

The Adipadi's Battlefield Speech

(delivered to the audience on the platform of Kyaik-Waing pagoda in Insein district on the occasion of Independence anniversary)

I am pleased to make my presence here in Insein district on this auspicious day and meet up with the locals here. Since I came out from Mogok prison, I have been working extensively at military and current affairs and this perhaps is the first time to see local audience. I have come here because I am eager to see you all with sincere concern.

In the independence speech read just now on my behalf by District Commissioner U Thein Pe, an almost complete description of military and current affairs have been included. What I now wish to add further is about battlefields. You cannot fight a war with pen and paper and spoken words. In order to feed and clothe 16 million Burmese people, it is necessary for all 16 million Burmese people to work. You should understand that my responsibility at the top to cope with military and current affairs is hundred or thousand times more burdensome than working to feed yourselves. I feel like handing over to you the *pasoe* and *gaungpaung* I'm wearing right now together with my responsibilities.

Now I don't need superfluous or disguised words to describe the current affairs. To put it frankly, Burma is now a battlefield. You must understand that all 16 million Burmese are sacrificing their blood, kinsmen and property, fighting for victory in the fourth Burmese independence struggle. All 16 million Burmese people are on the battlefield. That is why the order I should give to these Burmese on the battlefield should be no other than military order.

Those on the battlefield must fight in combat and kill or be killed. Either ones from either side will perish. Both sides will encounter all kinds of hardships on the battlefield. This is a war phenomenon. But if and when the Burmese come out as victors, all the harsh circumstances we are in today will be washed away and the country will enter a peaceful and prosperous era where our descendants will reap the harvest from seeds we have sown ; they will be using golden umbrellas and golden plates. That is one vision you should never lose sight of.

Don't think I'm going round in circles. You must understand the phenomenon of a battlefield. The entire Burmese race is on the battlefield. Adopt battlefield way of thinking and execute battlefield work. But certain battlefield affairs should be considered only when you reach the battlefield and not before. And this is not the time to run and ask the fortune-teller what to do after you have encountered a tiger in the forest. Not the time to choose an auspicious day to go on a journey. You'll just have to confront the tiger and kill it. Similarly, before we reached this independence battleground, whilst we were bellowing independence, we should have thought of the blood and sweat to be sacrificed in exchange for independence. In the past, the entire Burmese people were up in arms vowing to fight for independence and advancing forward. That is why we have reached this battlefield. We are now facing Burma's enemy. The only option left is to fight the enemy victoriously. Either they or we will perish. If we wish to survive, we must step on the enemy's dead bodies and advance forward. Those who retreat will be killed, conquered and annihilated.

A battlefield is a place where enemy battalions face each other. At such a time, it is not appropriate to argue who should or should not lead, who should or should not be granted certain powers, who is good or bad. Not the time to have backbitings and backstabbing. This is the time to face the enemy and fight sword with sword.

Those people who are ignorant about battlefields and current affairs only know how to make complaints about not having the chance to eat chicken curry or oranges. In England, Chunkin, Russia, etc., they have not seen oranges for so long they have even forgotten the shape of oranges. What you should frankly discern is that during wartime, everyone has to face hardships. Other countries where the situation is similar to Burma are also faced with disasters too. They can neither sleep nor eat well. In Burma, we haven't gone hungry yet. We can still eat well.

In other countries, you need a pass to be allowed to travel. You need tokens to buy food and clothing. Clothing material is sold only as much as is necessary and not a yard more. We are facing not only a war crisis. It is the world crisis.

The reason that in Burma we can eat better than in other countries is because the Burmese are now an independent race, because sovereignty is in our hands. Therefore we can endeavour to produce sufficient amount of food for the Burmese. I am sure you have heard

that in India and Chunkin which are close to Burma, they are suffering from hunger and famine. If the British return and the Burmese lose their independence, be sure that what the Burmese are eating now will be exported to certain parts of India and China which are supportive of the British.

I have already told you that on Burma's battlefield, 16 million Burmese are up in arms against the enemy. Well now, those people who have hollered independence in loud voices, go to work now. You have duties to fulfil.

To answer the question as to who will win the war, the last one to loosen his loincloth (*kha-daung-kyaik*), the last one to lay down his sword, will be the victor. The ones who loosen their loincloth and lay down their swords prematurely will be the vanquished. Therefore, as long as we Burmese are on the battlefield, let's not lay down our swords or loosen our loincloth. Let's fight on with no retreat.

We are fighting this battle neither for the rich nor the poor. We are fighting for Burma's sovereignty and for Burmese food. We are fighting for everything Burmese.

Therefore, while we are on the battlefield, hold your breath even if you are on the brink of dying. Adopt battlefield consciousness. Observe battlefield disciplines. And execute battlefield tasks.

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