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
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.
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
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.
Second wave
1971 AD
Ven. Voramai Kabilsingh
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
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 hall.
Procession of naginis 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