



Reality of Sri Lankan History Revealed by the Fate of Artisans of the Kandyan Period

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Abstract

One of the most important values of Sri Lanka is its historical and cultural heritage. Among the historical and archeological factors that remain physically are paintings and related arts and crafts. The Kandyan kingdom stands out as one of the most important periods of history in terms of ancient art. Degaldoruwa Vihara and Temple of the Tooth Relic Kandy, which still remains today, are known as excellent structures. However, the history has not given due respect to the generation that created paintings and other creations in these two places. Therefore, it was studied whether justice has been done to this craft generation through the things that the people of this generation have and do not have. Comparative and content-analytical methods are used to this research analyzing historical sources. Degaldoruwa Vihara project, started during the reign of Buddhist king Keerthi Sri Rajasingha (1747-1781 AD) of the Kandyan Kingdom, was completed during the reign of Rajadhi Rajasingha (1781-1798 AD). There are clear records in history about the generation that painted these cave paintings, made architectural designs, constructions and other carvings. It is this generation that created all aspects of this Palace and the Kandy city plan including Bogambara Lake. It was revealed that these creators were the men of the era who built the nation. At the time of the king Sri Wickrama Rajasingha, the heritage and recognition of this community, which was the highest respected in the society, was destroyed by the conspiratorial royals of that time who were in a caste-based competition for power. This research reveals how conspirators among royals throughout history divided and racialized the people.

Keywords: Degaldoruwa, Crafts, Kandyan, Architecture, Conspirators

