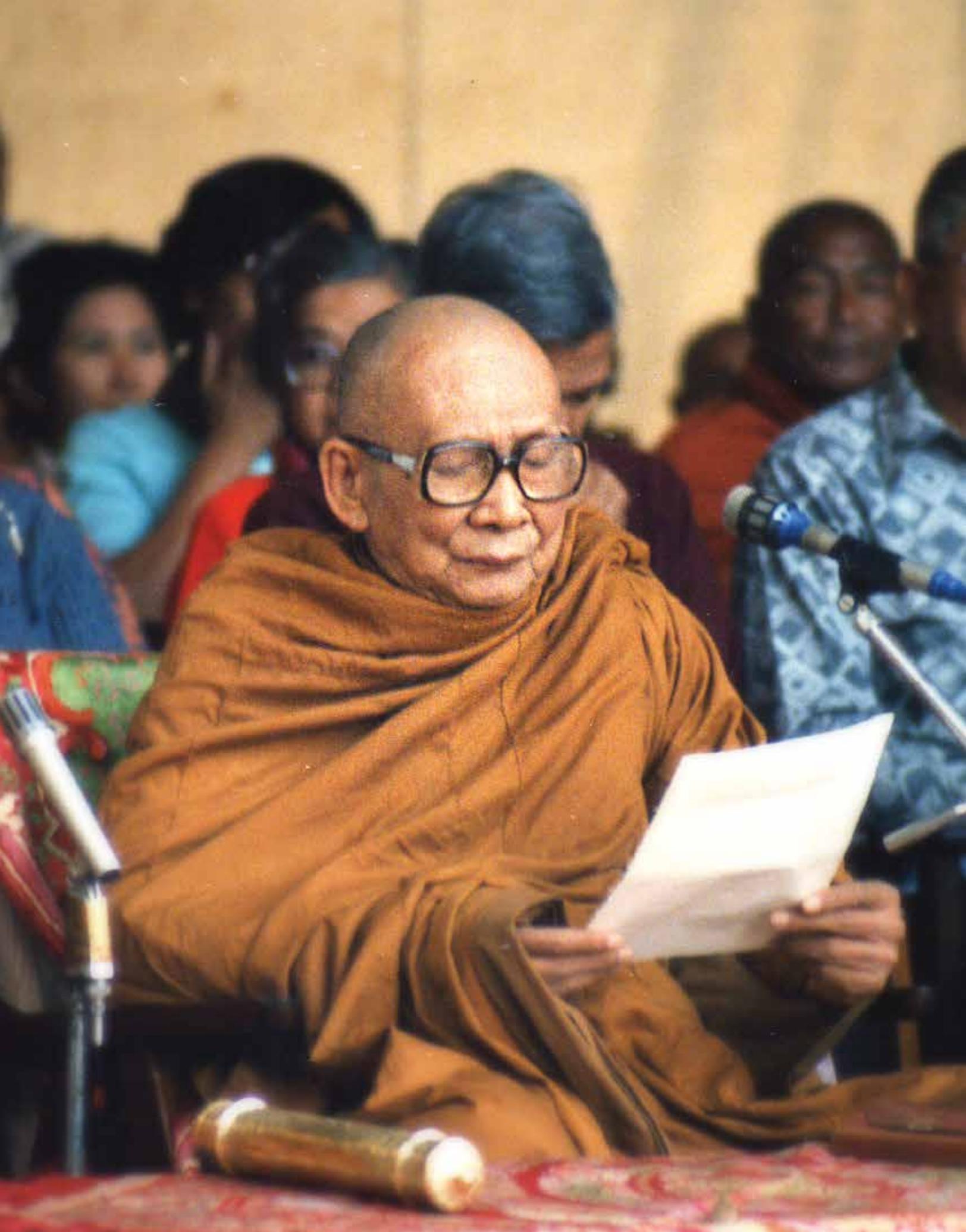


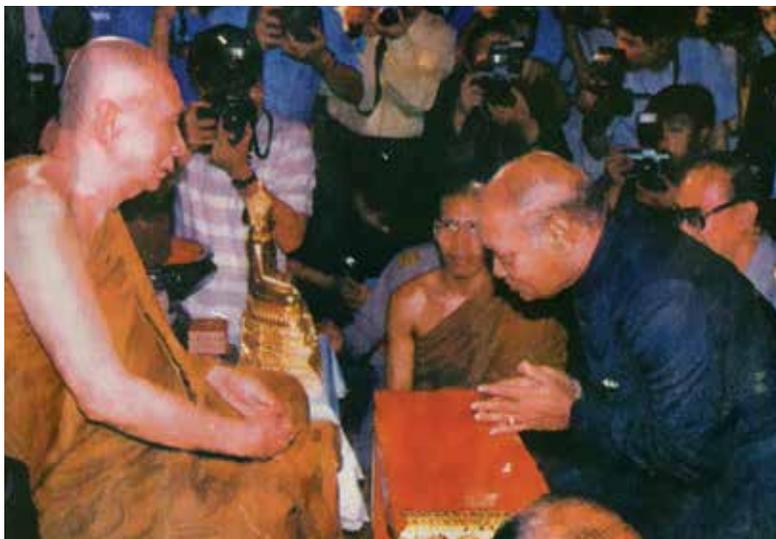
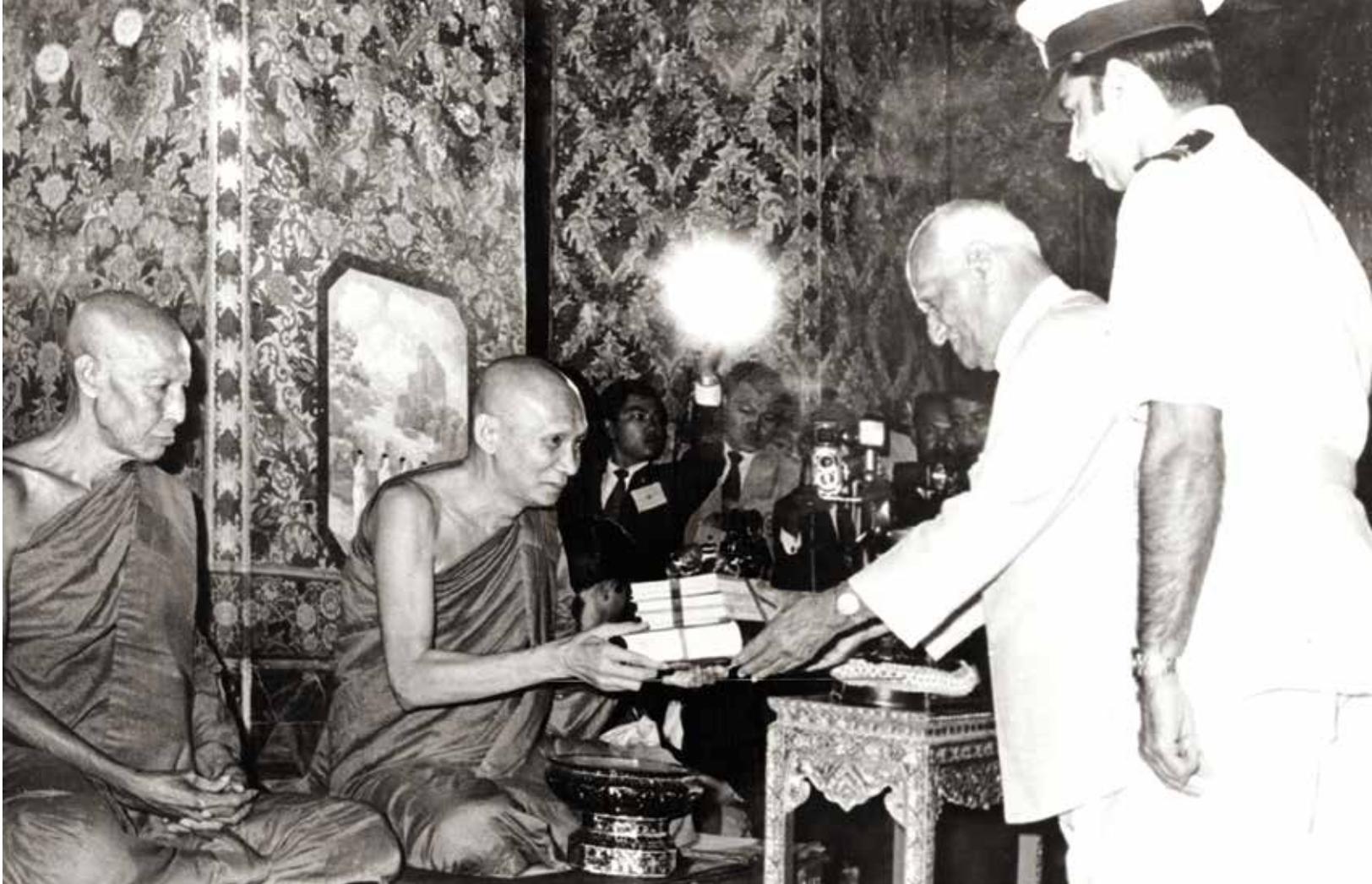
Tibetan lamas line up to greet H.H. on his visit to the Tibetan monastery at Baudhanath Pagoda in Nepal.

Left: H.H. receives alms offered by devout Nepalese people during his visit.

Another unprecedented event took place in 1993, when His Holiness became the first Buddhist Patriarch to visit the People's Republic of China — at the invitation of the communist government in Beijing, which was something unheard of.

During the 12-day official visit, he met President Jiang Zemin and other high-ranking officials, as well as Buddhist communities in various cities. President Jiang himself came to the gate of his residence to receive His Holiness. In a warm welcome speech the President emphasised the importance of Buddhism in China in the past. And since the country's constitution granted people the freedom to follow their own faith, Buddhism was certainly the first to which Chinese people would likely be returning.





India's President V.V. Giri presents His Holiness with a gift during the president's state visit to Thailand in March 1972 (above), and Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao (left) pays his respects to H.H. at Wat Bovoranives during his visit in April 1993.

Far left: H.H. delivers a speech during a welcome ceremony at Wat Ananda Kirti Vihara, in Kathmandu, Nepal.



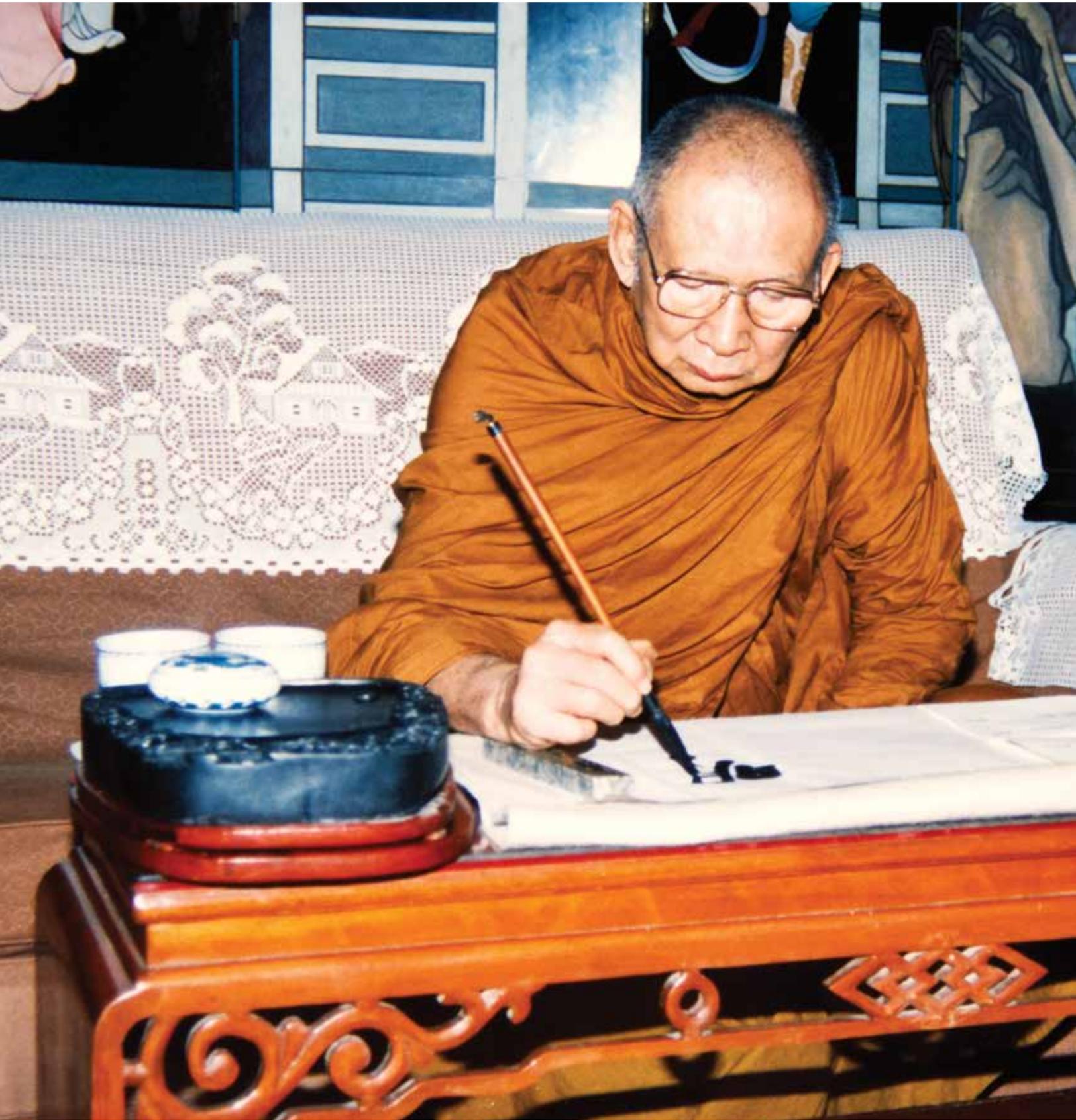
On his historic visit to Beijing, H.H. is given an official welcome by President Jiang Zemin of the People's Republic of China.

Right: H.H. visits the Yuantong Temple in Kunming, China.

In reply, His Holiness expressed his gratitude for the invitation and his admiration of Chinese culture. He also said that the teachings of Buddhism were aimed at creating peace and happiness for all mankind. In concluding his remarks, His Holiness expressed the wish that Buddhism in China be placed under the direct care of President Jiang Zemin.



He also visited Buddhist temples and met a great number of Chinese Buddhist monks and novices, including laymen. His Holiness impressed them all with his tranquil appearance as a 'robed monk', which was a complete novelty for the masses who had never seen one before. Indeed, that visit spurred a great enthusiasm among the Chinese people to revive Buddhism in their home country.





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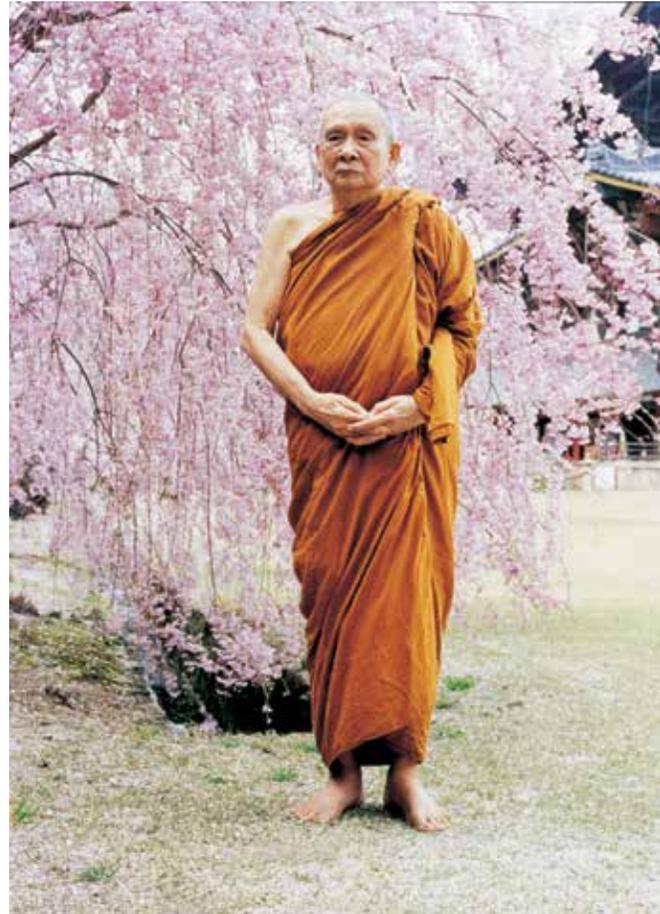
As a gift to his host in China, H.H. writes a Dhamma phrase in Chinese, which translates as 'Aspiring Buddhahood with a cleansing mind'.

His Holiness is seen with the Venerable Dr. Kyuse Enshinjoh, high priest of the Nenbutsushu Sect of Japan and Tibetan Spiritual Leader H.H. Dalai Lama, during his visit to Kyoto in 1998.

Right: H.H. delivers an address as chairman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Buddhist Summit.

Far right: Visiting Today-Ji Buddhist Temple of Nara, Japan, H.H. is pictured in front of a sakura (cherry blossom) tree in full bloom.





His Holiness was also a founder member of the World Buddhist Summit. In 1998, he represented Theravada Buddhism at a tripartite meeting and attended the First Buddhist Summit in Kyoto, Japan, where he not only met his friend the Dalai Lama, who represents Vajrayana Buddhism, but also the Most Venerable Dr. Kyuse Enshinjoh, who heads Mahayana Buddhism. The summit cleared away the differences among the three Buddhist traditions. This was an unprecedented tripartite meeting that shines brilliantly in Buddhist history.

Due to his age, His Holiness now rarely travelled abroad, so his visit to Kyoto made sensational news and was referred to as ‘the great mountain moved’. His Holiness said he came to Kyoto “in order to pay homage to Lord Buddha and to express my respects to the Most Venerable Dr. Kyuse Enshinjoh and the followers of Nenbutsushu Buddhist Sect of Japan”.



H.H. spread Dhamma everywhere he went. In the north of Thailand, hilltribe children benefit from his compassionate guidance.



# THE POWER OF COMPASSION

**H**is Holiness firmly believed that the positive and creative power that flows from a human being's heart-felt expression of loving kindness and compassion, is limitless and can resonate with a ripple effect across the entire world, bringing joy, peace and harmony for all mankind.

Ever keeping the happiness of the general populace and the country's welfare in mind, His Holiness encouraged people to have faith in Buddhism, to live by Dhamma principles, to maintain unity and harmony, to have mercy and support one another for their own happiness and the betterment of society. A paragon of virtue himself, whatever His Holiness did clearly showed his deep compassion and kindness; his very presence would cause people around him to be happy and at peace, and the power of that feeling only strengthened as the crowds grew in number.

Not only did His Holiness give verbal instruction and discourse on Dhamma, he practised what he preached — and did so memorably. His followers tell of one significant task His Holiness often set them: he would tell them to catch the mosquitoes flitting in the room and set them free outside. So, with the help of small nets, they would catch the insects and release them in the open air outside their place of dwelling. He was also averse to the idea of driving mangy dogs away from the temple, however leprous the people claimed they might be. “If I can live in the temple, then why can't dogs live in the temple?” he would ask. When someone complained that the mangy and diseased dogs were a disgusting sight and that they defiled the temple grounds, His Holiness retorted, “A leprous dog disgusts, [yet] no disgust for a leprous mind.” Encouraging all Buddhists to show compassion and kindness was a continuous refrain with His Holiness, who was convinced that a kind heart brings happiness not only to oneself but joy to others, too.



Seated amidst teachers and students at a school for the deaf, H.H. makes the sign 'I love you'.

Right: H.H. shows his concern for the people when a fire struck the community behind Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

“He was always kind. He did everything with kindness,” said those familiar with His Holiness. That compassion extended far beyond the walls of Wat Bovoranives. He was never impervious to the people’s hardship and always tried to find ways to alleviate any crisis. If a flood struck any part of the country, he would immediately dispatch men to the area to distribute food, basic necessities and medicine to those affected.



One night in 1991, a fire broke out in the residential community behind the temple. The commotion awoke His Holiness, who stepped out to gauge the seriousness of the situation. His devotees were concerned for his safety but His Holiness did not let them stop him. He personally went to the scene of the commotion and immediately recognised the problem: the community's alleys were too narrow for fire-engines to reach the conflagration. So he had the firemen assemble the water-hoses in the temple compound and train them on the flames. He provided the firemen with whatever support they needed and the fire was soon doused. The temple remained unscathed but many people from the community were rendered destitute. He arranged temporary shelter for them inside the temple and provided food and water.

During the financial crisis of 1997 which took a heavy toll on the people, His Holiness cared not for the frailty of his 84 years nor for his exalted position, but insisted on visiting various parts of the city, using the morning alms routine as an excuse to meet the public so that he might offer them words of solace. A woman who witnessed this kindness, recalls: "Business was bad and many people had shut shop and gone upcountry. One day, a van drove up and out came a man in white,



who then helped an elderly monk disembark. Word spread like wildfire that ‘Somdet Phra Sangharaja’ was here and in a blink a throng had gathered, all bearing alms to offer His Holiness. Everyone was so delighted at their good fortune to behold His Holiness at such close quarters. I saw His Holiness look past me so I turned, following the line of his gaze. I saw an old, humpbacked woman in sleeveless blouse and shabby sarong, shuffling forward. I stepped aside. His Holiness bent down and received her offering with earnest gladness.”

After all the alms had been accepted, people sat down in the street, surrounding His Holiness. Someone brought a plastic chair for him to sit on. Without any formality, His Holiness began speaking with the people, giving them moral courage to carry on in the face of hardship and austerity. “Afterwards, before the van left, the man in white announced through a megaphone that all the offerings made that morning would go to feed the children at Pakkred orphanage. Such was his kindness, so pure. He made me realise how happy people became when shown the value of true compassion.”



His kindness was like the warm light of dawn, unlimited and unconditional. Even during times of political conflict, such as in 1973 when many college students marched in protest against the government. The civil Boy Scouts and the Red Gaur Movement were opposed to the students. His Holiness, concerned about the deteriorating situation, wrote an article which was printed and widely distributed among the populace. In it His Holiness exhorted all sides to carefully consider the pros and cons of their course of action. In so doing, he helped avert what otherwise would have been nothing short of a disaster.

H.H. favoured no distinctions of class or status and readily accepted invitations to bless humble homes; his compassion extended to all living things, human and animal.

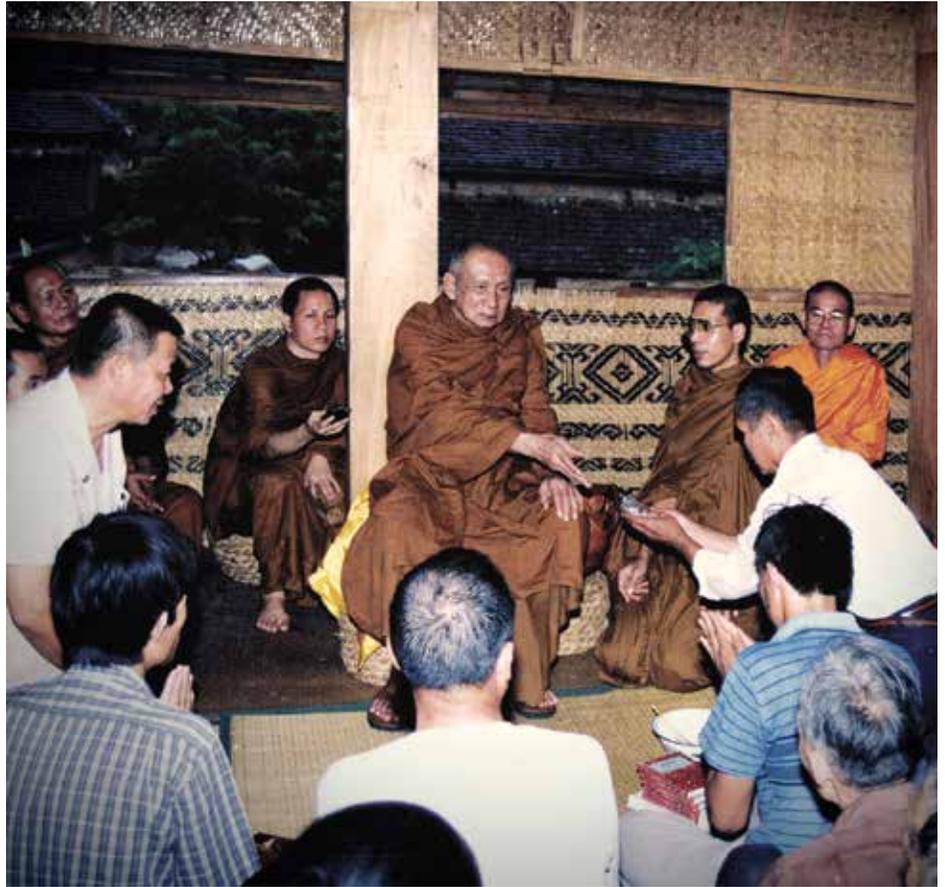
Above: H.H. was the epitome of loving kindness towards all, as seen in this picture when, he receives a garland from a little child.

Left: Personifying the qualities of humility and compassion, H.H. receives alms offered by the public.



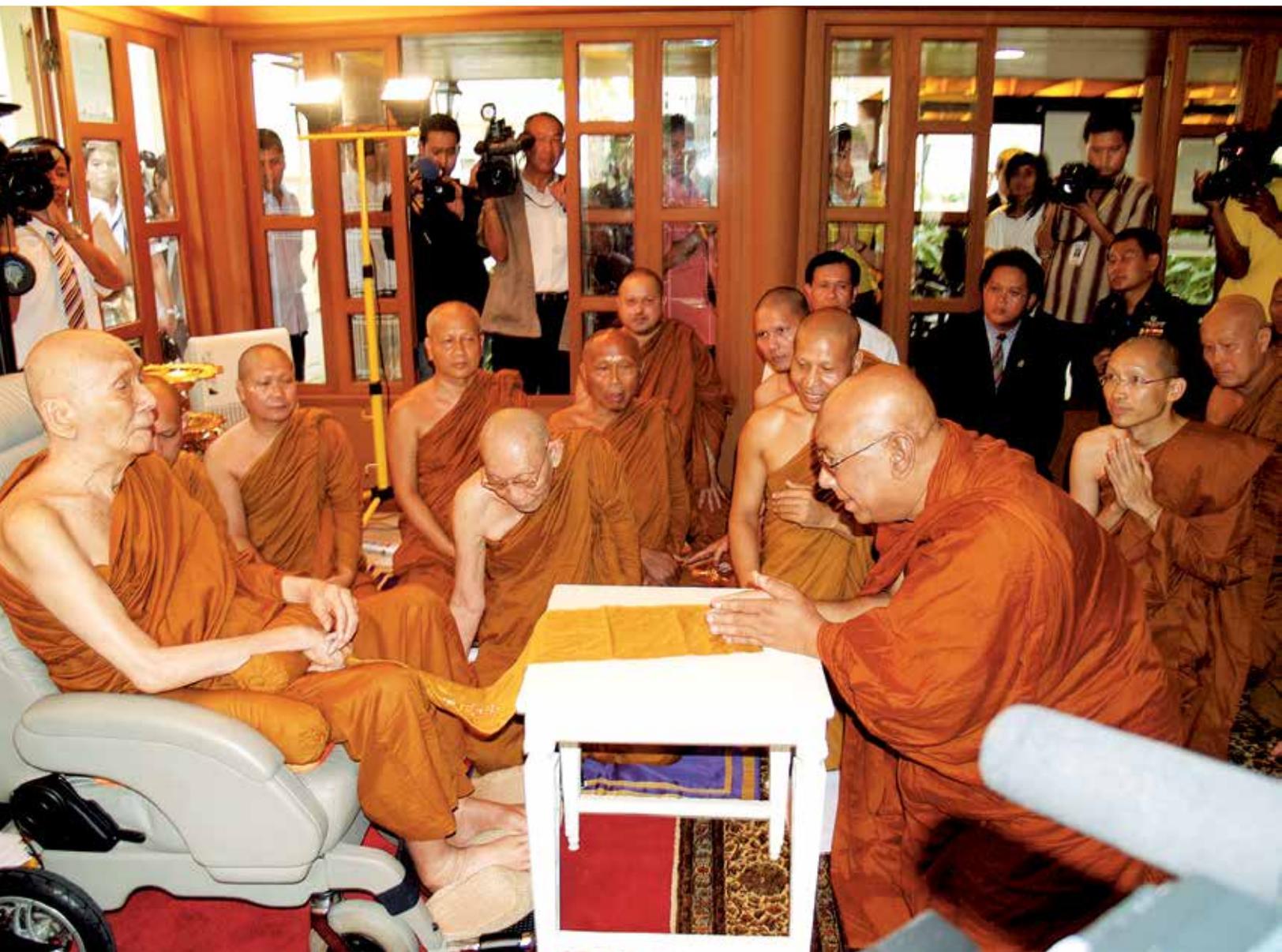
On a visit to the southern provinces following his appointment as Supreme Patriarch, H.H. is given a warm welcome by the people.

Right: During his sojourn in China, H.H. met people from all walks of life, including these village folk in the mainland's south.



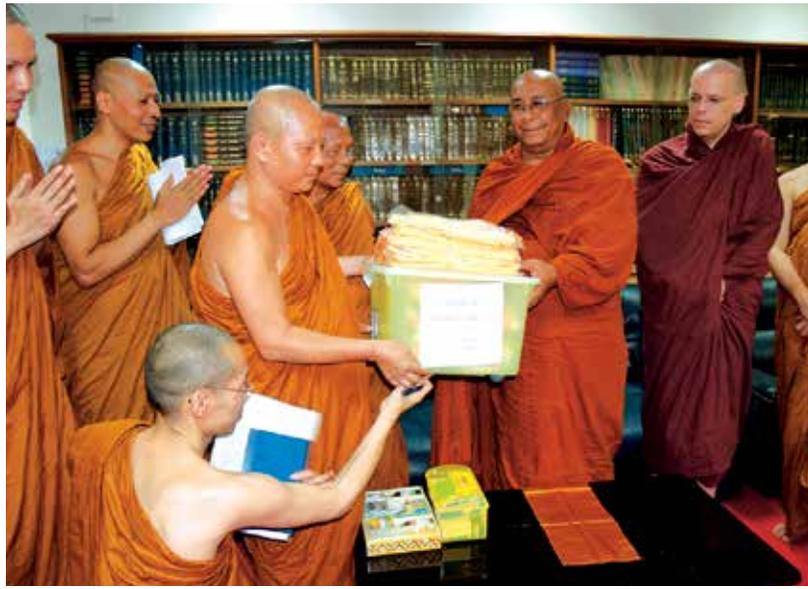
During periods of crisis when homes and shops throughout the city would be tightly shut, the temple remained open. “People would come, even in the dead of night. All were suffering, and they sought his advice. They relied on him,” said one close observer. In those dark days, he would gather monks from all over the country to perform prayers for the people’s peace and the country’s survival.

His propensity for helping people in trouble was not limited to the local population. Even the distressed in other lands received his beneficence. In 2008, following the massive earthquake in Sichuan, China, His Holiness extended help to the people there, by directing the Office of the Secretary of the Supreme Patriarch to collect donations. When the office learned that the Chinese government was in the need of tents, the donations were used to fund the production of large tents specially designed to keep out dust and sand, which were then promptly dispatched to Sichuan.



His Holiness once remarked, “Every life is in a state that needs kindness at all times. Therefore, kindness should be the prevailing quality. After being born, every life suffers. Every life is pitiful. I am pitiful. He is pitiful. Every minute of life is pitiful. You should realise this and be kind to all lives at all times. The flames [of *dukkha*, suffering] — whether yours, ours or the world’s — will be put out by the power of kindness.”

He showered kindness and compassion on all people regardless of class or rank. In remote areas, he helped the impoverished by building public utilities, especially schools. His Holiness understood the plight of



deprived children, having been one himself: “I did not have the chance to study [as much as I wished], so I want to encourage others to study a lot.” The Noi Gajavatra Foundation set up in commemoration of his parents, currently sponsors the education of impoverished children, besides monks and novices.

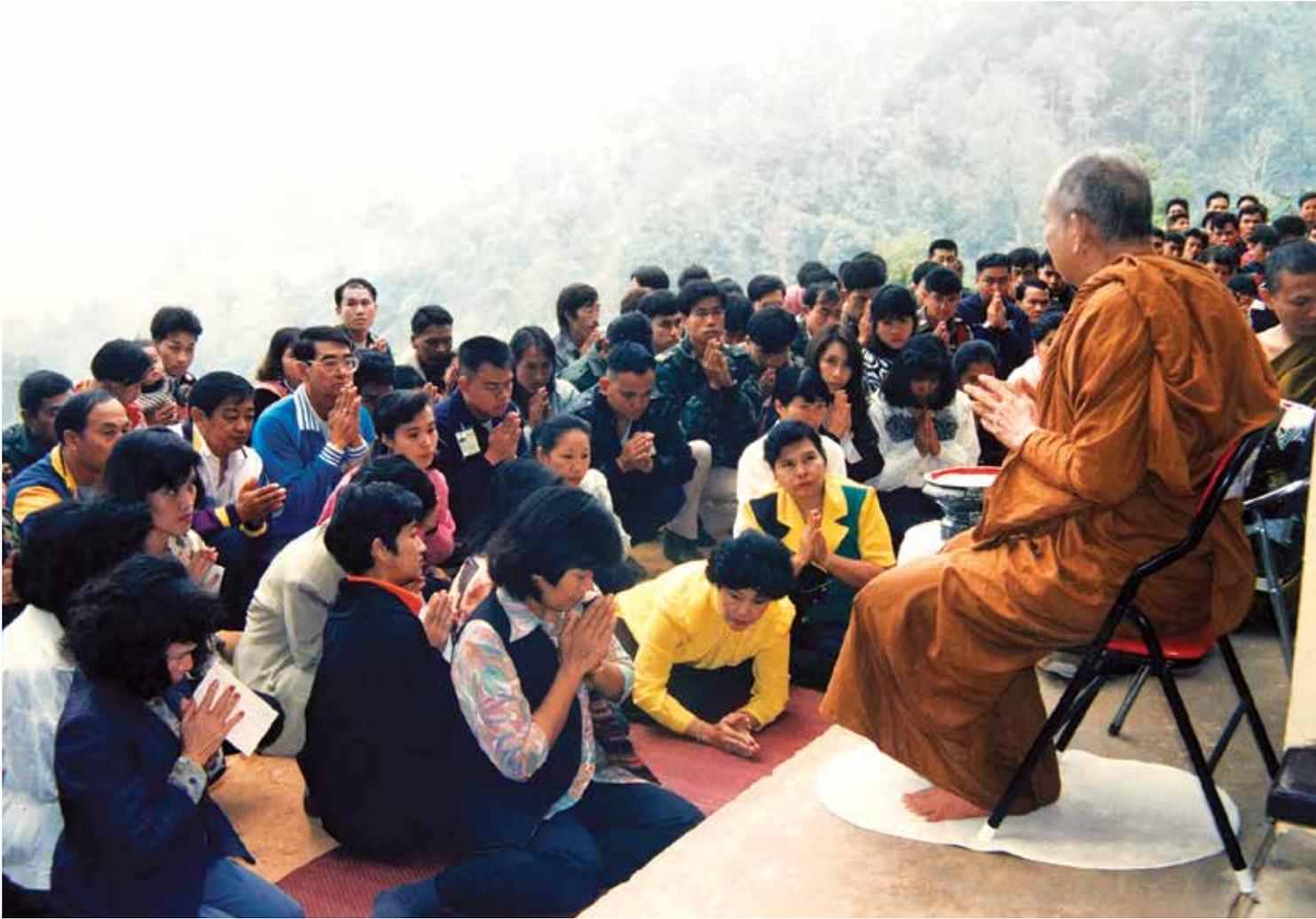
When Cyclone Nargis wrought devastation across Myanmar in May 2008, H.H. took immediate action by arranging for relief aid to be promptly dispatched to the Burmese people. The Most Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara is pictured receiving the relief fund and aid from H.H. on behalf of the Burmese Sangha.

Below left: Under the Supreme Patriarch’s Compassionate Flood Relief Project the truck carries water, food and other necessities from Malaysian Buddhists to support Thai flood victims in 2010.

Below right: Relief packs are handed to Thai flood victims.



His Holiness established hospitals for both laymen and monks, such as the Wat Nyanasamvararam Hospital in Bang Lamung District, Chon Buri province and the King Rama V Ramaniyakhet Hospital and School in Kanchanaburi. He also oversaw the construction of Sakol Maha Sanghparinayok buildings at 19 regional hospitals, to meet the need for educational and health services, as well as honour the 19 Supreme Patriarchs of the Rattanakosin Period.



“Compare *dosa* [hatred] to fire since fire burns and *dosa* burns. Compare *metta* [loving kindness] to water as water cools and *metta* also cools. Heat and coolness appear and reappear in the mind. This can be realised through one’s own mental experiences. If the mind always burns, know then that one is possessed by hatred rather than by loving-kindness. If the mind always feels cool, know then that one is enveloped in loving-kindness rather than hatred.”

Thus taught His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the 19<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Thailand.

No matter how busy he might be with other duties, H.H. always made himself available to the general populace, and thus became widely known as ‘the people’s monk’.

# THE LONGEST REIGNING SANGHARAJA

## THAILAND



OCTOBER 23, 1910  
King Rama VI ascends the throne.

1910



DECEMBER 4, 1915  
Somdet Phra Maha Samana Chao Krom Phraya Vajiranyanavarorasa pays a formal visit to the monastic order at Kanchanaburi and visits Wat Devasangaram.

1915

1917

JULY 22, 1917  
Siam declares war on Germany and Austria-Hungary.

NOVEMBER 28, 1925  
His Majesty King Prajadhipok Rama VII ascends the throne.



SEPTEMBER 20, 1925  
HRH Prince Ananda Mahidol (King Rama VIII) is born in Heidelberg, Germany.

1925

DECEMBER 5, 1927  
HRH Prince Bhumibol Adulyadej (King Rama IX) is born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

1927



MAY 12, 1932  
Suan Mokkh at Surat Thani Province is founded by Buddha Dhammasa Bhikkhu.

JUNE 24, 1932  
The Siamese Revolution.

1932



MARCH 2, 1934  
His Majesty King Rama VII abdicates and His Majesty King Ananda Mahidol ascends to the throne.

1934



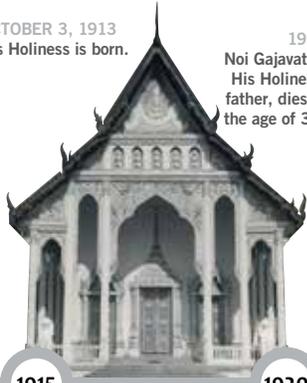
1932  
A Hindu priest named Swami Satyanandapuri comes to Thailand and sets up an office at the Library of Mahamakut Buddhist University.



## HIS HOLINESS

1913

OCTOBER 3, 1913  
His Holiness is born.



DECEMBER 4, 1915  
His Holiness, aged 2 years and two months, catches a glimpse of Somdet Phra Maha Samana Chao Krom Phraya Vajiranyanavarorasa.

1915

1920

1920  
Began his education at Wat Devasangharam School.

1922  
Noi Gajavatra, His Holiness' father, dies at the age of 38.



1922

1925  
Complete Prathom 5 at the age of 12.

1925



1926  
His Holiness is ordained as a novice.

1926



1934-1935  
Studies Sanskrit and English languages at Dhammashram with Swami Satyanandapuri.

1934

1933

1935

FEBRUARY 15, 1933  
His Holiness is re-ordained as a monk under Dhammayutika Order at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

DECEMBER 12, 1936  
The British Duke of York is proclaimed King George VI.



1936

## AROUND THE WORLD

1913

NOVEMBER 14, 1913  
Rabindranath Tagore becomes the first Asian to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.



JUNE 28, 1919  
In Versailles, France, the Peace Treaty of Versailles is signed, the treaty formally ending the Great War (World War I).



1919

1914

JULY 28, 1914  
World War I begins in Europe.



1913

NOVEMBER 29, 1913  
The stolen Mona Lisa is found in a hotel room in Florence, Italy.



1920

MAY 18, 1920  
Pope John Paul II is born.



1924

FEBRUARY 13, 1924  
King Tut's tomb is opened.



1925

DECEMBER 25, 1925  
Hirohito becomes Emperor of Japan



1927

APRIL, 1927  
The Chinese Civil War begins.



1929

BLACK TUESDAY

OCTOBER 29, 1929  
U.S. stock market crashes (known as Black Tuesday): The Great Depression sets in.



MARCH 12, 1930  
Mahatma Gandhi embarks on the Salt Satyagraha, a campaign of nonviolent protest against the British salt tax in colonial India.

1935

JULY 6, 1935  
The 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama (religious name: Tenzin Gyatso) is born.



1943  
The Death Railway at Kanchanaburi Province is built by the Empire of Japan.

JUNE 9, 1946  
His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej ascends the throne as King Rama IX.

OCTOBER 22, 1956  
His Majesty the King is ordained as a Buddhist monk and resided at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

DECEMBER, 1964  
Japan's Crown Prince Akihito and Crown Princess Michiko officially visit Thailand.

MAY 5, 1950  
The coronation of His Majesty King Rama IX.

MAY 12-18, 1957  
The 25th Centenary of Buddhism.

1939  
Field Marshal Plaek Phibulsongkhram changes the country's name from Siam to Thailand.

AUGUST 1, 1946  
The first issue of Bangkok Post is sold.

APRIL 10, 1947  
Mr. Edwin F. Stanton is appointed as the first U.S. Ambassador to Thailand.

APRIL 28, 1950  
The Royal Marriage of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit.

1961  
Holding the title Phra Sasanasobhon, the abbot of Wat Bovoranives Vihara, His Holiness is also the Acting Head of Dhammayutika Order all over the country.

1941  
Pass Grade 9 of Pali studies and becomes an official member of the Sangha Council.



1946  
His Holiness is named a secretary to Somdet Phra Vajiranyanavangsa, the Supreme Patriarch.

1952  
His Holiness as Phra Sasanasobhana attends the ceremony celebrating the Holy Relics at the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

OCTOBER 22, 1956  
His Holiness is appointed as His Majesty's advising chaperone to guide and teach His Majesty before his ordination and through the period of His Majesty's monkhood.

AUGUST 1, 1966  
Presides over the grand opening ceremony of Wat Buddhapadipa Temple, the first Buddhist temple in England and Europe, which was officially opened by King Rama IX and Queen Sirikit.

1947  
His Holiness is elevated to the title of Phra Sobhonganabhorn (Rajagana) - the first monk to be given such a rank of nobility.

NOVEMBER 14, 1954  
His Holiness attends the Sixth Tipitaka Rehearsal at Yangon, Myanmar.

NOVEMBER 22, 1963  
President John F. Kennedy, the 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, is assassinated in Dallas.

DECEMBER 7, 1941  
Japan bombs Pearl Harbour; United States enters World War II.

JANUARY 30, 1948  
Gandhi is shot while walking to a platform from which he was to address a prayer meeting.

FEBRUARY 28, 1953  
James D. Watson and Francis Crick of the University of Cambridge announce their discovery of the structure of the DNA molecule.

MARCH 10, 1959  
During Tibetan uprising, the Dalai Lama flees to India.

OCTOBER 4, 1957  
Soviets launch Sputnik, the first space satellite; space race begins.

1965  
U.S. combat troops arrive in South Vietnam; U.S. planes bomb North Vietnam.

MARCH 2, 1939  
Pope Pius XII (Cardinal Pacelli) succeeds Pope Pius XI as the 260<sup>th</sup> pope.

MAY 8, 1945  
United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima, Nagasaki; Japan surrenders to end World War II.

JUNE 27, 1950  
United States sends troops to defend South Korea.



**1966**  
1968  
End of tram transport in Bangkok.

**1967**  
1967  
Tibet's Supreme Religious Leader—the Dalai Lama pays his first state visit to Thailand. During this trip he visits Wat Bovoranives Vihara and has an audience with His Holiness.

**1969**  
1969  
His Holiness offers a Dhamma Class at his own residence in Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

**1970**  
1970  
Bhola cyclone hits the densely populated Ganges Delta region of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), killing an estimated 500,000 people (considered the 20<sup>th</sup> century's worst cyclone disaster).

**1971**  
1971  
His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej celebrates his Silver Jubilee.

**1971**  
1971  
Goes to Pakistan, India and Nepal and visits the monks and Buddhist citizens of East Pakistan who suffered from the major floods.

**1972**  
1972  
The Dalai Lama makes a second visit to Thailand and came to Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

**1973**  
1973  
Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visits Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

**1973**  
1973  
Uprising in Thailand.

**1975**  
1975  
Bill Gates and Paul Allen start Microsoft Corp.

**1976**  
1976  
April 1, 1976  
Apple is established by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronal Wayne.

**1978**  
1978  
HRH the Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn is ordained as a Buddhist monk and resides at Wat Bovoranives Vihara for 15 days.

**1978**  
1978  
Deng Xiaoping starts his Southeast Asian trip in Thailand.

**1980**  
1980  
His Holiness travels to India to attend Bhagwat Gita Conference.

**1982**  
1982  
Bangkok Bicentennial Celebration.

**1984**  
1984  
Queen Rambhai Barni of Siam dies at the age of 79.

**1985**  
1985  
His Holiness goes to the ordination ceremony of Nepalese men at Kathmandu. Those who ordained (73 people) were of Sakya families, the Buddha's clan.

**1986**  
1986  
U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger explodes, killing all crews – including civilian teacher Christa McAuliffe.

**1989**  
1989  
His Holiness is promoted to Somdet Phra Sangharaja Sakalamahasanghapaninayaka or the Supreme Patriarch using his former titular name Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara.

**1989**  
1989  
Typhoon Gay, the most powerful storm to affect the Gulf of Thailand in more than 35 years.

**1989**  
1989  
World Wide Web revolutionizes the Internet.

**1992**  
1992  
"Black May", popular protest in Bangkok against the government.

**1993**  
1993  
The Dalai Lama visits Thailand for the third time and stays overnight at Wat Bovoranives Vihara.

**1993**  
1993  
His Holiness pays an official visit to the Republic of China for 12 days upon an invitation from the Chinese Government.

**1996**  
1996  
The story of Phra Maha Janaka, written by the King himself, is published.

**1999-2000**  
1999-2000  
S.N. Goenka focuses his travels and energy on the traditional Buddhist countries of Asia. Vipassana centres arise in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Taiwan, Indonesia, Mongolia.

# THE LONGEST REIGNING SANGHARAJA

THAILAND

HIS HOLINESS

AROUND THE WORLD



OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 1, 1996 Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visit Thailand.



1996

JUNE 9, 2006 The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Accession to the Throne.

1999



1999 Comic version of the story of Phra Maha Janaka is published.



DECEMBER 26, 2004 Tsunami hits Thailand.

2004



JANUARY 2, 2008 Galyani Vadhana, the Princess of Naradhiwas, elder sister of His Majesty King Ananda Mahidol (Rama VIII) and His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) dies, aged 84.

2006

2008

JANUARY 30, 2011 Phra Dharma Visuddhi Mangala (Bua Nānasampano) dies at the age of 97.



2011

APRIL 8-12, 2012 The Royal Cremation Ceremony for Her Royal Highness Princess Bejaratana.



2013



SEPTEMBER 10-22, 2012 A 388-k.m. protest march against Mae Wong Dam project.

2012



JULY 25, 2011-JANUARY 16, 2012 The worst flooding in and around the outskirts of Bangkok.



OCTOBER 3, 2012 Thailand Post launches a commemorative stamp collection (1<sup>st</sup> series), as a tribute to His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand, to mark his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary.



2013 His Holiness lives to the age of 100 years and has served in the position of the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand for 25 years.

2013

APRIL 4-10, 1998 Holiness is Chairman of the First World Buddhist Propagation Conference, Kyoto, Japan.



1998

2010 His Holiness is transferred from Chulalongkorn Hospital to Siriraj Hospital temporarily.



2010

2002 His Holiness grants a family name to the Ministry of Interior in order to give to Thai people onwards.

2002

2001



2001 His Holiness is admitted to Chulalongkorn Hospital.

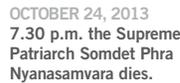
2008

2011



MAY 22, 2008 His Holiness donates supplies and medicines for Burmese people after Cyclone Nargis.

2011 His mercy and assistance to flood victims.



OCTOBER 24, 2013 7.30 p.m. the Supreme Patriarch Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara dies.

2013

JULY 30, 1998 S.N. Goenka, Indian Vipassana Teacher, and his wife come to Wat Bovoranives Vihara to pay homage to His Holiness.



1998

FEBRUARY 6, 2012 The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her accession to the thrones of England.



2012

MAY 2, 2008 Cyclone Nargis makes landfall in Myanmar.



2008

JANUARY 1, 2000 The world celebrates the turn of the Millennium.



2000

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 A devastating terrorist attack leaves 3,000 dead in the United State of America.

2001

2005 Hurricane Katrina floods New Orleans.

2005



2011

APRIL 29, 2011 The wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

2013



AUGUST 29, 2013 Dr. Satya Narayan Goenka dies at age 90.



OCTOBER 1-17, 2013 The US federal government begins a partial shutdown.

2013

FEBRUARY 22, 1997 Scientists clone sheep, dubbed Dolly, in Scotland.



1997

JULY 4, 1997 NASA's Pathfinder space probe lands on the surface of Mars.





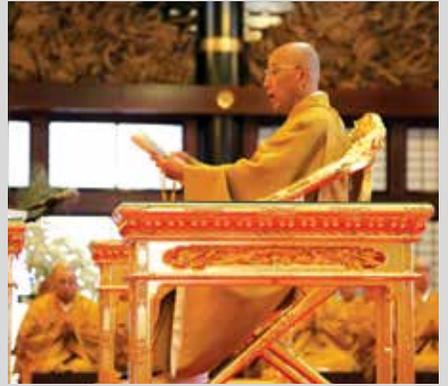
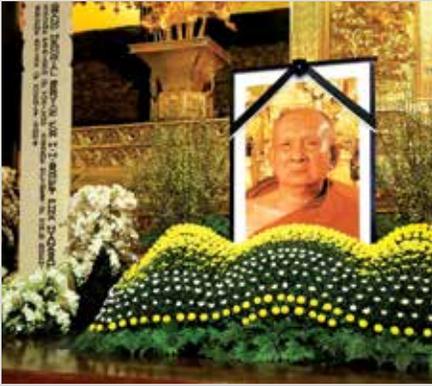
# THE LIGHT MOVES ON, THE BRILLIANCE STAYS

Members of the Royal Family lead the country in Royal Funerary rites for His Holiness the 19<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch, who passed away on October 24, 2013, exactly three weeks after marking his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.











In Japan (left) a lavish and solemn ceremony was conducted in his memory at the Royal Grand Hall of Buddhism in Kyoto on November 4, 2013, while all across Thailand (above) people gathered in prayer to mourn the passing of His Holiness. Indeed, the entire world became united as one, in honouring the memory of a great and compassionate soul.

# The Sangharaja

## Man, Monk & Monarch

A Tribute to H.H. Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara,  
the Late 19<sup>th</sup> Supreme Patriarch of Thailand

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