

Third Buddhist Council of Emperor Aśoka

Dr. Nadeesha Gunawardana

B.A., M.Phil, Ph.D, Department of History and, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

DOI: 10.29322/IJSRP.9.07.2019.p9134
<http://dx.doi.org/10.29322/IJSRP.9.07.2019.p9134>

Abstract- In this research article we have focused our attention only to the 3rd Buddhist Council which patronized by Emperor Aśoka. We have not discussed about the previous life of Asoka, his conspiracy to the kingship or war against Kalinga. There is no mention at all either of the thera Moggaliputta Tissa or of his third council in the Aśokāvadāna. Aśoka's legend is found in the fifth century chronicles of Sri Lanka, the *Dīpavāṇsa* and the *Mahāvāṇsa* as well as in Buddhagohosa's commentary on the Vinaya. In addition to this, the commentary on the *Mahāvāṇsa*, the *Thūpavāṇsa* and the *Bōdhivāṇsa* were studied. The discrepancies in *Mahāvāṇsa* and *Divyāvadāna* has been discussed here.

Index Terms- vams, tradition, patronized, council, Buddhist.

I. THERA MOGGALIPUTTA TISSA

A Brahmana Moggali had a son called Tissa. Tissa was well versed with mantras. Tiss's surname was Moggali. Moggaliputta tissa was made pabbja by the Siggava and Chandavajji theras.¹ At the age of sixteen he mastered the whole Veda.² As mentioned in the *Dīpavāṇsa* in the second year of Chandragupta's coronation, fifty eight of king Pakuṇḍaka having elapsed, Siggava having just completed his sixty fourth year, Moggaliputta received from Thera Siggava the Upasampadā ordination.³ Maury Chandragupa reign from 321 B.C.E to 297 B.C.E.⁴ His second year was 323 B.C.E., and this is the year of thera Siggava, had completed his 64th year. The King Pakuṇḍaka or Pañḍukābhaya reign from 437 B.C.E. to 367 B.C.E.⁵ When Pakuṇḍaka was 58 years old thera Moggaliputta received from thera Siggava the Upasampada ordination. According to the *Dīpavāṇsa* thera Moggaliputta has his ordination in the 379 B.C.E. *Dīpavāṇsa* further emphasized that the thera Moggaliputtatissa learned the Vinaya from thera Caṇḍavajji.⁶ All the pitakas have been taught to Moggaliputtatissa by thera Siggava and thera Caṇḍavajji. Thera Moggali was named as the Chief of the Vinay by thera Siggava and attained Nibbāna after having completed seventy six years.⁷ King Chandragutta ruled twenty four years, when he had completed fourteen years, thera Siggava attained parinibbana.⁸ Most probably thera Siggava had attained

to parinibbana by the year 307 B.C.E. Once G.P. Malalasēkara has mentioned "Ceylon was in possession of continues and written chronicles, rich in authentic facts, not only presenting a connected history of the island itself, but also yielding valuable materials for elucidation that of India." The chronicles in Sri Lanka most of the time have been associated with the authentic dating system. But this is not compatible with the all the time but most.⁹ Thera Moggali dwelled in a forest. When the King Dhammasoka has completed his eight year of the coronation, the thera Moggali was 60 years.¹⁰ After Sambuddha had attained parinibbāna following theras taught Vinaya

Thera Upāli

Thera Dāsaka

Thera Sōnaka

Thera Siggava

Thera Chandvajji

Thera Moggaliputtatissa

Thera Mahinda¹¹

At the twenty sixth regnal year of the king Dhammasoka, thera Moggaliputta has attained to Nibbana.¹² Tissa Moggaliputta, chief of the vinaya attained Nibbana eighty six years after his upasampada.¹³

II. THE HERETICS AND THEIR UNRULINESS

As the revenues of the brotherhood were exceeding great, those who were converted later privileged it. Hence the heretics who had lost revenue and honour took likewise the yellow robe, for the sake of revenue, and dwelt together with the bhikkhus. They proclaimed their own doctrines as the doctrine of the Buddha and carried out their own practices even as they wished. Under these circumstances thero Moggaliputta had committed his great company of bhikkhus to the direction of the thera Mahinda, he took up his abode, all alone, further up the Gangese on the Ahogaṅga Mountain and for seven years he gave himself up to solitary retreat. As *Mahāvāṇsa* further records the great number of the heretics and their unruliness, the bhikkhus could not restrain them by the law; and therefore the bhikkhus in Jambudīpa for seven years held no upōsata ceremony. When the king was aware

¹ *D.v*, 1992, 5:57, 142.

² Ibid, 1992, 5:61, 143.

³ Ibid, 1992, 5:69, 143.

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chandragupta_Maurya

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandukabhaya_of_Anuradhapura

⁶ *D.v*, 1992, 5: 70, 143.

⁷ *D.v*, 1992, 5: 72, 144.

⁸ Ibid, 1992, 5: 73, 144.

⁹ Malalasekara, G. P., 1994, 130.

¹⁰ *D.v*, 1959, 5: 21, 146.

¹¹ Ibid, 1992, 5: 95, 145.

¹² Ibid, 1959, 5: 43, 149.

¹³ Ibid, 1959, 5: 48, 149.

of this, he sent a minister to the Aśokārāma to settle this matter and let the upōsata festival be carried out by the community of bhikkhus in that ārama. When the minister asked them to follow the upōsata ceremony bhikkhus refused to hold the upōsata with heretics. Hence the minister stuck off the head of several theras, one by one with his sword. When the king's brother, Tissa, saw that crime he came speedily and sat on the seat nearest to the minister. When the minister saw the thera he went to the king and told him the whole matter. When the monarch heard, it he was troubled and went with all speed and asked the community of bhikkhus, greatly disturbed in mind; "who, in truth is guilty of this deed that has been done?" The King wanted to meet a bhikkhu who is able to set his doubts to rest and to befriend religion? The bhikkhus mentioned the Moggali thera's name and as a result of this king sent the bhikkhus, ministers and the people to invite him restore Buddhism. In the third time when they invited by saying "be our helper venerable sir, to befriend religion", then only he agreed to come. They brought the thera by ship on the Ganges and the king went to meet him. The king went down knee deep into the water and respectfully gave his right hand to the thera, as he came down from the ship.¹⁴ As mentioned in the *Mahāvamsa* thera was accommodated in the pleasure garden called Rativadḍana.¹⁵ When the king asked the thera whether or not he himself shared the guilt of the murder of the bhikkhus by the minister. The thera taught the king; there is no resulting guilt without evil intent, and he recited the Tittira-Jātaka.

III. THE THIRD BUDDHIST COUNCIL

Mahāvamsa mentions that all the bhikkhus were assembled by sending two yakkas. King seated with the thera on one side and asked from the bhikkhus "What did the blessed one teach? Those who answered "he teaches the Sāssata doctrine" expelled from the order. Those who answered "he teaches the Vibhajja doctrine" held for the upōsata festival. The number bhikkus who were expelled were sixty thousand. Thenceforth the brotherhood held the uposata festival. Out of the great number of the brotherhood of bhikkhus the thera chose a thousand learned bhikkhus, endowed with the six super normal powers, knowing the three piṭakas and versed in the special sciences to make a compilation of the true doctrine. Mahākassapa and thera yasa had held the council. In the midst of this council the thera Tissa set forth the *Kathāvatthupakarana*. This council was held under the protection of King Aśoka at the Aśokarāma, ended by the thousand bhikkhus in nine months. *Mahāvamsa* says the seventeenth year of the king's reign the wise thera who was seventy two years old closed the council with a great pavāraṇa ceremony.¹⁶ *Dīpavamsa* records that the wise Moggaliputta, the destroyer of the schismatic doctrines, firmly established the Theravada and held the third council, having destroyed the different doctrines and subdued many shameless people and

restored splendor to the faith, he proclaimed *Kathāvatthupakarana*.¹⁷ The thera Moggaliputtatissa taught Pasmahasagiya (Five Nikayas)
Saptaprarakarana (seven sections of Abhidharma)
Ubhatovibanga (two vibhangas of the Vinaya)
Parivārapāli
Kaṇḍaka¹⁸

One of the important stories in the *Mahāvamsa* that is absent in the *Aśokāvadāna* tells how Aśoka convenes and participates in the Third Buddhist council at Pāṭaliputra. John S. Strong says that the whole thrust of this account is to associate the great King Aśoka with the specific sect of the Theravādins favoured by the authors of the *Mahāvamsa* and, by implication, by the island of Sri Lanka in general.¹⁹ In the *Aśokāvadāna* however, there is no mention at all either of the elder Moggaliputta Tissa or of this Third Council. The L. A. Waddell is trying to identify the high priest of Upagupta with Moggaliputta.²⁰ Jone S. Strong's point of view is that there are difficulties with this parallelism.²¹ Following the account of the Third Council in the *Mahāvamsa*, there is another episode that does not figure at tall in the *Aśokāvadāna* the dispatch of missionaries to spread the Buddhist faith.

"The converting of different countries" the twelfth chapter of the *Mahāvamsa* contains the nine adjacent countries which sent the dhamma after the Buddhist council of the third. Those countries and the theras as follows.²²

thera Majjhantika sent to Kasmīra and Gandhāra
thera Mahādeva sent to Mahisamandala
thera Rakkhita sent to Vanavāsa
thera Yonka Dharmarakṣita sent to Aparantaka
thera Mahādhammarakkita sent to Mahāraṭha
thera Mahārakkhita sent to Yona
thera Majjhima sent to Himalaya
theras Sōṇa and Uttara sent to Suvaṇṇabhūmi
thera Mahinda sent to Tamībaparṇī

Buddhism spread more rapidly in Sri Lanka, than in the Northern countries.²³

The episode of dispatching the missionaries to the above countries can be testified with archaeology. The relics of some of the theras mentioned in the *Mahāvamsa* have been unearthed by archaeologists at Sānchī. B.M. Barua says, that Buddhists are eager to show, Aśoka's adherence to their religion. We should not, therefore, take them seriously since they are nothing but the "mendacious fictions of unscrupulous monks."²⁴

IV. KING DEVĀNAMPIYATISSA AND THE EMPEROR AŚOKA

King Devānampiyatissa became the king after his father's death. At the time of his consecration many wonders have happened. As mentioned in the *Mahāvamsa* treasures and jewels of the whole island of Lanka, that had been buried deep rose up to the surface of the earth owing to the meritorious effects of king.

¹⁴ *M.v*, 1950, 5:250-256, 47.

¹⁵ Ibid, 1950, 5:257, 48.

¹⁶ *M.V*, 1950, 5:280, 50.

¹⁷ *D.v*, 1992, 7: 40-41, 157.

¹⁸ Ibid, 1992, 7: 43, 157.

¹⁹ Strong S. John, 1989: 24.

²⁰ Waddell, L. A, 1899: 70-75.

²¹ Strong S. John, 1989: 24.

²² *M.V*, 1950, 12: 2-7, 82. *Pojāvalī*, 1999: 759-760.

²³ Vajirapani. D.G.O 1966: 395.

²⁴ Barua, B. M, 1968: vol. I, 2-3, & Strong S. John, 1989: 14-15.

Having seen the treasures the king in Sri Lanka thought of sending them to king Dhammadāsoka. As reported in the vamsa tradition Devānampiyatissa and Dhammadāsoka had already been friends for a long time, though they had never seen each other.²⁵ The king in Sri Lanka, four persons appointed as his envoys; his nephew Mahārīṭha, a Brahman, a minister and an account. The priceless jewels, the three kinds of precious stones, and the three stems (like) wagon-poles, a spiral shell winding to the right, the eight kinds of pearls were gifted by these envoys.²⁶ The *Mahāvāṃsa* refers to eight kinds of pearls, presented to the Emperor Aśoka by the King Dēvānampiyatissa (circa 250-210 B.C.E.). The eight kinds of pearls are horse-pearl, elephant-pearl, waggon- pearl, myrobalan pearl, bracelet pearl, ring pearl, kakūdha fruit pearl and common pearl. The Pali literature *Abhidhānappadīpikā* also reports that, these eight types of pearl as quoted in *Mahāvāṃsa*.²⁷ Devaraj and Ravichandran say about one million chanks of different varieties are collected each year in the Gulf of Mannar region in recent years.²⁸

At the beginning of the second rock edict, Aśoka refers to the border people such as the Cōlas, the Pañḍyas, the Satiyaputras and the Kēralaputras and Tāmraparṇi.²⁹ Tāmraparṇi has been generally identified with Sri Lanka, rather than ith the river “Tāmraparṇi”.³⁰ It is with the emergence of the Mauryas in the third century B.C.E. and particularly with the reign of King Aśoka that there is definitive reference to the development of maritime routes.³¹ Under the Mauryas this coastal network was expanded all along the coast to include Sri Lanka and it was through the sea route that Dhamma missions, reached Sri Lanka, even before the voyage of Mahinda (13th rock edict).

The envoys embarked at the Jambukola in seven days and thence in another seven days taken to reach the Pāṭaliputta. As mentioned in the *Mahāvāṃsa* envoys gave those gifts into the hands of king Dhammadāsoka. As further mentioned, the monarch, in his joy bestowed on Ariṭṭha the rank of commander in his army, the dignity of chaplain on the Brahmana, the rank of staff bearer on the minister, and the guild lordship on the treasurer.³² The question that would naturally arise is why, King Aśoka bestowed the ranks to these four envoys? What is the authority that he had? Although the vamsa tradition gives evidence on political institutions in early Sri Lanka (before the 3rd Century B.C.E) this cannot be testified. In a way this symbolized introduction of the political institutions to Sri Lanka by the emperor in India. King Aśoka has sent everything needed for the consecration of a king. As elaborates in the *Mahāvāṃsa* a fan, a diadem, a sword, a parasol, shoes, a turban, ear ornaments, chains, a pitcher, yellow sandalwood, as set of garments that had no need of cleansing, a costly napkin, unguent brought by the nags, red coloured earth, water from the lake Anotatta and also water from the Ganges, a shell winding in suspicious wise, a maiden in the flower of her

youth, utensils as golden platters, as costly litter, yellow and embolic myrobalans and precious ambrosial healing herbs, sixty times one hundred wagon loads of mountain rice brought thither by parrots, nay all that was needful for consecrating a king was sent by the emperor by the king in Sri Lanka.³³ This consecration ceremony symbolized the transition of local leadership to the kingship in Sri Lanka. The kings in Sri Lanka did not have a proper coronation before this. This might be the reason for the request behind the second consecration for the king Tissa.

Aśoka sent the gift of the true doctrine by saying “I have taken refuge in the Buddha, his doctrine and his order; I have declared myself a lay disciple in the religion of the Sakya son, seek then even thou.”³⁴ The envoys stayed seven months in India and having embarked at Tāmalitī landed at Jambukōla, arrived Lanka on the twelfth day. The ruler of Lanka consecrated for the second time by the envoys. The *Mahāvāṃsa* denotes that king Tissa used the name of the “friend of the god” (Devanpiya).³⁵

V. BODI TREE

As mentioned in the *Mahāvāṃsa* following the counsel of the Aśoka’s minister Mahādeva,³⁶ had invited the community of bhikkhus and asked whether the great Bodhi tree be sent to Laṅka. The *Mahāvāṃsa* noted that thera Moggaliputta answered “It shall be sent thither, as five great resolutions that the Buddha gifted.” When king Aśoka having heard this, he was glad and had ordered to clean the road, seven yojanas long, leading to the great Bodhi tree.³⁷ And also he brought the gold to make a vasa to plant the Bodhi tree which is going to be sent to Sri Lanka. *Mahāvāṃsa* denotes that Vissakamma who appeared in the semblance of a goldsmith, having moulded gold with his hand made a vase in that very moment and departed. The *Mahāvāṃsa* further says that the measuring of the vase is nine cubits around and five cubits in depth and the three cubits across, being eight finger-breadths thick, having upper edge of the size of young elephant’s trunk, being equal to the young (morning) sun.³⁸ There is similar description in *Bodhivāṃsa* to the above.³⁹ The eighteenth chapter, the receiving of the great Bodhi tree further says that having seen the miracle of the Bodhi tree, the way that the king Aśoka worshiped the great Bodhi tree by bestowing kingship, consecrating the great Bodhi tree the king of his great realm thrice.

VI. PLANTING THE BODI TREE IN THE VASE

This incident has been depicted quite miraculously in the vamsa tradition. As reported in the vamsa, great Bodi tree departed the southern branch itself and with thousand roots planted in the vase.⁴⁰ It is ten cubit height. Five branches extended to four cubits.

²⁵ *M.v*, 1950, 11:19, 78.

²⁶ Ibid, 1950, 11:22, 78.

²⁷ Childers 1976: 1061.

²⁸ Devaraj, M. and Ravichandran, V., 1991: 102.

²⁹ Bellana, N 2000: 31.

³⁰ Ray, H.P. 1994: 22.

³¹ Ibid. 1994: 21.

³² *M.v*, 1950, 11: 23-24,79.

³³ Ibid, 1950, 11: 27-32,79.

³⁴ Ibid, 1950, 11: 34, 80.

³⁵ *M.v*, 1950, 11: 42, 81.

³⁶ *Bodi.v*, 1999, 188.

³⁷ *M.v*, 1950, 18: 23, 124.

³⁸ Ibid. 1950, 18:29,125.

³⁹ *Bodi.v*, 1999, 189.

⁴⁰ Ibid, 1999, 191.

It consisted of thousand small branches.⁴¹ Bōdi tree disappeared seven days, among the clouds. The vamsa tradition attempts to portrait this miraculously. The king Aśoka had anxiously waited for seven days to see the Bōdi tree. King has arranged many Bōdi Pujā ceremonies with the consort of Asandimittā and twelve thousand city women.⁴²

VII. CONSORTS OF THE KING

The Bōdhi tree was planted at the Mahāmeghavanārāma in the eighteenth regnal year of the Dhammadśoka.⁴³ Afterwards, the dear consort of the king, Asamdhimittā died.⁴⁴ She is a faithful believer in Buddhism. The king raised the treacherous Tissarakkhā to the rank of queen in the fourth year after this. Tissarakkhā being jealous of the king's fondness of the Bodhi tree, destroyed it with Madu-thorn.⁴⁵ The king fall into the power of mortality in the fourth year after this. It was his thirty seventh regnal year.⁴⁶ The Aśokāvadāna depicts a quite similar story to the above. Aśoka's faith was aroused by the Bōdhi tree, as that was where the Blessed one had realized complete unsurpassed enlightenment. He therefore sent to the place of Bōdhi an offering of the most precious jewels which made Aśoka's chief queen Tiṣyarakṣitā annoyed.

John S. Strong has shown the basic difference in outlook between the Mahāvanssa and the Aśokāvadāna as follows. "The dissimilarity in their world view resulted not only in their emphasis on different stories about Aśoka, it also led to radically different treatment of one and the same legend. For example he mentions both texts related the story of Aśoka's wicked queen, Tiṣyarakṣitā (Pāli, Tissarakkhā) and her use of black magic on the Bōdhi tree at Bodhgaya. In the *Mahāvanssa*, she seeks to injure the tree soon after Aśoka sends one of its branches to Sri Lanka for transplanting, and her endeavor meets with success when the original tree withers and dies. The implication is, of course clear: Sri Lanka is now in the sole possession of the living tree of the enlightenment; what has died in India still thrives on the island. In the Aśokāvadāna, however, Tiṣyarakṣitā is not successful. She does not carry through with her plan, and the Bodhi tree, instead of perishing, recovers through Aśoka's devoted care.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Aśoka patronized the third Buddhist council which was held at the Pataliputra. Mahinda thera, one of his sons, and the daughter therī Samghamitta played a significant role introducing the Buddhism and the order of nuns to Sri Lanka. As a symbol of Maury Empire, Sanghamittā arrived with the branch of the Bōdhi tree. It is well-known that Sri Lanka was one of the few countries in the world where Buddhism has been practised without interruption from the time of its introduction to the present day. The honorific term Devānampiya was also conferred by Aśoka as an imperial honour upon the king of Sri Lanka, whose name was

only Tissa. No king in Sri Lanka before Devānampiyatissa seems to have used this prefix.

REFERENCES

- [1] *Buddhist records of Faxian*, Balagalle G. Vimal, Sinhala translation, S. Godage publishers, Maradana, Colombo, 2017.
- [2] *Buddhist records of the Western World*, Buddhadatta Polwatte, Sinhala translation, S. Godage Publishers, Maradana, Colombo, 2014.
- [3] *Dīpavanssa* 1959 උජ්‍යාවිමලාත්‍රා, Kiriellē, M. D. Gunasēna Publishers, Colombo.
- [4] *The Dīpavanssa* 1992 H. Oldenberg., Asian Education Services, New Delhi, Madras.
- [5] *Divyāvadāna* 1980 Andre and Filliozat., London.
- [6] *Divyāvadāna* 1886 (ed.), E. B. Cowell and R. A. Nei., London.
- [7] *Divyavadana* 1999 Nagoda Ariyadasa senevirathan (trans.), S. Godage publishers, Maradana, Colombo 10.
- [8] *The Great Tang Dynasty Record of the Western Regions*, Li Rongxi, Translated by the Tripitaka-Master Xuanzang under Imperial Order, Composed by Śramaṇa Bianji of the Great Zongchi Monastery (Taishō, Volume 51, Number 2087), Berkeley 1996.
- [9] *Mahābōdhiyanssa* 1891, Strong Arthur. S, Pali text Society, Oxford University press, London.
- [10] *Mahāvanssa part I & II* 1967 (trans.), Sumangala Tera and Devarakshith Batuwanthudāwe., Rathanaṅkara bookshop, Wella Avenue, Colombo.
- [11] *The Mahāvanssa or the Great Chronicle of Ceylon* 1950 W. Geiger, Ceylon Government Information Department, Colombo.
- [12] The Mahāvanssa the Great Chronicle of Ceylon, 1912 (trans.), W. Geiger, Oxford.
- [13] *Nikaya Sngrahaya* 1908 (ed.), W. R. Gunawardana., Colombo.
- [14] *Poṭāvali* 1999, Amramoli thera Veragoda, Godage International publishers, Maradana, Colombo.
- [15] *Rājāvalī*, 1997, A. V. Suraveera, Educational Publications Department, Colombo.
- [16] *Samantapāśādika* 1967 (ed.), J. Takakusu & M. Nagia., vol. iv, Pāli Text Society, London.
- [17] *Samantapāśādika* 1996 (trans.), S. Gamlath., Godage International Publishers, Colombo 10.
- [18] *Samantapāśādika* 2004 (trans.), Dhammadusala thera, Ambalamgoda, Royal Asiatic Society, Sri Lanka.
- [19] *Sinhla Bōdhivanssa* 1999 (ed.), Sucharithagamlatha, Godage publishers, Colombo 10
- [20] *Thūpavanssa* 1994 translated into English by S. Gamlath and published by the Godage publishers in Colombo.
- [21] *Thūpavanssa*, 2010 Galagama Saranankra thera, Ratna book publishers, Maradana.
- [22] *Thūpavanssa (Pāli)* 2015 Piyaratana thera Vāgama, Samayavardana book publishers, Colombo 10.
- [23] *Vansatthappakāsini (Mahāvansafikā)* 2001 Akuratiye Amaravamsa thera and Hemachandra Disanayaka (edit), S. Godage publishers, Maradana, Colombo, 10
- [24] *Vansatthappakāsini* 1935, Malalasekara Gunapala P, London
- [25] *Vinayatthakathā (Samantapāśādikā)* 2004 (trans.), vol. ii, Dhammadusala thera, Ambalamgoda., Royal Asiatic Society.
- [26] *Vinayatthakathā (Samantapāśādikā)* 2009 Dhammadusala thera, Ambalamgoda., Buddhist Cultural Center in Dehiwala.

Secondary Sources in Sinhala

⁴¹ Ibid, 1999, 191.

⁴² *Bodi.v*, 1999, 192.

⁴³ *M.V.* 1950, 20: 1,136.

⁴⁴ Ibid, 1950, 20: 2,136.

⁴⁵ Ibid, 1950, 20: 4-5,136.

⁴⁶ Ibid, 1950, 20: 6,136

- [27] Bandara Anuradha Vijevardana, 2015, “Mahindāgamanaya Purāvidyāthmakava thahavurukala RajagalaKanda Puda Bima”, *Sanskritika Purānaya*, Central Cultural Fund, Ministry of Culture and Arts, no 11, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07.
- [28] Barua, B.M, 1968, *Aśoka and His inscriptions*, vol. I, Calcutta, New age publishers.
- [29] Bellana, N., 2000 *Aśoka Silālekhana*, Maradāna
- [30] Childers, R. C., 1979 (ed.), *Dictionary of the Pāli language*, Cosmo Publications, New Delhi.
- [31] Devaraj, M. and Ravichandran, V., 1991 “*Dynamics of Indian Chank Fisheries*”, *CMFRI Bulletin*, no. 42, pp. 100-105.
- [32] Dheerananda Hanguranketa 2016 “The role of Sangha and King: Interactions between Buddhist monks and Kings in ancient Sri Lanka”, *Essays on History Culture and Foreign Relations Festschrift for Professor S. Pathmanathan*, no 4, Department of History, University of Peradeniya, S. Godage and brothers, Colombo 10.
- [33] Dikshitar, V.R. Ramachandra, 1932, *The Mauryan Polity*, Madras: The University of Madra.
- [34] Guruge Ananda. W. P 1993, *Asoka the righteous a definitive biography*, Central Cultural Fund, Colombo 7.
- [35] Illangasinha Mangala 1997 *Savistara Mahāvāyasa Anuvādaya*, Godage publishers, Maradāna.
- [36] Peris. M 2011, Mahavamsa studies III of silk routes, Tsunamis and royal suicides, Godage international publishers (Pvt) Ltd.
- [37] Ray, H. P., 1994, **The Winds of Change**, Buddhism and the Maritime Links of Early South Asia, Oxford University Press, New Delhi.
- [38] Strong S John, 1989, *The legend of King Aśoka*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
- [39] Vajirapani. D.G.O 1966, “The influence of Buddhism on Asia”, *Pragnasara Felicitation Volume*, Vidyalankara University Press, Kelaniya, pp392-401.
- [40] Waddell, L. A. 1897, “**Upagupta, the fourth Buddhist Patriarch, and High priest of Asoka**”, *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* vol.66, 76-84.
- [41] _____ 1899, “**Identity of Upagupta, the High priest of Aśoka with MoggaliputtaTisso**” *Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, 70-75.

AUTHORS

First Author – Dr. Nadeesha Gunawardana, B.A., M.Phil, Ph.D nadee@kln.ac.lk , Department of History and, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka