

A STUDY ON ANCIENT TEMPLES LOCATED IN KEGALLE, WHICH ARE REVEALING INFORMATION ABOUT THE REIGN OF KING WALAGAMBA

KASS. Dharmarathna¹

According to most of primary texts that has written about ancient Sri Lanka, the reign of King Walagamba was belonged to the Anuradhapura era. It is 103BC to 89-77BC. King Walagamba had faced too many challenges, because of his enemies, even he had to hide. Most of time, his enemies were Tamil rulers who overthrown him from his throne. When studying about the history of king Walagamba, there are many places in the country where he has hidden from his enemies and most of that places were located in Kegalle and suburbs. The problem that reasoned to do this research was that finding and identifying what are the religious places located in Kegalle and suburbs where king Walagamba has used to hide from Tamil rebellions. There has been reported in ancient texts that king Walagamba has used religious places to hide. because tamil rebels has not much believed that a king will use that kind of places to hide and Buddhist monks has helped him to fight against Tamil rulers and rebels for uniting the country. It is believed that temples built based on caves like Alawathura, Ganegoda, Katarangala, Salgala, Mathule Alulena are few of that kind of places located in Kegalle. Because these temples have enough archeological evidence to confirm. Apart from those places, there are rumors, which lead someone to believe that King Walagamba has used other locations to hide or any other purposes. However, that belief has only built on people's rumors and there are no existing or acceptable evidences for now. The importance and aim of this research is to reveal the truth of ancient temples located in Kegalle and prove the information about the reign of King Walagamba using the places where he was hiding. The historical research methodology has used to do this research.

Keywords: Ancient temples, King Walagamba, Anuradhapura era

¹ University of Kelaniya. sandalankashashi000@gmail.com