

CONTENTS

<i>List of tables</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of illustrations</i>	xi
1 Introduction: the particular and the general	1
2 The stage and its setting	6
3 Cosmology	32
4 Primary village concepts	53
5 The institution of monkhood in historical perspective	62
6 The rules of conduct for monks, novices, and laymen	81
7 The phases of monkhood	97
8 The monastic routine and its rewards	116
9 The ideology of merit	141
10 The cycle of collective <i>wat</i> rites and the agricultural calendar	152
11 Death, mortuary rites, and the path to rebirth	179
12 Liberation through hearing: the sacred words of the monks	195
13 <i>Sukhwan</i> rites: the elders summon the spirit essence	223
14 The co-existence of the <i>brahman</i> and the Buddhist monk	252
15 The cult of the guardian spirits	263
16 Myth and rite: the <i>Naga</i> symbol and the rocket festival	285
17 The afflictions caused by malevolent spirits	312
18 Exorcism as healing ritual	327
19 A kaleidoscopic view of the religious field	337
20 The parade of supernaturals	351
21 The past and present in the study of religion: continuities and transformations	367
<i>Bibliography</i>	379
<i>Index</i>	385