



A FLASHBACK OF THE SRI LANKAN HERITAGE: A NEED OF PRESERVATION FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to discuss the nature of the Buddhist heritage in Sri Lanka. It is a timely need for a quick look at the past of this country because this colorful heritage is rapidly being influenced for changes. There are a number of reasons for this such as the open economic policy, education and politics in the country. Though majority of the population in Sri Lanka are Sinhala Buddhists, they live with other communities (Hindus, Christians and Muslims) harmoniously. For this reason, the society in which we are living today is pluralistic. A society where Buddhism flourishes, a common phenomenon is the respect for the other faiths and nationalities alike. The Buddhist culture has been well established in this land for over 2300 years. It taught us non-violence and simplicity and how to deal with the other faiths and followers. Politicians misuse this colorful heritage for their benefits purposefully. However, this can be changed under the new policy of education of the present government. Educating the children about the importance of the Sri Lankan past glory is tremendously in need. It is a challenge. Therefore, there are a number of issues being created relating to the Buddhist heritage in this country. The answers for these issues should be searched very carefully because the entire Sri Lankan nation has been brought up under this great civilization. As Sri Lankans, what we have to bestow to the world is the Buddhist heritage and culture. But the glory of any nation is predominantly based on its past achievements. So, nobody in this country could forget about how Buddhism has fashioned the Sri Lankan's life. The people of the country could be recognized under one label as Sri Lankans. Everyone (Buddhists, Tamils, Christians and Muslims) must unite to preserve this heritage where the Buddhists have more responsible.

Keywords: Sri Lanka, Buddhism, Buddhist Heritage, Preservation