



A Study of the ecological system of Yakka tribe through Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry

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ABSTRACT

Yakka tribe was one of the four great tribes in Sri Lanka and Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry can be introduced as an ancestry, which belongs to Yakka tribe. This ancestry is also known as "Manewa Ravi Shailasha Clan." This study has proved that Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry belongs to Yakka tribe and the ecological method which existed in the Yakka tribe, exists with Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry too. The Ethnographic research method was used in this study and collecting qualitative data was done mostly. One priest and five laymen in Rajakaruna ancestry were interviewed for this study. Tape recorders too were used. Primary sources were centralized during this study. Epigraphs, remaining medical books which belong to Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry, lexicons and charms were some of the primary sources. And some of the secondary sources were books, newspapers and documentaries. Some results could be acquired through this study. Among these results, the uniqueness of the ecological method in the knowledge of Yakka tribe could be recognized. Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry could also be recognized as an ancestry which belongs to Yakka tribe. A lot of ecological methods which were in Yakka tribe could be found in Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry too. Among them Natural Scientific Philosophy known as "Gora Virudha", "Vishakumbhana" science, which was used for Medical Science, Philosophy and surgery, a special kind of reeds known as "Delissa", which was used to protect from the unsuitable rays that are emitted from planets, some secret treatments and forecasting Methods observing the environment are some special things. According to these results, the uniqueness of the ecological Method of Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry associated with the Yakka tribe can be observed clearly. It is very useful to the present society and so it is important to use it.

KEYWORDS: *Delissa, Gora Virudha, Manewa Rajakaruna, Vishakumbhana, Yakka,*

1. Introduction

Anthropologically a distinct definition or a analysis had not been adduced on historical evolution of human civility. According to an anthologist “there is not only one history, that is in the sense of a genetic unity of human societies, but many histories...” (Gaboriau,1970:159) . Seeing that, to that there are many sub tracks of the major discipline of history. According to this approach folklore is one of the major sub tracks of the history. In this present research Yakka tribe and endemic methods of surviving had been basically considered. Yakka tribe was one of the four great tribes in Sri Lanka and Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry can be identified as an ancestry which belongs to Yakka tribe. This ancestry is also known as “Manewa Ravi Shailasha Clan.” From the period of Lord Buddha who had behaved according to the Buddhism members of the Yakka tribe had enjoyed much advanced technology and clear mentality than Aryan stock according to Mirando Obeysekara (1990). According to historical reviews such as Mahawansha and Choolawansha etc, the royal ancestry of Ceylon had been commenced from the king Vijaya. The meaning of the name ‘Vijaya’ is winner according to the Sinhala and Sanskrit language (Disanayaka, 1981). Thus archeologists had been proven the history of Sri Lanka had gone to prior of King Vijaya’s arrival (Rev. Wimalarathna, 2012). Pancharakkawali and Wariga purnika *pus kola grantha* (Types of a historical Book) are the major factor among all factors which could be used to proven about civility of Yakka tribe. In Wariga purnikawa though there are boastings and pufferies there were no any story creating which can cause to change the reality. Through the Wariga purnikawa *pus kola granthaya* could be used to proven the relationship between the Yakka tribe and Manewa Ravishailasha clan, unfortunately that book had been misplaced.

Human beings had been intelligently matured with the affects of the nature. According to the Rev. Wimalarathna (2008) Nature is a process of education as vindicated by hermits. People of the Yakka tribe were farsighted as they had planed the future based on the historical and contemporary experiences according to the naturalism. Furthermore There was an association between the Yakka tribe and theory of the naturalism according to the philosophy of Ghora Virudha Wagra which comes under the naturalism (Rev. Wimalarathna , 2008). This theory had been developed by Yakka tribe based on the endemic experiences which had gained by them.

2. Statement of the Problem

Is there a relationship between the Yakka tribe and Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry and could use ecological methods which used by same tribe for the contemporary existing context? Was the research problem and the statement of the present research is there is a blood relationship between the Yakka tribe and Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry and the ecological methods which had been practiced by Yakka tribe can apply for the contemporary context.

3. Objectives of the Study

There were three objectives of the present research. The first one was to identify as an Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry as an ancestry which belongs to the Yakka tribe and the second one was to identify three ecological methods which had been practiced by Yakka tribe. The last objective was, Manewa Rajkaruna ancestry practices those ecological methods which had been practiced by the Yakka tribe. According above mentioned objectives the present research was complete to study about the ecological methods which used by Yakka tribe and the relationship between a ancestry which still existing in the contemporary society.

4. Review of the Literature

Inscription stones on Manewa *kanda* had explained about the facilities, which were available historically in Manewa Mountain such as indigenous hospital, a pond which contained medicine and Library which named as Munamura etc. Also Radagala and Wasambugal Inscription stones could be used to prove the relationship between the Yakka tribe and Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry and the ecological method which used by Yakka tribe.

According to the presently available indigenous medicine books, charm and Nigandu (a type of a

ancient book), ecological methods of the Yakka tribe had broadly explained. According the above charm, it had been used to decrease the diffusions of the poisons of reptiles bites. In the sense the relationship between the ecology and creing patterns had been explicated through the above charm.

‘Ekasiya ate Muththa’ was an ancient and well known character of the Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry. As he written in a letter, it had explained the comment of the Manewa ancestry as well as he has predicted the end of the Manewa ancestry.

In *Yaksha Gothrikayange aprakata thorathuru* book, which had been written by Rev. Manewe Wimalarathana (2001) explained about the relationship between the naturalism and Yakka tribe in related the Manewa Rajakaruna Ancestry. For example thero had explained about the endemic retualls Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry which were good for the human health such as the cap which had been weaved by using *Dalissa* leaves.

Also the same author in his book named as *Yaksha Gothrikayange Bhashawa saha Ravi Shailasha Wansha kathawa* (2011) blood relationship between the Yakka tribe and Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry with explaining about the Ravi shailasha clan.

According to the doctor M. Warnasooriya, herbal medicine had been used by the king Ravana.

‘Ravana is the author of Deha Dhamma, the Sri Lankan Herbalogy, and Acupuncture. Ancient chronicles on astronomy, medicine, psychology, and other branches of science have reliably been attributed to Ravana in Ola-leaf manuscripts (Warnasuriya, 1980: 75).

5. Methodology

The Ethnographic research method in a qualitative approach had been used for this study with the aim of overcoming the ethical issues of collecting data as food behavior is a latent day routing for some extent in every household. Ethnography is the study of social interactions, behaviors, and perceptions that occur within groups, teams, organizations, and communities. Therefore, ethnographic research method can be identified as the proper way of researching, for examine human behavioral patterns. Also, ethnographic research method is useful to understand and find out latent data in any research especially like caste, ethnicity, sexuality and food behavior studies.

Seeing that the present research complete the study about an ancient type of the Sri Lanka as well as it is a latent component of the contemporary context, ethnographic research method had been applied and as research instrument secondary data and the open interviews which had been conducted with the key informer is has used. By using to research instrument the present research has tried to protect the reliability and the validity of data. Five key informers had been selected from the Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry who were aware well about the historical overview of the Ravi Shailasha clan for conduct the open interviews. As the present research ethnographic study the findings have been presented in Qualitative manner and the analysis also done Qualitatively.

6. Result and Discussion

Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry could be adduced as an ancestry which had a relationship with the Yakka tribe which leaved in ancient Ceylon. This detail had been included in the *Warigapurnika Puskola Grantha* that written by Rev. Bodhiwansha who had lived in Manapaw temple. This ancient book had been kept in a library named as Munamura Which had been constructed by stones (*len pusthakalaya*). anyhow after destroyed Munamura Library by a tamil person the valuable ancient book which mention about had also misplaced (Lankadeepa,2010/12/12: 10).

As Damsara Sri Pali is the only women who still survive as who has read the *Warigapurnika Pusthakaya*. According to her,

‘ as I also belong to the Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry and as I have read the *Warigapurnika Puskola potha* actually there was a close relation between our ancestry and Yakka tribe of ancient Ceylon... Even *Ekasiya Ate Muththa* has also clearly explained about this relationship in one of his letter.’

(Field Study)

According to the above statement, it is proven the relationship between the Yakka tribe and Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry moreover as an one of the key informer of present research Rev. Wimalarathana has also highlighted the relationship which has mention above.

‘ people of the Yakka tribe are the founders of the exciting ingenious medicine which Sri Lanka. As a result of that Gorapasalama had been used as a auspicious sign of the indigenous medicine endemic religion. It was also a symbol or a sign of the Ravishailasha clam...’

(Field Study)

Even through the above statement again proven that the relationship between the Yakka tribe and the Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry ‘members of the Yakka tribe were meditate who had developed their spirituality. Therefore they had changed their environment accordingly. Intrinsic land could be used as a better example for prove; environment had been changed by Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry (Rev. Wimalarathana, 2011).

As one of the objectives of the present research, to identify three ecological methods which had been practiced by Yakka tribe; Wimalarathana thero and other key informers have mentioned many factors to adduced the ecological methods of Yakka Tribes in related to the Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry.

Those three ecological methods can be introduced as follows,

01. Leaves of the *Dalissa* tree had been used as a medicine for bile (sem), air (wa).
02. Creepers which named as Kawilasha Saroja had been used as a medicine for psychiatrist.
03. Wisha Kumbhana charm.

6.1. Dalissa which was used as a medicine.

By sleeping on the mat which had been woven by *Dalissa* (type of reed), diseases affected by air (*wa*) can be cured. Moreover by wearing caps weaved by the same material, might be good for having healthy hair. These traditional practices are still followed by people who live in Manewa village which belongs to Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry.

‘ asura bita kakana, agilissathaka jethila rabebara medaka, e kara Dalissaya thunumula parala keshana bandana karaluya’

(Rev. Wimalarathana, 2001: 37).

6.2. Kawilasha Saroja creepers as medicine

The smooth sound which had been created eventually by these creepers had been used as a psychiatrist treatment for mental illnesses. Seen that peasants of the Manewa village believe, Kawilasha Saroja creepers could be found still in the Manawa Mountain.

Even though, people of the ancient Yakka tribe had been used psychiatrist methods from the period of Lord Budhdha.

6.3. Wisha Kumbhana charm

This is a charm which had been used by indigenous doctors who belongs to the Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry for decline poison of the reptiles biting (Rajakaruna Wannihamige Dingiri Banda). This charm had been developed based on the Wisha Kumbhana Suthra which had had discoursed by the lord Budhdha to reverent Kawilashapali at the Manewa Mountain. After listen to this suthra she had been achieved enlightenment (Rev. Wimalarathana, 2008).

7. Conclusion

The relationship between the Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry and the Yakka tribe had been identified in the present research. Also, it has emphasized the factors, which had been affected to prove the above mentioned relationship. In the Present research, features of ecological methods, which had been used

by ancient tribes of Yakka, could be seen among the members of the Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry has identified. These methods can be applied for the contemporary context to decrease the environment pollution and aware the importance of sustainable environmental protection. Especially, the relationship between the Environment and human being has also explained and emphasized the how that relationship could be used to maintain the sustainable development in related to the environment such as using herbals and nature to cure such critical diseases. In conclusion as between Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry and Yakka tribe had a close relationship and the ecological methods which had been practiced by Yakka trine also could be seen in among the members of Manewa Rajakaruna ancestry.

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