

Presenting Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn (P.A. Payutto)'s Hometown, the Origin of A Savant of Thai Priests

Apsorn Tiewcharoenkij

Watpalaylai, Suphanburi

Email: mk.sommas@gmail.com



Abstract

The academic journal aims to propose scholars' important and beneficial points of views in many aspects of Presenting Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn {His Holiness' former name “Jao Khun” (the priest who has charge of the monks in a portion of a monastery) Phra Brahmagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto)'s Hometown , the Origin of A Savant of Thai Priests in order to encourage and conserve Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn's hometown situated at Sri Prachant district, Suphanburi province which is popular, admired and valuable as a memorial place for learning the old ways of living and keeping His Holiness' wisdom of Dhamma propaganda alive. There are three main aspects to be presented in this journal. Moreover, the journal also proposes Sri Prachant market story, Suphanburi province which is a location Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn's hometown for promoting an honourable and valuable tourist attraction in Suphanburi respectively.

Keywords : Presentation; Conserve; Savant; Memorial Place; Wisdom

Introduction

Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn (P.A. Payutto)'s hometown situated in Sri Prachant old market , Suphanburi province is one of important, valuable and famous sources of learning, identifying and understanding ways of life of people in Sri Prachant district about 100 years ago (now in 2016 His Holiness is 78 years of age). It is popular for its charming old atmosphere near the Tha Cheen river which has been feeding the soul of people living at the riverside for

a very long period of time. Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn's birthplace was established and has been conserved well with cooperation of Sri Prachant local villagers who donated their money to establish Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn's birthplace foundation in order to honour His Holiness whom the UNESCO admired as "An Important Person of the World", and remembered as A Savant of Thai Priests among Thai people.

MGR Online, 2009. Not only does the old market sell good taste foodstuff, but also its old atmosphere is much appreciated. Sri Prachant market is far from Muang district, Suphanburi province for 20 kilometers. By driving along a fine Suphan – Chainat main road. Sri Prachant market is an important place because it is Jao Khun Phra Brahmagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto)'s hometown whom admired as "A Good Man of Sri Prachant" and also "A Savant of Thai Priests". With plenty of religious activities in propagandizing Buddhism continuously no matter Dhamma discussion, preaching, discourse and Dhamma talk. In addition, there are plenty of Dhamma opuses that are accepted by both Thai people and foreigners. Phra Brahmagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto) was awarded the "Education for Peace" from the UNESCO in 1994. He was appointed as an abbot of Nyana Vesakavan temple at Sampran district, Nakorn Patom province.

Mongnoi, 2016. One of the old markets of Suphanburi with the age of about 100 years in Sri Prachant district in a form of two stage old houses which has conserved characteristics in the past was awarded the outstanding market for being a source of cultural tourism in 2008. Jao Khun hometown situated in Sri Prachant old market. Jao Khun P.A. Payutto was admired as a Poet of Buddhism and a Diamond of the world with plenty of writing works. In the past, his house used to be a drapery which has been conserved to be in the same condition including household appliances too.

Sorn Sorn Suphan, 2007. Described people's lifestyle at Sri Prachant market by starting with his coming to and eating at the original noodle shop with very good taste which is located near the bridge across the Tha Cheen river near Sri Prachant Councils. A shop is a row of house with many customers. Opposite of the noodle shop found a row house with a name tag in front of the second floor of the house written "(P.A. Payutto)'s birthplace". Over the door

of the first floor with a name tag written “Bai Rattanakarn”. This is where Jao Khun Phra Brahmagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto)’s biography and works are exhibited in order to propagandize an honour of Jao khun Phra Brahmagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto).

So, it is necessary to see the importance of conserving Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn’s birthplace and keep His Holiness’ wisdom of Dhamma propaganda alive. Moreover , help promoting visiting Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn’s birthplace for learning people’s way of life about 100 years ago, visiting the atmosphere within His Holiness’ hometown which is like an interesting, charming and rare museum within the community. And it is like a centre of culture, Dhamma propaganda and a memorial birthplace of a savant and good person whom the UNESCO admired as an important person of the world.

Firstly, presenting Sri Prachant old market story. Secondly, describing the characteristics of Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn’s birthplace and household appliances which identify people’s way of life about 100 years ago. Thirdly, presenting Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn’s biography, Dhamma propaganda with his works and opuses which identify his wisdom in writing, presenting and understanding Dhamma in the ultimate level. These three important presentations can fulfill the objectives of absorbing a conservation of a source of learning culture, ways of life and having an inspiration that ignites a light within the hearts of community and visitors.

Sri Prachant Old Market Story will be presented as follows.

Holidaythai. Sri Prachant old market now is over 100 years old. In the past it was a community along Tha Cheen riverside (Suphanburi river). In the east of the riverside situated the commercial area where people came to buy rice, dried food, vegetables, fish, betel, fruits, clothes, appliances etc. Moreover, in the southern area of Wat Yang, there was a beach used as a harbor for cargo ships parking and waiting for a tide. Then tax official set up for a toll, and it was called Dan Khanon (Ban Hua Khanon at present) (Khanon means tax). Later, the harbor was built for being used as an area for cargo handling. When commerce grew up,

the land owner built a one – storey wooden houses for rent in the northern area of the village which was called Talad Nua (Northern Market). In 1950 some of villagers of Talad Nua migrated to rent a land of Wat Yang, then built two – storey wooden row houses along Tha Cheen riverside. Both market and houses were built with wood in the old architecture style which was called Talad Rong Yao (southern market). The opposite side of the market was Ban Krang Temple (Wat Ban Krang) which was an ancient religious place where many people came to do a merit. Chinese people there had a good market planning with streets surround the market which was in the middle. Then it became Wat Yang market. In 1853 Chaiya Nupab market was built then became Sri Prachant market since then. As for the name Sri Prachant , firstly it was understood for being brought from one of the characters in famous Thai literature “Khun Chang Khun Phaen” but in fact, it came from “Sri” which meant “Goodness, Abundant” and “Prachant” meant “Frontier” when being included it means “An Abundant Region”.

SUPHAN.BIZ. Sri Prachant district primarily belonged to Tha Phee Liang district (Muang District, Suphanburi) and Derm Bang Nang Buad district (Samchuck District) that's because two districts region area were very huge, so they were divided into a part of Tha Phee Liang (Moddaeng sub – district at present) and another one of Nang Buad (Samchuck district at present). They were united to be Sri Prachant district in 1901. Sri Prachant sub – district primarily named Krapoong sub – district, later in 1937 Mr Som Meethongkam was appointed to be the first local resident who attributed lots of virtues, then he was renamed “Khoon Sri Prachant Raksa”. However, people agreed to change the old name of the sub – district to be “Sri Prachant sub – district” along Mr Som’s new name. In addition, Sri Prachant old market is far from Suphanburi for 16 kilometers by taking Suphan – Chainat main road. When reaching Sri Prachant District Office, find the parking lot at Wat Yang then take a walk to Sri Prachant old market. For more information, please contact Tel. 035 – 548722 or www.taladsriprachan.com

Love Thailand. In the past Sri Prachant Old Market was a wholesale market at Tha Cheen riverside for about 100 years and awarded the Tourism Industry in

2008 which was an outstanding cultural tourist attraction trend. It is far from Muang district, Suphanburi for 20 kilometers. On Saturdays and Sundays merchants sell many kinds of Thai and Chinese foodstuff, original desserts and ancient coffee for visitors at Sri Prachant market. In addition it is convenient for visitors to stay overnight there by choosing to stay in a few accommodations within Sri Prachant district.

Spotlight Travel. suggests tourists to come to visit Sri Prachant old market by bus or small bus coming directly to Sri Prachant district. Then worship the Bodhisattava in a shrine too. Moreover, they can hire a riverboat in order to view the sight seeing along two sides of Tha Cheen river.

Phra Brahmagunabhorn, 2014. Sri Prachant used to cover the area of Don Cheidi too that's because at that time Don Cheidi was together with Sri Prachant. Later, it was separated to be established as another district.

Mongnoi, 2016. Sri Prachant old market has been selected to be used as scenes for broadcasting many period films and dramas because of its famous old atmosphere conserved valuably of all time.

Meanwhile, **MGR Online, 2009.** Jao Khun Phra Brahmaguna bhorn's hometown situated at Sri Prachant old market is opened for a free visit every day from 9.00 – 17.00 o' clock except on Mondays for a touring group and private visit. For more information, please contact Tel. 035 – 548722.

Describing the Characteristics of Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn's Birthplace and Household Appliances which identify People's Way of Life about 100 Years ago will be presented as follows.

MGR Online, 2009. Jao Khun Phra Brahmagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto)'s birthplace is divided into two floors. The first floor is organized as Bai Rattanakarn Shop where items in the old time like such silk clothes were sold, space was used as a tailor shop with two big cupboards displaying clothes and household appliances are kept orderly. Moreover, at another corner found a kitchen where Phra Brahmagunabhorn's hundred Dhamma books are kept for visitors who are interested in reading. Furthermore, there are many of his family's photos display his biography too on the walls. Up to the second floor of the house where his

photo, as big and real as himself, is shown. In addition, the space is organized to be the model of a small classroom in the past with blackboard, stationary equipments , desks and chairs for a memorial of Bamroong Woottiraj which was the first secondary school in Sri Prachant district established by his father for the goodness sake and convenience of young children's study in that era.

Lady Darika, 2014. Phra Brahmagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto)'s birthplace museum or known as Ban Jao Khun situated in Sri Prachant old market is a place for displaying Phra Brahmagunabhorn's way of life in the old time which was donated by people in Sri Prachant district and organized to be a museum of Dhamma propaganda and a memorial birthplace too in order to honour Phra Brahmagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto). The house is divided into two floors. The first floor is organized into 3 zones as follows. Firstly, Bai Rattanakarn zone, as a cloth shop with cupboards displaying clothes, ancient money to show his young life atmosphere. Secondly, Light of Faith zone, as a display of his life and family told through his family and relatives' photos. Thirdly, Light of Dhamma zone, as a display of his works, an ancient kitchen and household appliances in the past too. Up to the second floor, it is divided into 4 zones as follows. Firstly, Way of Savant zone, is organized by displaying interesting morale through tags on the wall. Secondly, Bamroong Woottiraj zone, as a model of small classroom in a time he was a young student. Thirdly, Works of Life, as a display of his works such as lectures and Dhamma talk. Fourthly, as a display of awards he received from many organizations both in national and international levels.

Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn's Biography, Dhamma Propaganda with His Holiness' Works and Opuses which identify His Holiness' Wisdom in composing, presenting and understanding Dhamma in the ultimate Level will be presented as follows.

Wikipedia. Extra Professor Phra Brahmagunabhorn's former name Prayudh Arayangkul, a designation "Payutto" with well-known penname "P.A. Payutto" was born on 12 January 1938, Sri Prachant District, Suphanburi Province. He ordained a novice monk at the age of 12. In 1951 he lived in Wat Phra Piren, Bangkok until he could pass the examination of the first grade theologian and

Nine Sermons Sentencewhile he still was a novice. Phra Brahmagunabhorn is a well-known Thai Buddhist priest, an intellectual, and a prolific writer. He is among the most brilliant Buddhist scholars in the Thai Buddhist history, a thinker, a new generation author of plenty of Buddhist academic works. His well-known works for example; Buddha Dhamma. He was admired both in local and abroad. With his masterpieces, he was awarded and a Doctoral's Degree honourary graduate from many institutes both in local and abroad especially that he was the first one of Thailand who received the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education. Moreover, he is a Thai priest who receives the most of amounts of Doctoral's Degree in this era.

Sookjai.com, 2014. Phra Brahmagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto)'s important phrase “**If there weren't Sri Prachant, I couldn't be born.**” When he was young, he studied at the kindergarten, then primary school. After that he went to attend the secondary school in Bangkok at Wat Patum Kongka school, then was in priesthood as a novice at Wat Ban Krang for the first place. After being the third grade theologian, he went to study at Wat Prasarthong, then took the examination of the second grade theologian and practiced meditation. His parent pulled and took him to Bangkok to study the Buddhist scripturesat Wat Phra Piren. He said that he was a product of Sri Prachant and Suphanburi and finally of Thailand too. Phra Brahmagunabhorn has ever been a lecturer, assistant secretary, vice secretary of the university. He helped improving and developing discipline and methods of course developing plan and Buddhist schools on Sunday etc. until he was sick of arm muscles inflammation because of his hard works. Meanwhile, he travelled for a Dhamma propaganda both in local and abroad that he was sick of vocal cord inflammation, but he kept on working to descend the Buddhist religion works. Moreover, he authored plenty of both Thai and English Dhamma books which were admired excellent in standard and academic level that have been beneficial for human beings living. In addition, he is a consultant of Mahidol University in creating computing Tripitaka for the first completed copy of the world which is beneficial to Buddhist education.

Scholar. Phra Brahmagunabhorn (P.A. Payutto) is the sixth child from 9 children of the family. His parents, Mr Samran and Mrs Choonkee Arayangkul

earned their living by being merchants and managing their own silo business. He was influenced to live the good way of life by his parents' teachings. He had a very high intention in studying that he could bring his knowledge to teach his younger brothers and sisters to be good at English too. Although he was unhealthy since he was young, he always took a notice, was gentle and moral. He was from a middle status family, meanwhile ; his father encouraged his children to be moral and do what they love. Phra Brahmugunabhorn (P.A. Payutto)'s wisdom and hard works clearly identify his great effort in creating benefits to society like the motto "Where there is a try, there is a way". His wisdom is a very good example for everyone to follow. He is such "a rare person" who is the most successful person in this era too.

Matichon Online, 2016. According to the latest news reporting that the Sangha Supreme Council of Thailand Conference has recently considered the name lists of 159 Buddhist priests of all ranks to be promoted and given the priest ranks along His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Graciousness on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty King's Birthday on 5 December 2016. Venerable Phra Brahmugunabhorn (P.A. Payutto), Wat Nyan Vesakawan, Nakorn Patom Province, is promoted and given the priest rank by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Graciousness with ceremonial title "Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn".

Conclusion

To encourage Thai kids and teenagers to come to visit Sri Prachant old market is the way to pave the mental fundament in letting them absorb and learn to conserve classical Thai culture, memorize the important person's biography and be interested in Dhamma propaganda which are symbols of stability in building consciousness to see social, cultural, prosperity and spiritual value of national heritage.

Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn's Hometown is a very good example of the old way of life of people in the old era. It is necessary to conserve and reserve old items and appliances which will be mental value in the future especially

rare things for the next generation to learn and used as a beneficial source of information for education respectively. Though the world runs fast, the ancestors' treasures are worth to remember of all time.

Somdet Phra Buddha Ghosajarn (Phra Brahmagunabhorn P.A. Payutto)'s important phrase "**If there weren't Sri Prachant, I couldn't be born**" can be best described and identified how successful a person can be depending on birthplace, family, encouragement, effort, patience, intention and wisdom to form and melt his heart and soul to grow up to be a savant, thinker and important person of society and the world. We can learn by following His Holiness as being a good example person and His Holiness' teachings too.

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