

ဝမ်းသာ



**Beloved Country**

## Introduction

“Tou.tain:hta ni” (Beloved Country) was first published in 1961 and instantly became a best seller. The book stands today as a modern classic in Myanmar. The Myanmar novel has been reprinted six times up to now. A Japanese writer had translated the novel into Japanese and has been printed twice in Japan. A Korean writer had also tried his hand in translating this novel into Korean but had not succeeded yet. This present book is the first translated version in English.

Although it is a novel, it could also be classified as a historical documentation of Myanmar’s struggle for independence. The historical incidents in this novel are all based on true facts. The novel is also a step by step record of pre-war day Myanmar, up to around 1954. The struggles of a newly independent young country.

The story is based upon a certain Myanmar family and clearly illuminates the patriotism of the people of all ages and gender. The book also warmly describes the ways and lifestyle of a Myanmar family. As befitting a novel it includes adventure, suspense, bravery, humour, anger, romance and pathos. All in all it is a masterpiece of a great story teller, Daw Kin Swe Oo.

Aung Myo Min translated this novel so that all people who understand English could get a glimpse of Myanmar modern history; come to know Myanmar culture, and so understand more about Myanmar, our “Beloved Country”.

In conclusion, the translator wishes to convey to all that he had put his best efforts to catch the aesthetic flavour of the original novel and assumes full responsibility for all errors.

\* \* \*

## The Authoress

Daw Khin Swe Oo, the authoress of this Myanmar novel, “Tou. Tain. Hta ni” (Beloved Country) was born in December, 1932. Her father was the famous Myanmar writer Maha Swe and her mother was Daw Kyi Kyi, an outgoing lady. The authoress’s name is Daw Khin Oo, and she inserted ‘Swe’ into her pen-name to honour her father and began writing articles from the age of 12.

She received her basic education from St. John’s Convent High School in Yangon and continued her academic studies at Mandalay and Yangon Arts and Science Universities. After receiving her Bachelor of Art degree she worked as a teacher back at her old high school and at the same time won her Bachelor of Education degree.

After 10 years service as a high school teacher she retired from service and wholly committed her life to writing. She wrote and published this novel in 1961 and since that time she had written up to now, 65 novels, 9 books of collected short stories, 6 books of collected articles and 1 book on discussions about literature.

The authoress was awarded the Myanmar National Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2012. She now lives in Yangon,

Northern New Dagon Township with her family. She is still writing energetically and occasionally gives talks upon literature.

The great authoress, who is the elder of the two daughters of a very famous Myanmar writer is still healthy and is bound to contribute to Myanmar Literature for many years to come.

\* \* \*

## The Translator

Aung Myo Min was born in December, 1950. His father was an Army doctor and when he went to England in 1952 to get his F.R.C.S degree he took his wife and only son to England with him. They stayed in England up to 1956 and during that period Aung Myo Min's mother taught her son to become interested in the English Language which became ingrained in him.

Aung Myo Min graduated from the Defence Services Academy in Pyin Oo Lwin in 1973, and served in the Army up to the rank of Brigadier General. In 2003 he became a Deputy Minister for Education and served in that post until 2010.

After retirement he became a writer and has written over 50 articles in weekly journals. He has also written a novel in Myanmar and has translated two English books into Myanmar. The Ministry of Defence also tasked him with the mission to head the team in translating the history of the Defence Services Academy from Myanmar to English of which Part one had already been published in 2012.

Aung Myo Min now lives in Naypyitaw with his wife. He has three children who are now all grown-up and leading their own lives.

\* \* \*