

HISTORY OF KYAUNGTAIK MONASTERIES OF PYAY

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ABSTRACT

Theravada Buddhism reached Srikestra during the 4th and 7th century AD. King Duttabaung was the chief promoter of the Buddhist faith. He built many monasteries for the *Sanghas* and performed many meritorious deeds. The people of Pyay (modern day Srikestra) had carried on with the legacy of king Duttabaung for the flourishing of the Buddhist religion. Many monasteries were built and donated to the *Sanghas*. Some of the monasteries engage in teaching of Buddha *Dhamma* whereas some involve in the holding of meditation sessions. The former are called *Pariyatti* and the latter *Patipatti* monasteries. The people of Pyay are generous and altruistic in giving charities for the sustenance of the *Sanghas*. The *Pariyatti* monasteries had produced many graduates of *Dhamma* learning and their reputation has spread far and wide. Student *Sanghas* of the *Pariyatti* monasteries observe strict discipline imposed by the *Sayadaws* and instructor monks so that piety and reverence of the people of Pyay have increased day by day. Pyay as a learning centre of Buddha *Dhamma* is even considered by many as equal in status with the aged-old *Pariyatti* monasteries of Mandalay and Pakokku. The *Sanghas* and their devoted followers have become the mainstay for the prosperity of Theravada Buddhism in Myanmar.

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