



*Khun Yay Maharatana Upasika
Chandra Khonnokyoong*





*These words are inscribed for Khun Yay.
Who guided this thy student to ordain.
Who gave birth to Wat Phra Dhammakaya.
Going through tribulations until her success today.*

*No words can explain my debt,
Picking only one to mention,
Striking out defilements in my mind.
Yet, there are so very many more.*

*To bless her, who had slain the Mara,
The merit from pursuing the ten perfections,
The merit from my life-long ordination,
The merit from Nirvana,
Bestow all these merits to Khun Yay*

Phrabhavanaviriyakhun

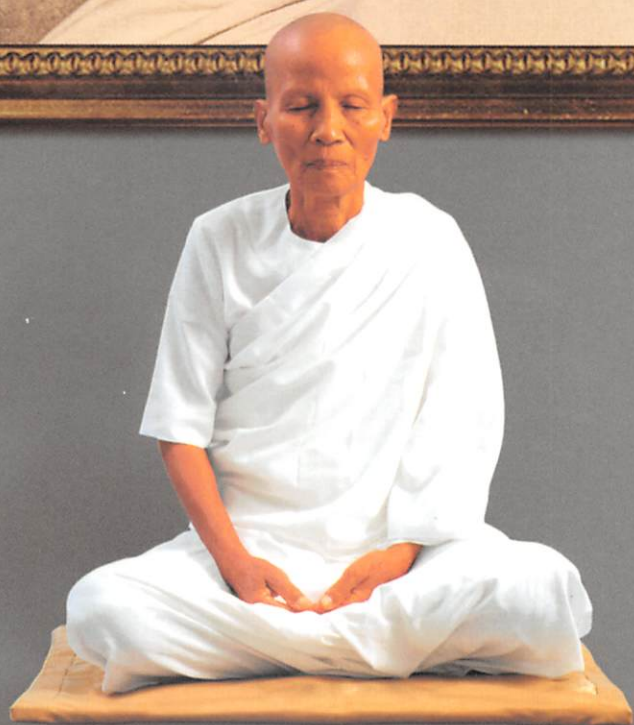
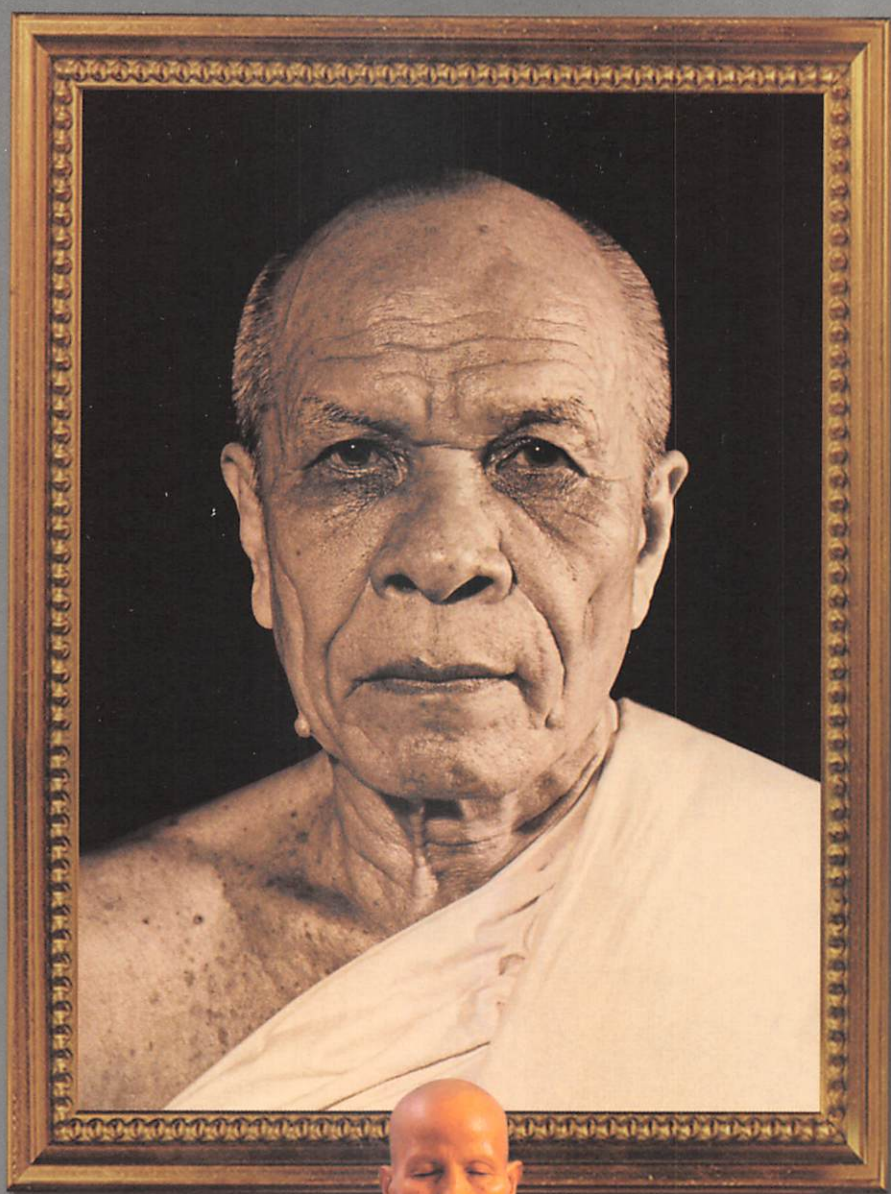


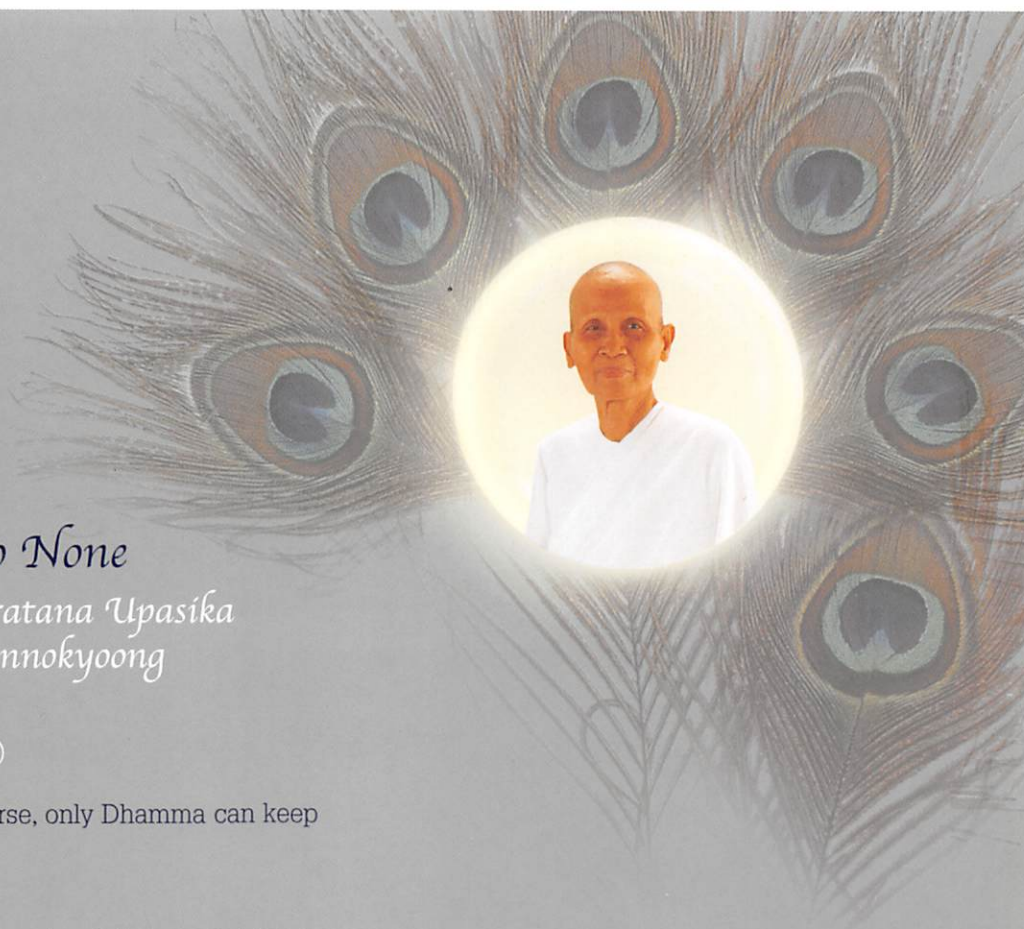
“Under the tutelage of Luang Phor Wat Paknam, Khun Yay devoted her life studying *Vijja Dhammakaya*. She practiced daily, pursuing perfection and purity. Khun Yay received praise from Luang Phor that she was “second to none” among his disciples. She kept these words in her heart, but never let them keep her from goal of making herself perfect without distraction. She continued steadily along the path to her goal, to go beyond the best. She was filled with inner strength and compassion for all. Her resolution to reach her father in the next world made her desire to do only good deeds.

All her life, her blissful good deeds were as glorious as the sun shining from dawn to dusk.

She was a model for goodness. Having no interest in worldly pleasure, her glorious body glowed with Dhamma, and the shine of the stars in her eyes showed her brilliant knowledge. Her body is like the base of all the *Dhammakaya* - comparable to a living pagoda - full with uncountable peace and true happiness coming from within.”

Phrarajbhavanavisudh





Second to None

*Khun Yay Maharatana Upasika
Chandra Khonnokyoong*



“In this whole infinite universe, only Dhamma can keep us from suffering”

Amidst the turbulence of the life cycles of all the sentient beings in the world, there was a person who stopped, meditated and then studied through to the core of Buddhism to bring peace to the world.

She did not know how to read and write, and she led a simple and easy life in her tiny Kuti, yet her knowledge was remarkable. She is the founder of Wat Phra Dhammakaya. She trained a group of people to spread Dhamma, the Teaching of the Buddha, in many countries. Her heart was so large, the whole world seems small in comparison. This person was Khun Yay Maharatana Upasika Chandra Khonnokyoong.

Her legendary life began on the bank of Nakhon Chaisri river. She was born in the early morning of January 20, 1909. She was the daughter of a farmer and had no chance to study in school, however, this never deterred her wish to learn --she made the vast paddy fields of her youth her school. When she was young, she often looked at the dawning sun and made a wish that someday she would go to reach it.

Her father passed away when she was only 13, and before she could ask for his forgiveness for any of her unintentional misdeeds. She made a resolution to reach her late father in his afterlife to apologise to him for her childhood wrongs. She grew up, worked diligently, and gave all her hard-earned money to her mother. She had no interest in decorating herself with fine clothes or perfume, as did the other village girls of her age. Not deterred by this world, she searched for a way to reach her father in the afterlife.

She was 26 when she left her family and her mother. She moved to Bangkok after hearing that the Great Abbot of Wat Paknam had re-discovered the Wisdom of Dhammakaya that included the knowledge of heaven and hell. She entered domestic service in

Bangkok seeking for someone who was practising meditation at Wat Paknam. Eventually, she discovered a family that had invited a nun from Wat Paknam, Thongsuk Samdaengpan, to teach meditation at their house. Khun Yay immediately applied to be a maid in their household, intending to practise meditation with the nun.

After practising meditation with Upasika Thongsuk for about two years, Khun Yay was able to attain the Wisdom of Dhammakaya. With the help and advice of the nun, she managed to harness the Wisdom of Dhammakaya to seek for her late father. Deeply realizing the value of Dhamma, she decided to ordain as a nun, and was taken by Upasika Thongsuk to meet the Great Abbot. Once she had paid homage to him, the Great Abbot's first words to her were, “*what kept you so long?*” Without further examination, he allowed her to join the most highly experienced group of meditation researchers in the temple. The following morning, Khun Yay was ordained.

Khun Yay was a very capable student, completing Luang Phor's assignments to the letter. Nothing Luang Phor asked her to do was beyond her ability. Luang Phor was not in the habit of praising his students, but once he praised Khun Yay publicly among the other disciples, saying she was “second to none”.



The Successor of Vijja Dhammakaya.

Before Luang Phor Wat Paknam passed away, he called all of his closest disciples together and gave an important audience. He declared that he would leave his body in the next 5 years. He instructed his followers to continue teaching people to attain the Wisdom of Dhammakaya, and to spread the tradition far and wide; since this would help bring peace to the minds of the people of the world. Luang Phor instructed Khun Yay to stay and teach *Vijja Dhammakaya* at Wat Paknam while waiting for the successor to arrive. Khun Yay lived her simple and peaceful life teaching meditation

and waiting for the destined person to arrive.

On October 1963, a university student came to her with a question that had remained in his mind since he was the age of 13. He asked, "What were we born for, and what is the real goal in life?" This person was the Venerable Dhammajayo, present supreme spiritual leader of Wat Phra Dhammakaya.

Khun Yay answered these questions so clearly he was convinced to study and practice Dhamma with her. He was diligent in his practice, and became an outstanding student. Later, he introduced some of his university friends, both male and female, senior and junior, to practice meditation at Khun Yay's place.

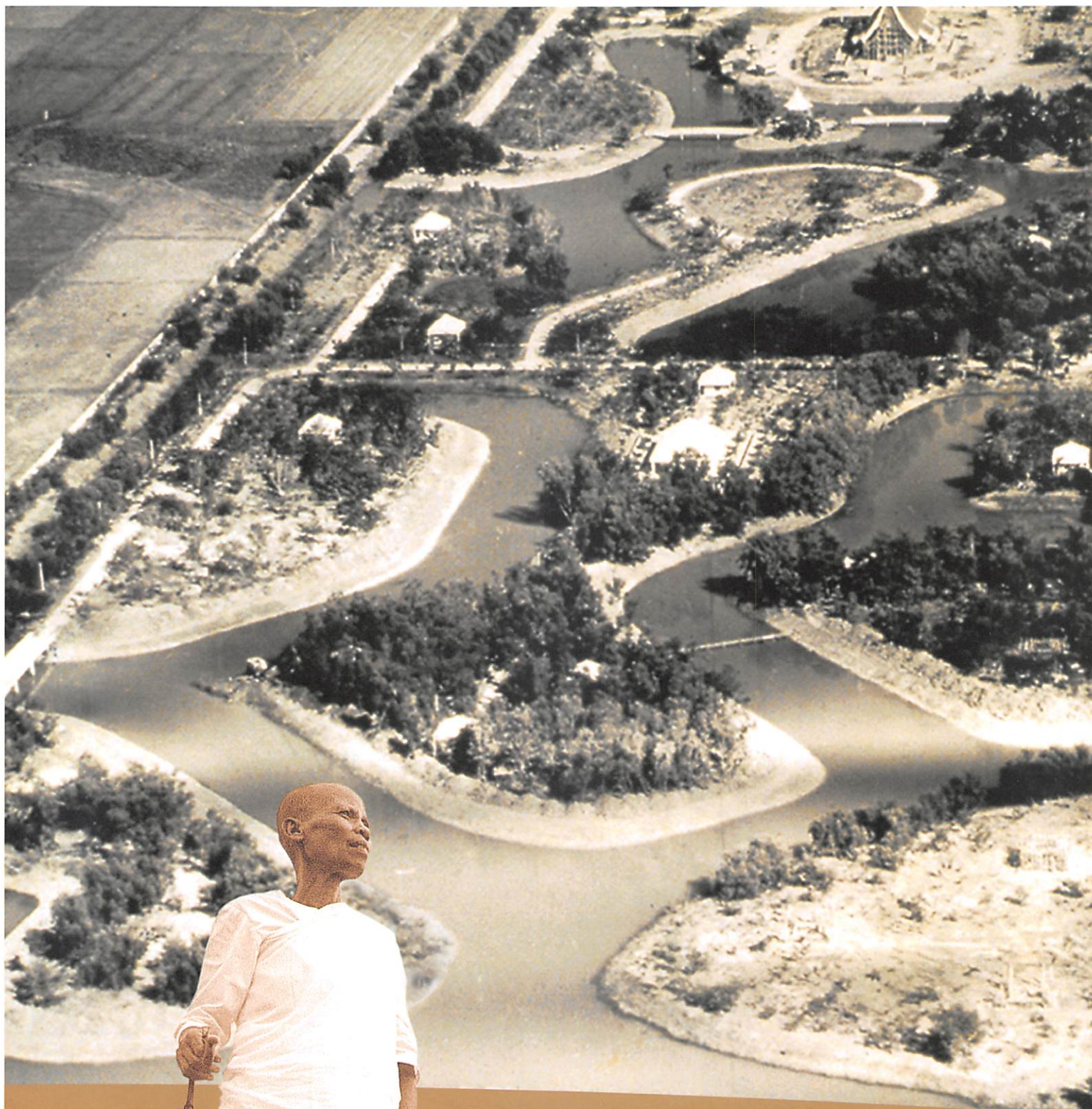
From Dhammaprasit Home

"I met Khun Yay when she was 53 years old. The first time I saw her, she looked like an ordinary older lady, so thin you could see the tendons all over her body. But then I looked into her eyes. They shone with the decisiveness, freshness and purity which came from her virtue. I felt that this great lady would definitely be my teacher. I could feel from her eyes the infinite power and wisdom of great knowledge. The glory of Khun Yay is in her living a simple and peaceful life, content with ordinary necessities and no luxurious things. Khun Yay is a person who has very much love in cleanliness and discipline"

Phrarajbhavanavisudh

(Ven. Dhammajayo Bhikkhu)



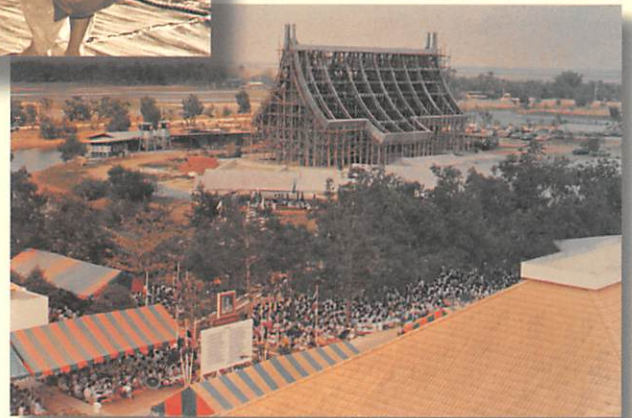


Reclaiming the Barren Paddy Field



When Luang Phor Dhammajayo entered into full ordination at Wat Paknam, Khun Yay was already 61 years old. She had the idea of finding a new temple site, since the number of students exceeded the space available in her small home at Wat Paknam. Khun Yay and her group prayed for a twenty-five acre plot of land. Soon, eighty acres of paddy-field were donated by a high-ranking lady, for the purpose of building a temple. Construction started on Magha Puja Day, 20th February 1970.

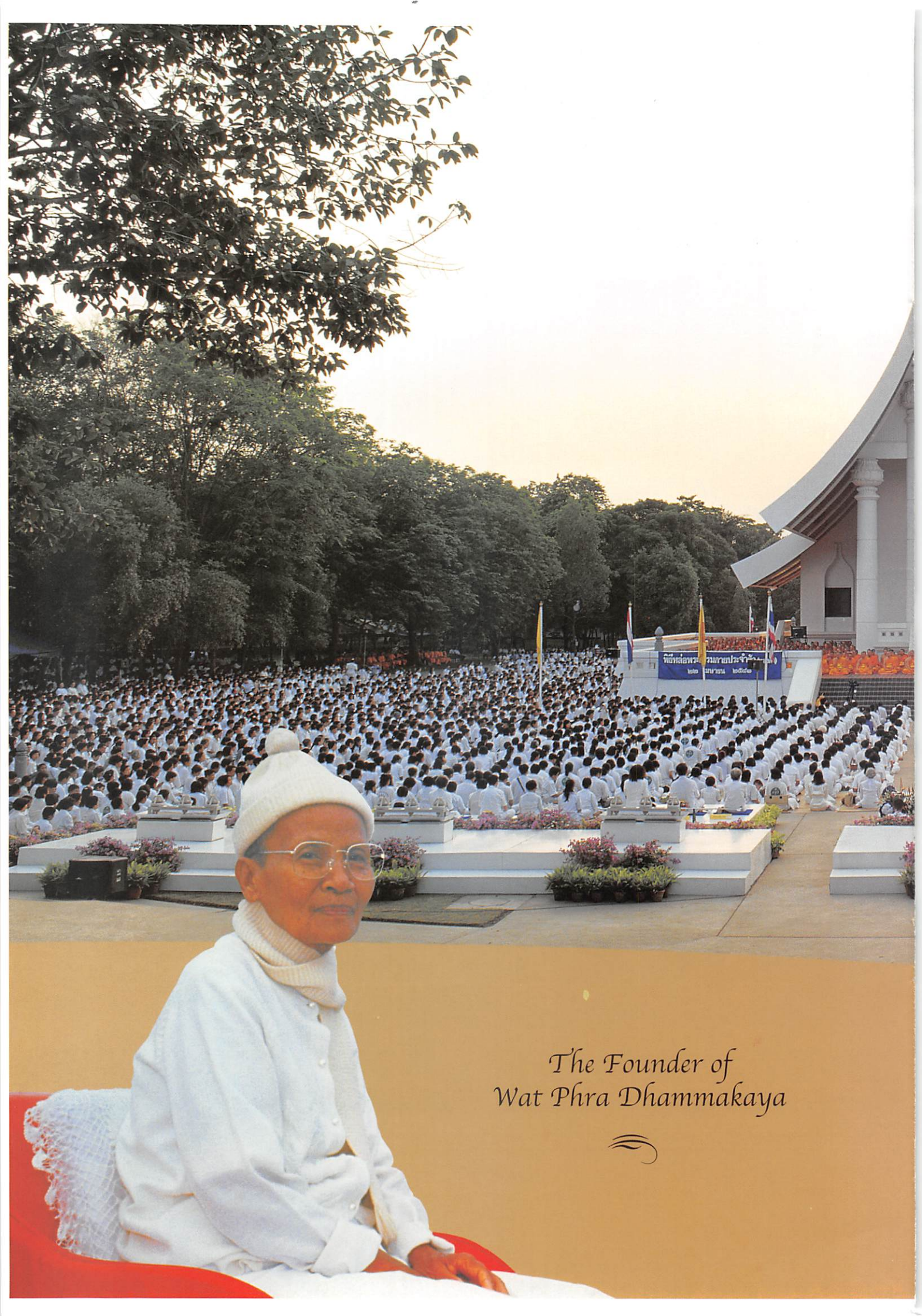
The Ven. Dhammajayo and Khun Yay took responsibility for raising the finances, and the lay-supporter who is now the Ven. Dattajeevo, took responsibility for the actual construction on the site.



Khun Yay asked the Ven. Dattajeevo, then a lay-supporter, the amount of money that would be necessary to set up a good temple. The Ven. Dattajeevo replied that it would be around 100 million Baht. Khun Yay then brought out the brown envelope she had been using for collecting donated money - there was only 3,200 Baht. The Ven. Dattajeevo questioned her, saying, "How can we build a temple with only 3,200 Baht?" Khun Yay asked him, "If you received a budget of 100 million Baht from the government for training people to be good men, and to devote their lives for Buddhism like you and the team; how many people would you get?" The Ven. Dattajeevo replied that we could not be certain of training even one good person, even if we had 100 million Baht. Khun Yay told him with a grin that she already had 11 good people, which was worth much more than 100 million Baht, and was certain they would

succeed.

Every pioneer has to work hard. Every one of the canals in the temple compound needed to be dredged and excavated by the volunteers and every tree in the temple needed to be planted by hand. Many of the new planted saplings withered in the intense heat and needed to be replaced --sometimes three or four times. Khun Yay worked so hard that she became seriously under-nourished, and at one time came dangerously close to death. Only with the medical attention of a doctor from Chulalongkorn University Hospital did she recover and continue to participate in the life of the temple community.



*The Founder of
Wat Phra Dhammakaya*



To Wat Phra Dhammakaya



Taking Luang Phor Wat Paknam's organization as an example, Khun Yay set the rules and regulations for the temple community. After the establishment of Wat Phra Dhammakaya Temple, Khun Yay gave all the authority to the Ven. Dhammajayo - the abbot. She then lived her simple life, following a fixed schedule. From four in the morning

until six, she would meditate alone. Before breakfast she would lead a group in a cleaning task. Around 8.30, she would again meditate, but this time as a teaching class for her students. In the evening she would walk or sit on her tricycle to inspect the cleanliness and orderliness of all things in the temple.



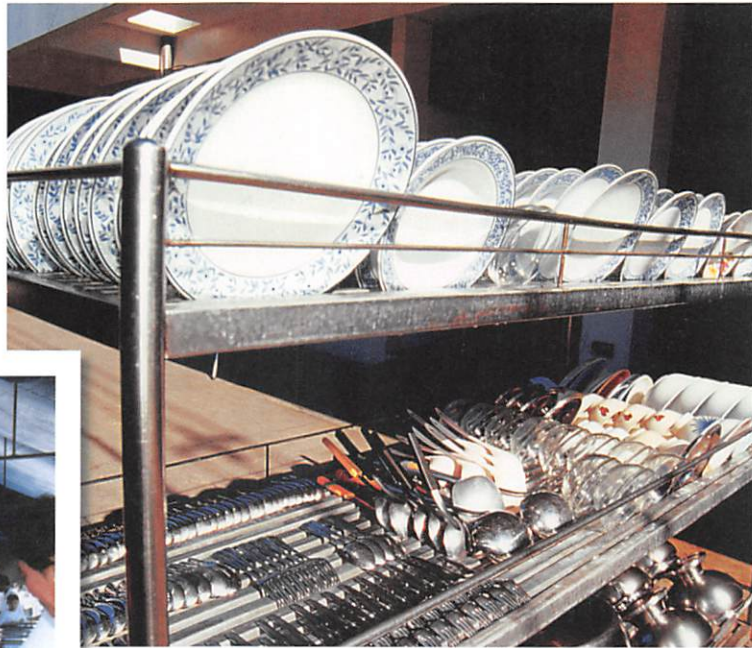
A Paragon of Exemplary Virtue



Khun Yay taught her students to think and speak and do only good and pleasant deeds. She will always be a role model in the hearts of her disciples, because she taught her disciples by example - not just by giving a talk. She told them again and again, *"Do the best in this life so that there will be no need to redo it in the next life."*

Khun Yay emphasised cleanliness. She explained that if

we live with an untidy environment, how can we shield our mind from untidy defilements? An example of her cleanliness is that when she cleaned a chair she did it thoroughly, from front to side to back, from left to right, from the top surface to the underside. All the temple tools and environment must be kept clean all day. She especially emphasised the cleanliness of the kitchen and the toilet because if we

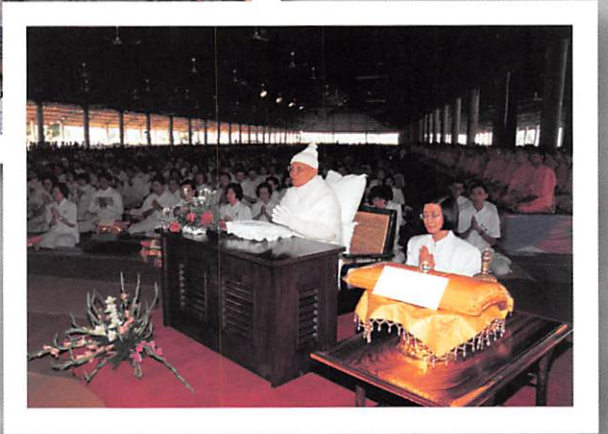
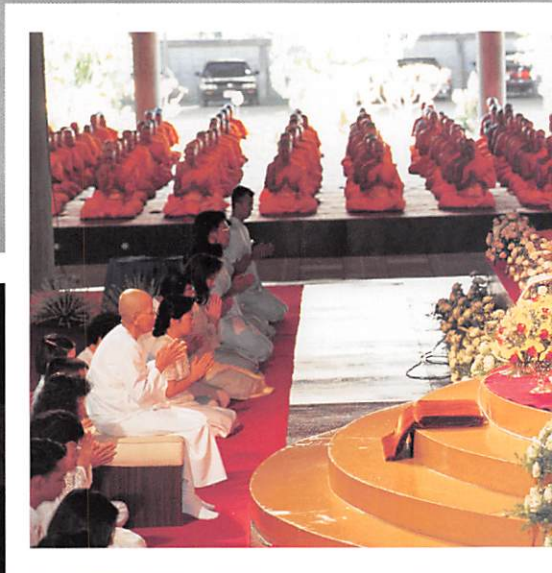


“Whoever comes to the temple
No matter how many of them?
One hundred or one million...
Train them all to become our
volunteer staff”

Khun Yay Maharatana Upasika
Chandra Khonnokyoong

can keep clean and tidy in the most unclean and untidy places then we can keep the whole area always clean.

From the very beginning, Khun Yay set strict temple regulations to protect the monks from weakening. The temple's main gate close and open at set times. No women are allowed in the area of a monk's residence. A monk must receive guests in public rooms rather than in his cell, and male and female meditators are segregated on either side of the Dhamma Hall. All these rules are in accordance with of Khun Yay's directives.



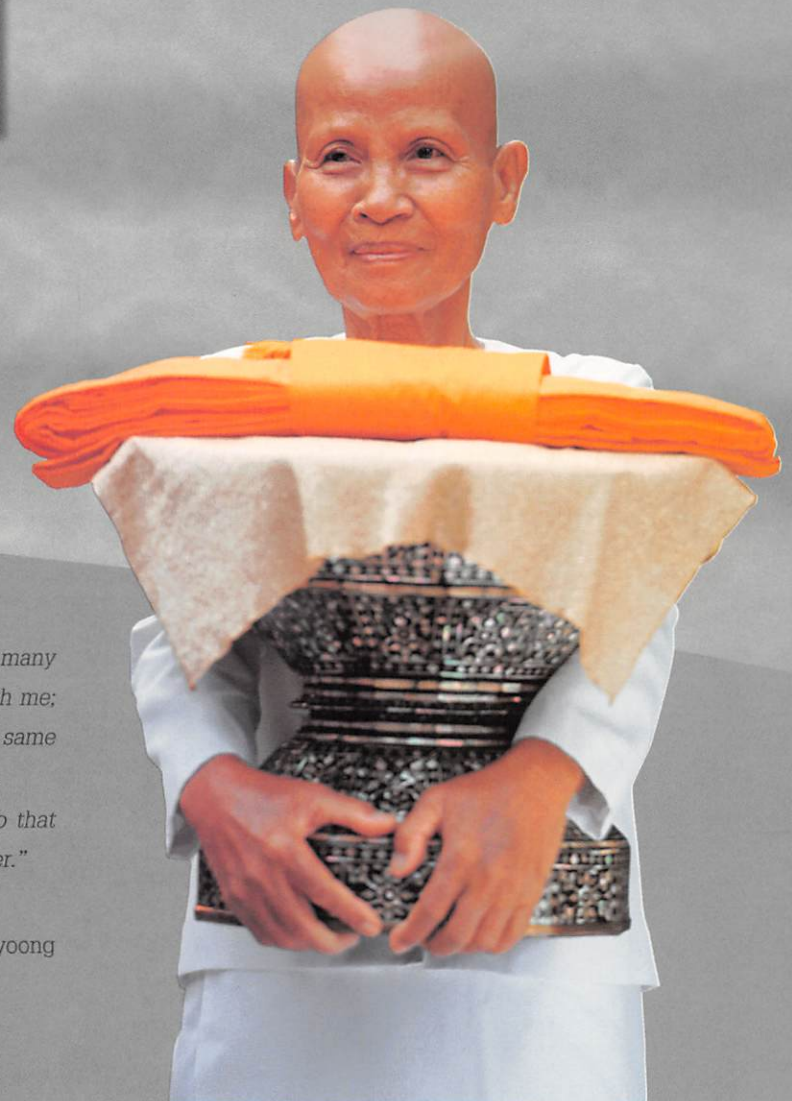
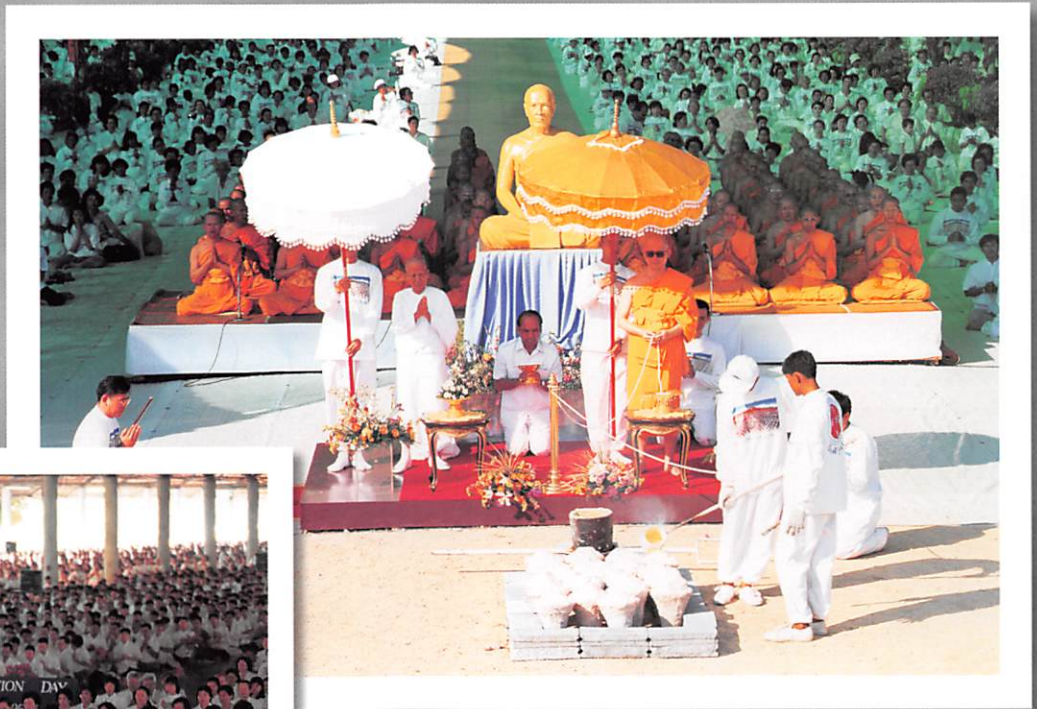
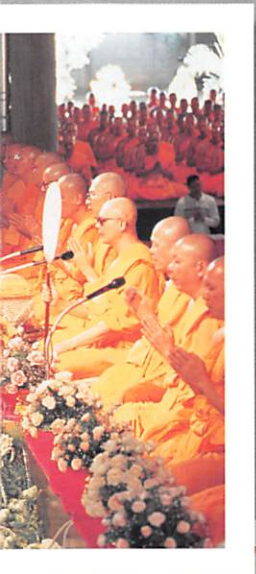
The Extension and Propagation



Khun Yay started the hard work of building Wat Phra Dhammakaya with her own money of 3,200 Baht and successfully brought construction to completion. She told Luang Phor Dhammajayo that once in her lifetime she would like to be a leader in a Kathina Dhana ceremony - the great giving to a monastery. In 1988 Luang Phor invited Khun Yay to do so. Khun Yay was overjoyed and traveled everywhere in

Thailand inviting her disciples and old friends to join her.

In the year 2000, when she was 83 years old, Khun Yay was the leader in a robe offering ceremony. Since then she always presided over the donors in the robe offering ceremony every year.



"I enjoin all the meritorious people, separated over many different places, to join doing good deeds together with me; so that in the next life, everyone will be reborn in the same period to once again pursue the perfection as a team.

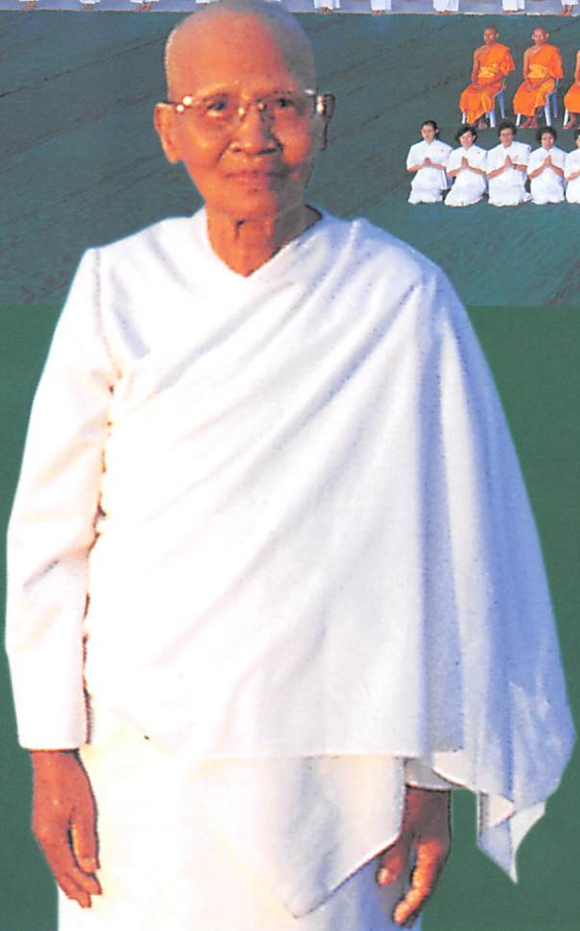
I would like everybody to make merit with me, so that we will follow the path in pursuing perfection together."

Khun Yay Maharatana Upasika Chandra Khonnokyoong



พิธีมุทิตาสักการะพระภิกษุ-สามเณรเปรียญธรรม ๙ ประโยค และพิธีบวชอุบาสิกากว่า 100,000 คน
A CEREMONY of CONGRATULATION for MONK AND NOVICE SCHOLARS on their SUCCESS of PALI STUDIES. 100,000 people
公元1998年8月7日至9日 恭贺高僧通过最高巴利语

พิธีบวชอุบาสิกากว่า 100,000 คนกลายเป็นพระราชกุศลแด่สมเด็จพระบรม



Khun Yay lays the foundation Luang Phor Dhammajayo extends the Buddhist Ministry



Khun Yay laid the foundation of Buddhist ministry by emphasizing the training of good people first. Luang Phor Dhammajayo followed her procedure, and set up various Dhamma classes and training programs.

Although emphasizing people and their training first, the necessity of constructing facilities became inevitable. A meditation pavilion of 580 seats called *Catumaharachika* was built followed



พระราชินีนาถ ณ สภาธรรมกายสากล วัดพระธรรมกาย จ.ปทุมธานี ๗-๙ สิงหาคม ๒๕๔๑



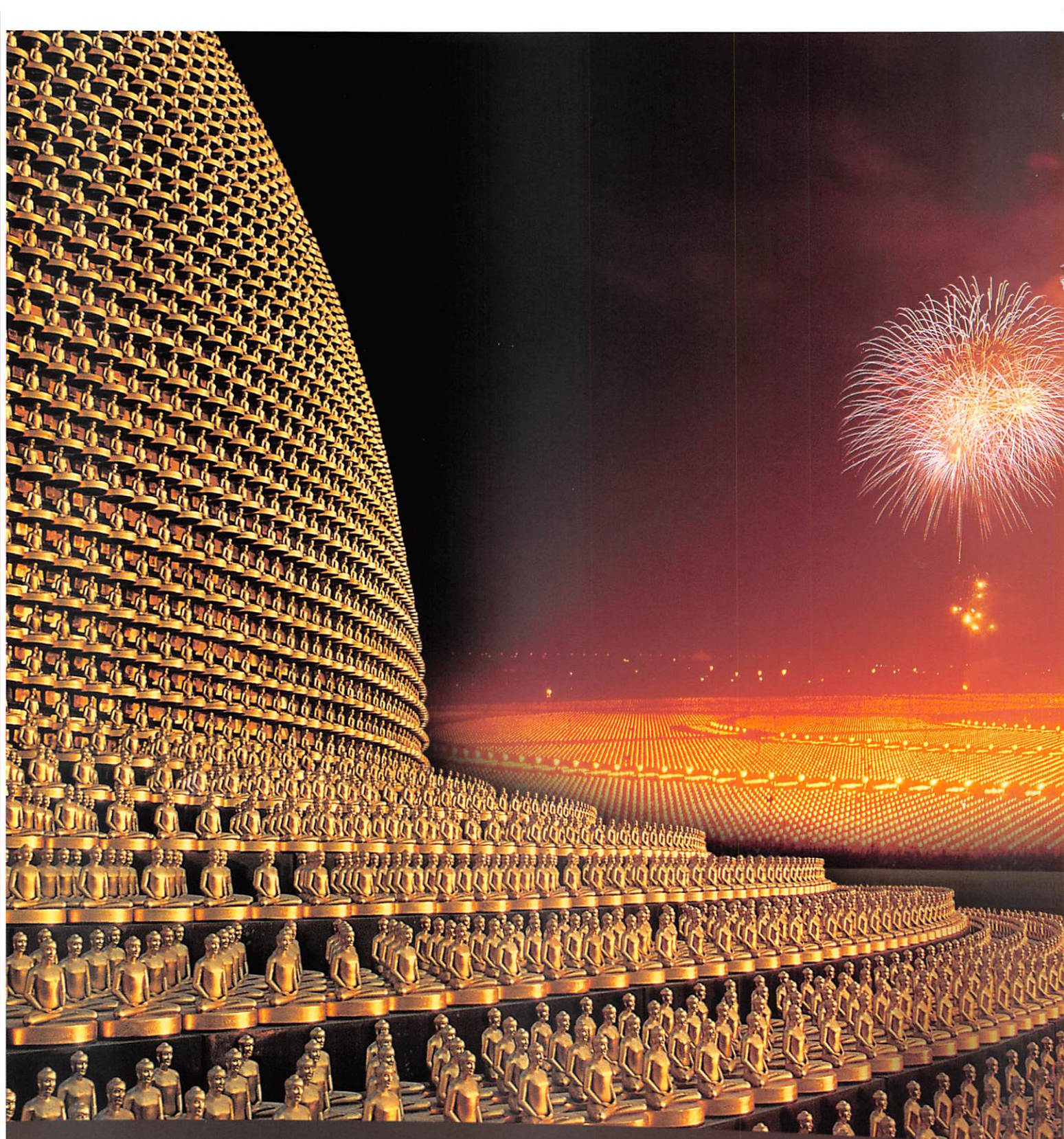
by the first Sapha Dhammakaya Hall, which had a simple thatched roof, but could seat 30,000.

With the steady increase of interested public coming to study meditation and training of the mind, the Ven. Dhammajayo led the way in the provision of purpose-built facilities to allow meditators to learn Dhamma with some degree of convenience. The *World Dhammakaya Centre* has been designed with a covered capacity of 300,000 and open-air capacity of 1,000,000 people.

The great *Sapha Dhammakaya Hall* was built for these purposes. The hall covers an area of over forty acres (312,984

square meters) on two levels. The structure can accommodate 300,000 people.

Khun Yay always reminded Luang Phor not to be concerned too much with the provision of infrastructure and facilities, and to let others do the job. Since the human life cycle is so short, people will be best at meditating if they start when they are in good health and at a younger age. Luang Phor undertook Khun Yay's words and tried his best to finish the construction as soon as possible.



The Establishment of A World Buddhist Centre

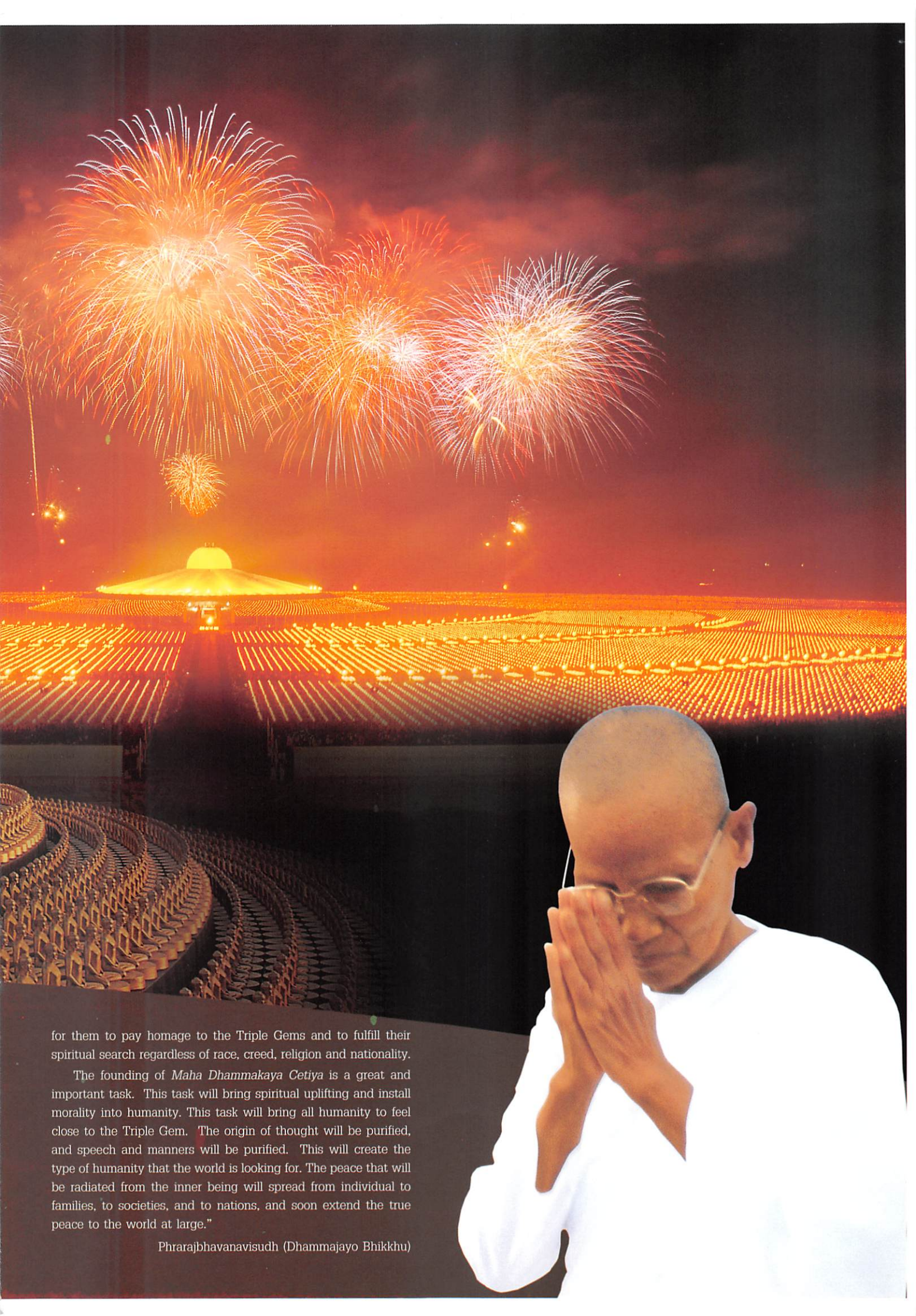


Phrarajbhavanavisudh had an idea to set up a centre for meditators all around the world to join meditation at the same time. Although Khun Yay had some feeling that this might be a great task and might delay Luang Phor from researching *Vijja Dhammakaya*, she realized the importance of the project to the Buddhist ministry to the world. Khun Yay helped Luang Phor by her power of meditation to search for meritorious persons and philanthropic donors to help Luang Phor build the *Maha*

Dhammakaya Cetiya - a centre for world peace and wisdom.

On the 8th of September 1995, the first pile of the *Maha Dhammakaya Cetiya* was driven into the ground to mark the beginning of this magnificent structure. Designed to last more than a thousand years, the *Maha Dhammakaya Cetiya* is a dome-shaped pagoda enshrining one million Buddha images both inside and on the surrounding dome surface. The purpose of the construction is to be the focal landmark of the open-air congregation site. The broad steps of the Cetiya have been designed for a congregation of 10,000 monks. The surrounding grounds will be able to accommodate 1 million people from all over the world for spiritual activities contributing to world peace.

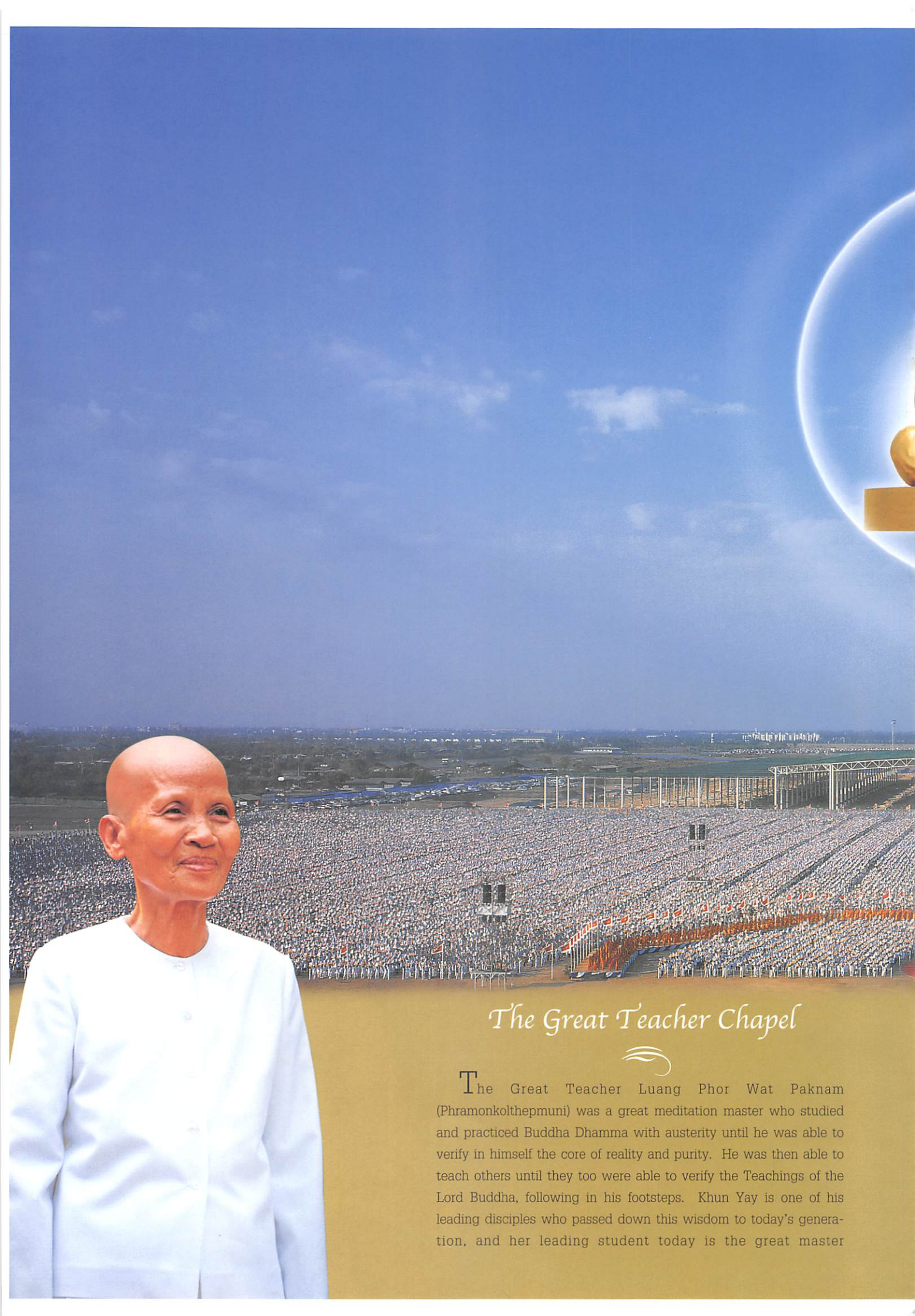
“*Maha Dhammakaya Cetiya*, the pagoda of the Triple Gems, is a spiritual centre for all humans and spiritual beings, the place



for them to pay homage to the Triple Gems and to fulfill their spiritual search regardless of race, creed, religion and nationality.

The founding of *Maha Dhammakaya Cetiya* is a great and important task. This task will bring spiritual uplifting and install morality into humanity. This task will bring all humanity to feel close to the Triple Gem. The origin of thought will be purified, and speech and manners will be purified. This will create the type of humanity that the world is looking for. The peace that will be radiated from the inner being will spread from individual to families, to societies, and to nations, and soon extend the true peace to the world at large.”

Phrarajbhavanavisudh (Dhammajayo Bhikkhu)



The Great Teacher Chapel



The Great Teacher Luang Phor Wat Paknam (Phramonkolthepmuni) was a great meditation master who studied and practiced Buddha Dhamma with austerity until he was able to verify in himself the core of reality and purity. He was then able to teach others until they too were able to verify the Teachings of the Lord Buddha, following in his footsteps. Khun Yay is one of his leading disciples who passed down this wisdom to today's generation, and her leading student today is the great master



Phrarajbhanavisudh (the Ven. Dhammajayo) at Wat Phra Dhammakaya.

To show gratitude for the Great Teacher who rediscovered *Vijja Dhammakaya*, Phrarajbhanavisudh (the Ven. Dhammajayo) and his disciples cast a statue of *Luang Phor Wat Paknam* in solid gold on Magha Puja Day 1994. The *Phramonkolthepmuni Vihara*, a Great Teacher Chapel, has been designed as the permanent home for his statue.

*"The rediscovery of *Vijja Dhammakaya* means the return*

*of purity and wisdom into all humanity. When humans attain *Dhammakaya*, the secret to their own life and things around them will be revealed by the wisdom and the eyes of *Dhammakaya*.*

For this reason, the founding of *Phramonkolthepmuni Vihara* is not just simply a permanent construction or a plain building as may be seen --but is the place for enshrining the body of the Great Knower - *Phramonkolthepmuni (Sod Candasaro)* who rediscover *Vijja Dhammakaya*".

Phrarajbhanavisudh (Dhammajayo Bhikkhu)



The Demise and Funeral

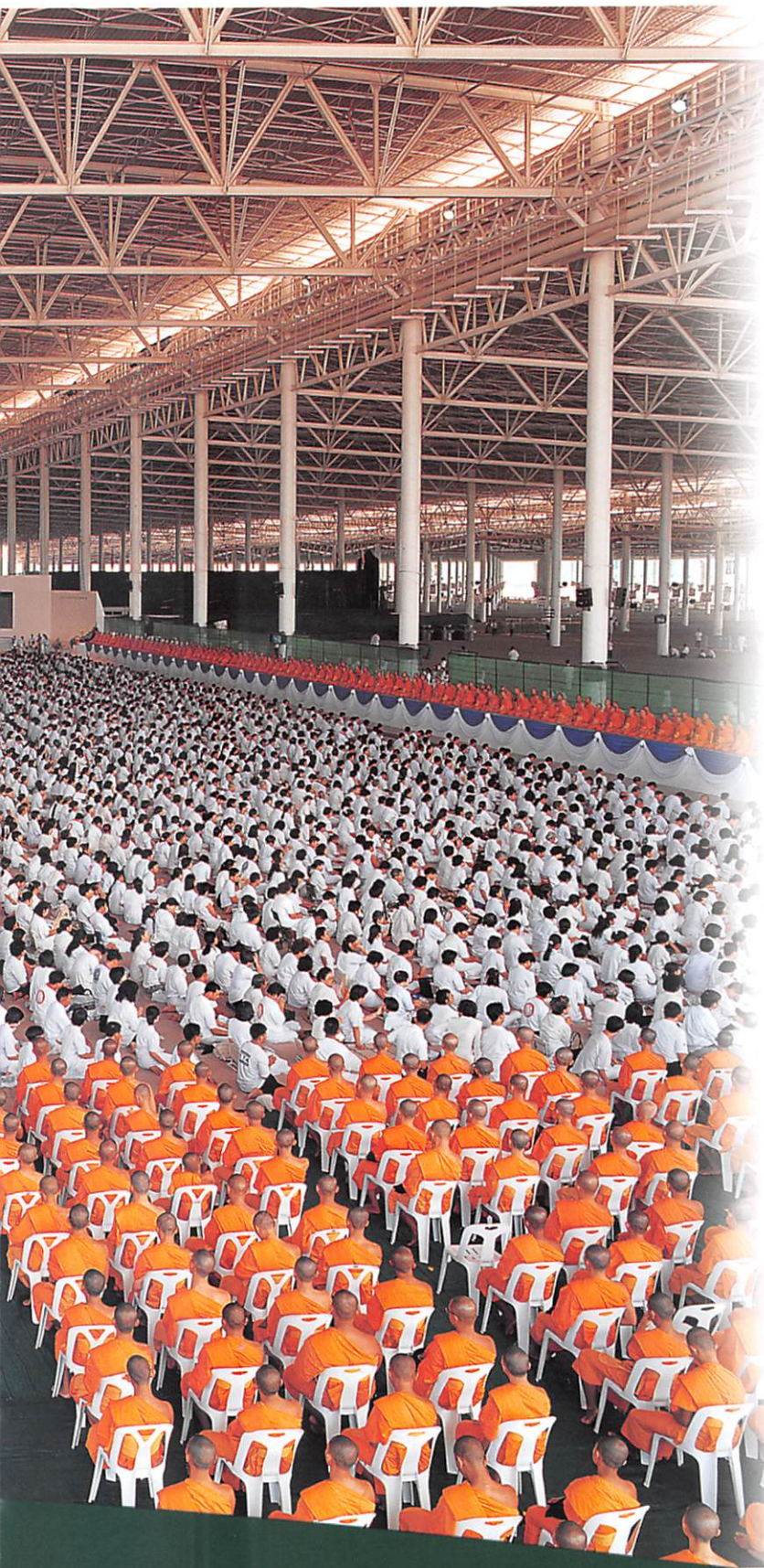


Khun Yay Maharatana Upasika Chandra Khonnokyoong passed away peacefully in the morning of 10th September 2000, at the age of 92.

Daily Abhidhamma Funeral Chanting was arranged from the 17th of September 2000 to the 2nd February 2001. Senior monks and executives of monastic orders from various temples

throughout the country have performed the Buddhist rite of reciting Abhidhamma Chanting. There were 100 monks for working days and 200 monks for Sundays with thousands of laypeople also in attendance.

The cremation day for Khun Yay has been scheduled on the 3rd of February 2002 following Khun Yay's wish: "Do not



keep my body. Invite the monks to do the Abhidhamma chanting for a while, and then cremate my body”

Senior monks from 30,000 Buddhist temples all around the country, together with senior monks from 20 different countries all around the world, will be present in the final cremation ceremony before a hundred thousand laypeople.

Khun Yay Maharatana Upasika Chandra Khonnokyoong was born an ordinary girl, a simple life in this wide world. *But her becoming has changed a great deal in the world. Her life was gracious and unblemished. Her virtue and kindness will stay with us deep in our hearts through eternity.*



Song of Praise To Khun Yay Archan Maharatana Upasika Chandra Khonnokyoong

Our wholehearted respect to Khun Yay
The brilliant General of the Great Lord
She followed what had been taught
To make known of the Noble Truth

She was unique, second to none
Khun Yay Chandra who devoted and won
Being patience, strong and pure
Much more worthful than all diamond in all worlds.

Being obedient to her great teacher
Anything would be done when told
Until the successor was born she hold
To hand over to the person as told.

To turn the rice field to sacred temple
To cultivate the noble Dhammakaya
In to the heart of mankind
This was the great compassion of Khun Yay

The work of art by the great architect
Is less meaningful than Dhammakaya she gave
To the followers under her protection
Like birds reside in the shade of Bodhi tree

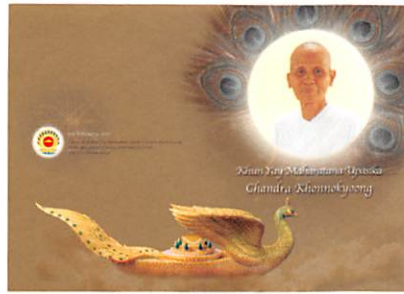
The middle of her mind was lighted as Chedi
With numerous Dhammakaya in every particle
Created pure merit that covered us
With happiness and joy radiate from within

We would follow her to all entries
To attack the lust and slay Mara
With her enormous miracle power
She kept to the Goal of Supreme Element

Trying our best to extend Dhamma
Spreading the world with inner peace
These are our promise to worship
As garland of flowers to our great Khun Yay.



Our Patrons



Phrarajbhavanavisudh (Ven. Dhammajayo)
Phrabhavanaviriyakhun (Ven. Dattajeevo)

Phra Narong Tantajitto	Phra Santad Ravivanno
Phra Weera Weerantharo	Phra Wiwat Palawatthago
Phramaha Seksan Jirapaso	Phramaha Choktawee Vuthikaro
Phramaha Chatchai Chattanchayo	Phramaha Sathian Suwannathito
Phra Udom Yatisaro	Phra Pradit Arinchayo
Phra Kusol Supranetto	Phramaha Atip Atipunyo
Phra Prasertkit Sumetho	Phra Siri Kunakaro
Phra Prisadang Samankigo	Phra Songsakol Kantavicho
Phra Klanarong Yanaveero	Phra Annop Pemaseelo
Rajtaewee-Phayathai Group	Kemaphataphan Family
Kuhakanok Family	Ngamkiatsap Family
Tangchoksirikul Family	Pahuchon Family
Warunvacharin Family	Watanachet Family
Kasemsak-Vipapom Kampolpanijvong	Luengthada Family
Kampol-Jirapa Panyaupatham	Hembhramaraj Family
Kwanrudee Amnuayweroj	Keniji-Wannee Hochino
Haneg Keigboon-Eah Sew-eng	Sorn-Pranee Chatrathongchai
Yada Trisuwansarn and Family	Narong-Wanna-Warong Udompol
Tanu-Chandratip Manachairat	Tanat Permdip
Theerawat-Waranuj Pattrakul	Banpot-Vasana Ruengraklikit
Prasert-Suntorn-Yuthana	Peeradej Chamanont
Siriporn-Neeranuj Chatongchai	Monchai-Nantana Yodpinij
Yomdoi Vejsiri	Yaowana Taledtong
Yaowanee Yodpinij	Wanchai Uthaiwan
Vilai Yantarat and family	Weerayut-Roureen Pintusamit
Wilailak Lekakam	Somkiat Techapisit
Siriwan Sithiyothathan	Somkwon Wanijsampan
Saharat Oonjai	Santi-Pimjai Tisayakorn
Saroj-Sukanya Sakulwatana	Sitichok Amornpipatkul
Anongnad Vetayayothin	Sukontharat-Chaikorn Tongthanawat
Suthipong-Kedsarapon Chai.	Sutha Wanijsampan
Supasit-Manothip-Natarapat J.	Somnuk Premwatana
Aramsri Chatrakaewmorakot	Arreerak Jitpakdee and Family
Udorn-Sangduan-Parichard	Chutimon Boonsoong
Autoflight Co., Ltd	Chattrawithaya School
Osaka Meditation Centre	Hong Kong Meditation Centre
Assoc. Prof. Somjai Tipchaimetha Col. Paikiat Sanyapisit	
Dr. Suprata Sithiracha and Simsawat Family	
Dhammasart University Buddhist and Culture Club	
Crystal Software Package Co.,Ltd	
Personnel 16 th "Free from trouble... towards Nirvana"	

The Memorial of Khun Yay Maharatana Upasika Chandra Khonnokyoong

ISBN 974-90175-2-8

Honorary Editorial Consultants

Phrarajbhavanavisudh (Ven. Dhammajayo)
Phrabhavanaviriyakhun (Ven. Dattajeevo)

Editorial Consultants

Phra Somchai Thanavuddho,
Phra Nicholas Thanissaro,
Manit Ratanasuwan

Editor-In-Chief

Phra Pandit Varapanyo,
Phra Surat Akkaratano

English Translation Editor

Sanit Savakekachain, Dr. Chatchai Sribundit,
John Wrenshall

Editorial Board

Phra Suplit Jantapo, Phra Sombat Rakitjito,
Phra Thera Nathadhammo, Phra Klanarong
Yanavero, Phra Somboon Jitatanoto,
Sermsoy Sriyothee, Malinee Yomkwang,
Puengpit Poopornanake, Saowapa Sangthong,
Sunisa Kanokwutirukporn

Photo Editor

Sermsoy Sriyothee, Naboon Chaiyotha,
Nim Deesan

Photographer

Photographic Centre
Sayam Jam-ulitrat

Cover Design

Pattra Srivasutha, Malinee Yomkwang

Graphic Designer

Pattra Srivasutha, Chaichana Kitisopapan
Malinee Yomkwang, Vipharat Vajapattana,
Nardnada Niroj, Peera Sang-ngam

Administrative Staff

Usa Janpaka, Phannee Oadnapaporn,
Pranee Chaipadung, Pranee Nirongputra,
Saowanee Ananchotikul, Suriyan Sanyear,
Rada Kaenjampa, Ponchanok Anutranusorn,
Manas Mumthong

Copyright

Dhammakaya Foundation
23/2 Moo 7 Klongsam, Klongluang
Pathumthani, Thailand 12120
www.dhammakaya.or.th

First Publishing

3rd February, 2002
(Cremation day)

Thai Edition 110,000 copies
English Edition 2,000 copies

Color Separation Soontorn Film 0-2216-2760-9

Printed by Fongthong Enterprise





"When her eyelids close completely..
world and universe are in her sight..
secret to all beings and things
are thoroughly revealed.."



3rd February, 2002

*Cremation of Khun Yay Maharatana Upasika Chandra Khonnokyoong
At the open ground of Maha Dhammakaya Cetiya
Wat Phra Dhammakaya*

