

**UNIVERSITY OF YANGON
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HISTORY OF SHWEGYIN NIKAYA

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Abstract

Shwegyin Nikaya is one of the famous religious organizations in Myanmar. An individual samgha should be careful not to cause a schism among samghas. He has, however, a right to stay away from any samgha who does not observe the Vinaya correctly. On the other hand the majority of the samghas would not be so particular like him in following the Vinaya. In other words they even hate to live with a strict disciplinarian. So the alienation of one from another became a natural result. During the time of King Mindon, doubts occurred among the members of the samgha concerning the observance of the Vinaya. Sayadaw U Jagara, famous as the Shwegyin Sayadaw, and his disciple stayed away by themselves from other samghas and lived separately. Later these samghas led by U Jagara became renowned as the Shwegyin samghas. The dissertation discusses the Shwegyin Nikaya in three chapters. Chapter I concerns with the emergence of the two Samgha sects and beginning of the Shwegyin Nikaya, the political situation of the nation in the reign of King Mindon, accomplishments in the religious affairs; and the condition of the samghas during the time. In Chapter II, discussion is made of the sect's endeavours to progress in the religious sector and its strict adherence to the Vinaya. The Shwegyin sect had stood as an independent organization throughout the successive eras of Myanmar. The history of the Shwegyin Nikaya has three phases. Firstly there was the foundation phase under U Jagara (Shwegyin I) secondly there was the phase of Consolidation under U Visuddhacara (Shwegyin II) and thirdly the phase of Extension through all member conventions. In Chapter III, the dissertation focuses on the efforts of the Most Supreme Leaders for the disciplined religious organization. The efforts of the Vice Most Supreme Leaders which contributed towards promotion of Pariyatti, Patipatti and Pativedha studies and practices in the Nikaya also include in this chapter.

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