

LAND DONATED TO GANGARAMA TEMPLE BY KING KEERTHI SRI RAJASINGHE DURING THE KANDIAN ERA

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Introduction

During the 18th century King Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe gave his support and co-operation to develop and uplift the state of temples in Kandian Kingdom. That was the significant reason to renaissance of Buddhist order. Because of this, there were many newly build temples and renovated temples can be seen in Kandy and near by. According to Mahawansa and the Sulu Rajawaliya we can identify what were the lands donated to temples by the king Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe. Other than those sources, we can find more information from "The Gangarama rock inscription" "The Maduwala Sannasa the Dambulu Sannasa In here we have given our special attention on lands donated to the Gangarama Vihara and in relation official duties of that land donation.

Objectives of the study

King Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe as a Hindues and he belonged to a foreign dynasty, we should find about, why did he dedicate that much to see the betterment of Buddhist order. As it was under the Dutch colony he had to overcome many challenges to uplift the Buddhism. There was a challenging

environment in the kandian kingdom. As he was not a sinhala Buddhist by birth, cultural or generation and also he was a heresy Hindus speak Tamil as his mother tongue. Those factors effect him more badly to achieve his target of develop the Gangarama temple while winning Sinhala Buddhist people. So we have should consider about those factors and give our more special attention on them.

Methodology

Here we have coincided primary and secondary source to study this. The opinion of accomplished people of this subject are also conceded for this research study.

Discussion

Gangarama temple is consided as a very important construction during the period of king Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe. It is a live witness of the service done by King Rajasinghe towards Buddhists. And also is the first temple built by King Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe in Kandy district. It was a famous education center during the period of Rev. Waliwita Saranankara thero. That temple was the crematorium of Malwatha Chapter.

We can find more details about these land donations from The Mahawansa. Land donated to Gangarama temple, was a very important charity work done by King Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe for the betterment of the Gangarama temple. According to the legends there were many lands belongs to Gangarama temple. It had mentioned in A.C Loree's records. Lands in Thalwatta, Wattaranthanne, Mawilmada, Sirimalwatta, Siyambala gas Thanne, Mapanawathura, Napana, Thannekumbura and Diyagama and Dohunpahuwa in Kegalla district belong to the temple. During this kingdom it was said that king had been offered 52 blocks of land for this temple but according to government archives, it was 39 blocks. These lands contained with garden, paddy fields and chenas. So it was easy to maintain official duties associated with the temple.

References

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Conclusion

After established his power, the King Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe gave his special attention towards develop Buddhist temples and devale by giving lands. Why did he give that special attention to the Gangarama temple ? Because the Gangarama temple was belong to Malwatta Chapter., and also Rev. Sangaraja thero represented the Malwatta chapter at that time. So it was easy for the King to maintain the well being with Rev. Sangaraja thero. It also created a suitable environment for the king to do his charity works and other official work of lands, with out any conflict with the caste system at that period. But it is said that the conspiracy against the king also led by the Malwatha Chapter.

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