

JEWELS OF MYANMAR *A periodic offering from Pariyatti*

*In the womb of this land
Is a treasury full of gems.
But beyond price, Baba,
Is its store of Dhamma gems.*

—S.N. Goenka, *Baba Dohas (Verses for my Grandfather)*, 1986

Myanmar (Burma) has long been famous for its gemstones: exquisite rubies, emeralds, sapphires, diamonds and semi-precious stones. Yet far rarer is the jewel of the Dhamma, the teaching of the Enlightened One, preserved in that country through the millennia.

It was this priceless treasure that S.N. Goenka brought with him when he left Myanmar in 1969 to embark on his task of teaching the Dhamma of Vipassana meditation, first in India and then around the world.

Wherever he goes, Mr. Goenka stresses the debt owed by all students of Vipassana to Myanmar, the one country where this practice was maintained from ancient times. Because of this living practice, in our time people of any background are able to experience the very truths of which the Buddha spoke.

In December 2004, some of Pariyatti's volunteers and board members were among the 400 people from 33 countries who joined Goenkaji on a twelve-day pilgrimage to places in Myanmar associated with Vipassana meditation and the lineage of his teacher, Sayagyi U Ba Khin.

Uplifted by this experience, we wish to share it with you. ***Jewels of Myanmar*** is the result—an inspirational text and photograph that points onward along the path to liberation.