The Last Handwriting

Of Sayadawgyi U Panditābhivaṁsa

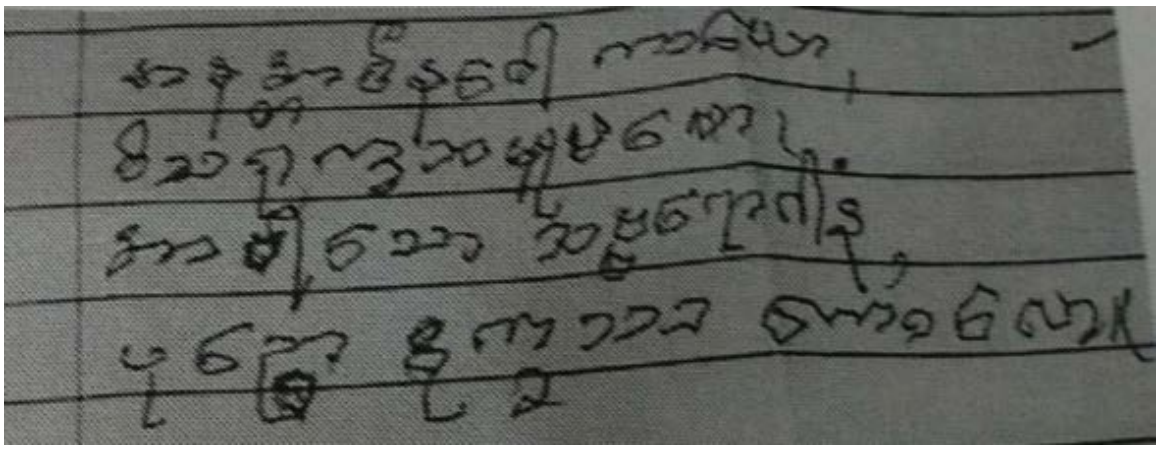
(Story told by Bhikkhu U Tarakaraja and translated by U Hla Myint)

This is the last handwriting of Sayadawgyi who had only days to live. While I was standing by his bedside in the private hospital named Asia Royal, he asked me to give him a piece of paper. So, I passed him a sheet. Then, he said, “Give me a small piece; I don’t need the whole sheet; don’t waste recourses.” So, I gave him a small piece, the one in the picture. He often disciplined us to use things without wasting.

He started writing a poem in flawless Pali showing his powerful memory and dynamic mind.

Anantādīnavo kāyo; visa-rukkha-samūpamo
Āvāso sabba-rogānaṁ; puñco dukkhassa kevalo.

When finished, he asked me to translate it. I translated it accordingly. He listened to my translation and said “good”. But he translated it by himself as follows:

Anantādīnavo kāyo	The body (is) of countless defects
visa-rukkha-samūpamo	A poisonous-tree-resemblance
Āvāso sabba-rogānaṁ	The home of all diseases
puñco dukkhassa kevalo.	Just the unmixed pile of suffering.

Below is the picture of his original handwriting: