

CHRONICLES *of* DHAMMA

SELECTED ARTICLES FROM THE

Vipassana  *Newsletter*

In the tradition of Sayagyi U Ba Khin, as taught by S. N. Goenka

VIPASSANA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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of
DHAMMA

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Introduction

The *Vipassana Newsletter* plays a unique role in the spread of Dhamma around the world. For old students in this tradition, the *Newsletter* provides a valued meeting-point, a living connection to the Dhamma community with its special combination of inspiration and information. Words of the Buddha are quoted alongside feedback from course servers; local activities are reported alongside international developments; lead articles are presented by S.N. Goenka and others about aspects of the teaching and its practical application in our lives.

‘**Chronicles of Dhamma**’ presents a selection of articles taken from the *Vipassana Newsletter* over the years in English. The sources for the material are two-fold: the edition published in India and the International edition published in North America. The articles themselves have been selected to reflect different aspects of the spread of Vipassana meditation in recent times. They are organised in broad thematic groups: Vipassana Teachings; Messenger of Dhamma; In the Footsteps of the Buddha; Applied Dhamma; The Spread of Dhamma. The articles are reprinted here exactly as they appeared originally (or with some editing), it has not been possible to standardise every variation in spelling, punctuation or usage.

Massive changes in communications technology over the past 40 years since S.N. Goenka left Myanmar and began his worldwide teaching mission on behalf of Sayagyi U Ba Khin have transformed the publishing and sharing of information about Vipassana. Through translation the *Newsletter* and local variations of it are now available in many languages, supporting the growing numbers of Vipassana meditators globally in their practice and service.

This compilation spans a period from the earliest improvised small Vipassana courses in India to established meditation centres by the score, increasing numbers of courses across five continents and the incomparable achievement of the Global Pagoda. It samples the successes, struggles and set-backs along the way. Looking back through the archives of the *Vipassana Newsletter*, we see the remarkable story of the revival of Vipassana in the modern age unfolding and illuminated. May this collection of Dhamma articles give confidence and strength to present and future generations walking on this Noble Path.

The history and significance of the International and Dhamma Giri editions of the *Vipassana Newsletter* have been well described in the following article.