

Special Speech

In commemoration of Her Serene Highness Princess Poon Pismai Diskul

The Former President of the world Fellowship Buddhists

(1964-1984)

On the Occasion of 31th anniversary of her death, August 11, 2021

President and Executive Committee of WFB, respected monks, ladies and gentlemen.

I was specially invited by the Executive Committee of the WFB to hold the position of Advisory Board and was requested by Kun Phallop Thaiarry Vice President and Secretary General of WFB to give a special speech in commemoration of **Her Serene Highness Princess Poon Pismai Diskul** on the 31th anniversary of her death.

Her Serene Highness Princess Poon Pismai Diskul was the one who took very important role in the foundation of WFB. She held the position of the 3rd President of this organization for 21 years. During her presidential position and honorary presidential position, she gave a lot of benefits to Buddhists in Thailand and around the world. That is the reason why I accept the invitation to give a special speech today with great pleasure and willingness.

I am sure that you have learned from the biography of **Her Serene Highness Princess Poon Pismai Diskul** that she was the daughter of **Somdej Krom Phraya Damrong Rachanupap**. She was born on February 17, 1895. During her childhood, she was educated subjects for women and for religious, social studies, geography, history and archaeology, she was well educated by her father who was praised as “**Father of History.**” She was very close to her father since her mother died when she was very young.

When her father was the Chancellor of the Ministry of Interior, she always accompanied him when he was on the official inspection in various provinces in every part of Thailand. That made her learn and aware of local tradition and what happened in the country.

Moreover, she accompanied her father to various European countries so she had deep knowledge and experience in forcing affairs and she could use her knowledge and experience in managing a world class organization such as WFB.

For the knowledge of Buddhism, she described in the article the book **Buddhism in the view of Tanying Poon**, “What effect have I received from Buddhism” that her father suggested reading books of Dharma in his bookcase. She read book after book, read and argued about almost every topic. Even though she asked her father some question, she still didn’t get it. Her father didn’t have much time to answer her questions. Fortunately, one day she read “**Sompochangka**” which Phra Dhamma Nithe preached to The

Queen Grand Mother of Thailand. As soon as finishing reading, she felt like she saw much more light. She finally told her father that she was ready to study religions because she understood and saw the truth.

Since then, her father had given her the explanation of the world's religions, took her to temples and taught her about various ceremonies. When going to provincial towns, having met some monks and someone digging up antiques, she asked her father. She always asked her father when she had any doubts and she always got clear explanation from her father. She also learned from the judgement of her father and some intellectuals. She clearly understood and concluded that Buddhism changed her mind to be reasonable and she believed that Karma in real because more education gave her more wisdom. She could be happy by herself. She became brave and be afraid of nothing but sin. She is a person with freedom, not obsessed with things that are nonsense and nonessential because she believed in the Trinity : impermanence, suffering and unsubstantial.

She was sure that if she didn't find and accept Buddhism, she would have lost her correct and proper way of living and would probably become bad people, or else she wouldn't have happy life along with happiness that come from complete solitude since then.

However, even in other religions, it is important that human beings are in higher level than other animals because religion teach us moral to know what to be ashamed or what should not be embarrassed about.

Let human know how to force their mind to be at higher level than animals so they could be “human.” Buddhism teaches us to be wise and reasonable. Buddhists are taught to think over and over before believing. This kind of belief is stable, not easy to be changed like a fortune teller or gambler. Buddhism is the best medicine to relieve distress.

Knowing that Buddhism is a magic medicine, we should be intelligent enough to keep this magic medicine for our own happiness especially for Buddhists.

Let's help each other to know and follow the precious crystal that we already have

I am sure that you should know very well that **Her Serene Highness Princess** was one of the very important persons of WFB since the establishment in 1950 at Colombo, Sri Lanka. She participated in every general meeting of the organization by representing the Buddhist Association of Thailand under royal patronage. She was also interested in the affairs of Buddhism in other member countries. She was well known and respected by all Buddhists in general. Therefore, she was elected to be vice President from the 4th, 5th, 6th session of the general Assembly until the 7th session (1964) she accepted the heavy burden as the President of the organization : WFB along with moving head office to be relocated permanently in Bangkok Thailand 1969.

She devoted herself and her time to the affairs of WFB. She also made an effort to visit WBA's centers for partnership in various countries. At every place she visited, she gave a lecture on the principles of Buddhism. So she was known, popular, respected and worshiped among Buddhists around the world.

Even now, 31 years after her death, her honor is still engraved in the heart of Buddhists in the member countries of WFB. Today is the day when all of us join together to hold an event to commemorate in remembrance of her gratefulness towards WFB. According to Buddha's proverb : "gratitude is a sign of good people".

Let me set my mind to pray for the Buddha Dharma that is the seven Sampochangka that means mindfulness, Dharma research, persistence, joy, peaceful, meditation, and calmness

May the blessings of good fortune bestow blessings, auspicious blessings for Buddhists to you all be free from disease and be safe with the power of the Dharmma that **Her Serene Highness Princess Poon Pismai Diskul** had upheld since the first time she had accepted the light of Buddhism

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