



BHIKKHUNI SANGHA IN THAILAND

Dhammananda Bhikkhuni

Prepared for Hamburg U.

Map of Thailand



Brief history

- Thailand has been a unified nation in 13th C.A.D.
- The Thai sangha originated from Sri Lanka, hence called Lanka vamsa.
- But bhikkhunis never arrived in this land.

The fourfold Buddhists,
bhikkhus, bhikkhunis, laymen
and laywomen were mentioned
clearly
in the
Texts.





Responsibility of the fourfold Buddhists:

- 1. to study the teaching
 - 2. to put it in practice
 - 3. to defend the teaching
 - 4. and to spread the teaching
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Predicted decline of Buddhism

- When the fourfold Buddhists do not pay respect to:
 - The Buddha,
 - The teaching,
 - The sangha,
- And when they do not respect each other.
- The Buddha responded to Ven.Kimpila.



Narin Bhasit (Klueng)

1928 A.D.

First mentioned of 4-fold
Buddhists.

Critical of the sangha.



photo



Sara and Chongdi



drawbacks

- 1. ordination not transparent
- 2. the nuns were not educated
 - they did not have Vinaya nor dhamma study
- 3. they do not have their own stand
- 4. the protest was more towards the father
 - and not the issue of the bhikkhunis.



Early aborted.

- Cloudy circumstances
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1928 Sangharaja's order

- For Thai bhikkhus not to give
- Ordination to women.



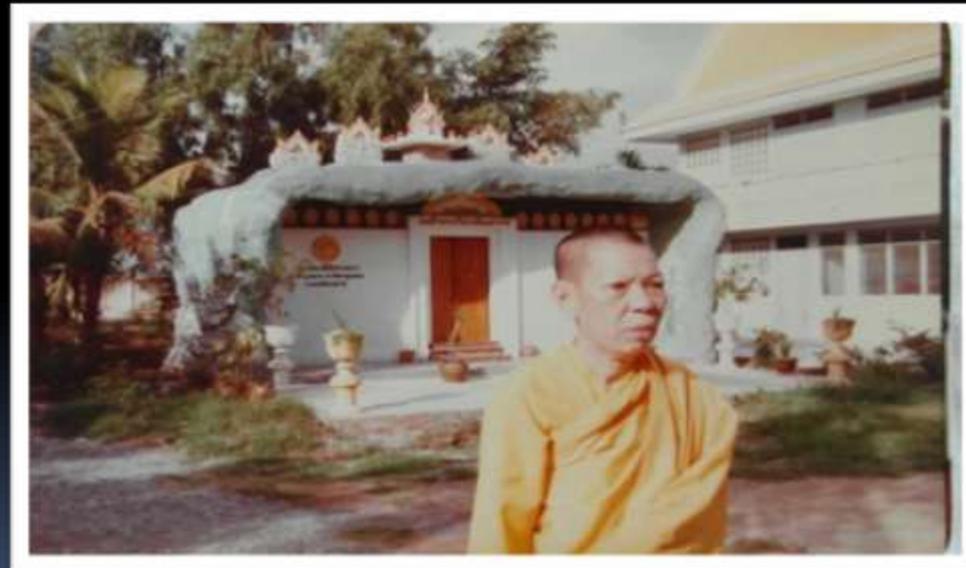
Constitution 1932

- By law everyone can follow one's own religious belief and practices.
 - The order should be lifted after the constitution was granted
 - But as of 2006 it was still referred to as the reason for not accepting bhikkhunis.
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Second wave

1971 AD

Ven. Voramai Kabil Singh





Brief bio-data

- Educator
 - Leader
 - Social involvement
 - Study the text well
 - Clear ordination procedure
 - 15 years of preparation
- 



educator

- Writer
 - Journalist
 - Teacher
 - Editor
 - reporter
- 



Buddhist knowledge

- Self educated
 - Learned about the existence of bhikkhuni from the text
 - Looked for possibilities
 - Searched outside Thailand
 - Helped from a Chinese monk
 - Finally made a connection to Taiwan
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Preparation for ordination

- Studying from the texts
- making connection in a wider circle
- Purchasing the land big enough to establish a temple
- Construction of the uposatha hall

15 years of preparation

- In 1971 she proceeded to Taiwan to receive full ordination
- Preceptor Ven. Tao An Fa Tzu
- Ordained by a chapter of 13 senior monks
- Still single sangha ordination
- She is the first Thai woman to receive full ordination in Dharmaguptaka vinaya.

Give dhamma talks



Teaching meditation



Started a temple



Running a school



Tried to Prepare the sangha



drawbacks

- Ordination from Taiwan in Dharmaguptaka Vinaya
- Did not get the training to continue the ordination
- Could not form the sangha
 - No proper candidates
 - Not proper sanghakamma (rituals etc.)

Vinaya difficulties

- Could not handle the shift from Dharmaguptaka to Theravada
- No training as bhikkhuni
- (to be trained as a bhikkhuni, one needs to be in a bhikkhuni sangha)

Receiving dana from lay
people,
Bhikkhuni sangha in front of
the uposatha hall¹



Procession of nagingis for lower ordination



Third wave 2003 Ven. Dhammananda



Brief bio-data

- Education
- Buddhist studies
- Involvement with bhikkhuni issue
 - 1984 Newsletter
 - 1987 Sakyadhita (international Conference on Buddhist women)
 - Researches on Vinaya
 - A Comparative Study of bhikkhuni Patimokkha
 - Bhikkhuni Patimokkha of the 6 schools
 - Beyond Gender
 - A different Voice
 - Women Strengthening Buddhism, etc.

Ordination lineage

- 2003 Bhikkhuni ordination from Sri Lanka
- The Theravada lineage came from 1998
- First International bhikkhuni ordination in Bodh Gaya,
- 2003-2004 Vassas trained in the Theravada bhikkhuni sangha

Samaneri Training



Receiving alms bowl and dining



Sima consecration

-removal of the former

Sima

- consecration of the new one

knowing the boundaries on the 8 directions, etc.

Requirements for full ordination

- Sima
- Sangha
- Candidate/s
- Procedure
(kammavaca)

training



Sikkhamana

A shift to get back to the
text

sikkhamana

- Sikkhamana is an intensive samaneri
- Taking 6 anudhammas with out break for 2 years.
- Ordained by a sangha
- (not only one preceptor)
- After 2 years training she will receive full ordination.

Offering merit to H.H.the King



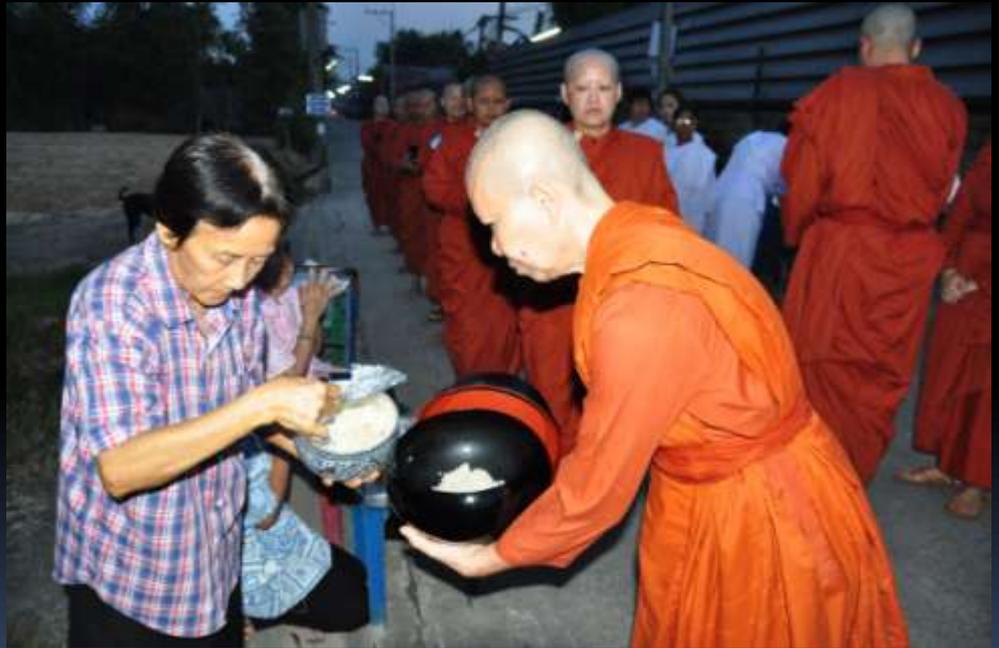
Searching for the root



training



Going for alms



Senator visited to learn about bhikkhuni issue



Bhikkhunis in 20 provinces in Thailand

