

AN INVESTIGATIVE STUDY ON LEGEND AND FOLKLORE AS REVELED BY INSCRIPTION (WITH A FEW SELECTED INSCRIPTION)

PS. Godakanda¹

Ancient language is a main source to clarify the factors that helps to adventure about history with an accurately, clearly view. Among them “Mahawansa” is the most important source that explain about Sri Lankan history. But sometime we need some help from other historical sources to confirm about contains and identify the information that has missed in Mahawansa. In Sinhala we called them as “Abhilekhana”. Among them, Inscription is the oldest source that we have to learn about the history. It reveals a lot of extant and non-extant information about the past society’s economic pattern, politics, religious background and culture. Also, information about folklore and legends. An existing belief, opinion or attitude regarding any historical information taken under the stories transmitted by word of mouth from generation to generation become legends. Folklore is a cultural element that is inherited by any society and has characteristics that are unique to that society. It is for the above reason that folklore and legends are often highlight in the discovery of information related to inscriptions. As an example, there is a folklore about the meaning of the characters and symbols which we can see in the Maha sa maluwa, Anuradhapura. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to find out whether the symbols in inscriptions can be used as a source for investigate about folklore and legends. For that literature study methods are used under the qualitative research method. “Lakdiwa Sellipi” by Ven. Kothmale Amarawansa and “Anuradhapura Samajaya” are used as the main source and the academic writings and research theses which were written about Abhilekhana are also associated. Accordingly, this study reveal that the inscriptions can be considered as an important historical source in the discovery of social, political, economic and religious issues, even in the study of folklore and legends.

Keywords: Culture, Folklore, Historical information, Inscriptions, Legends

¹ pabasarasev@gmail.com