

## 66  The Buddhist <br> 

## Content - ธర్ర»

 ..... 02
 ..... 03
 ..... 07
 ..... 09
 ..... 11
 ..... 12
 ..... 17
The Uncrowned Monarch of Sri Lanka - Editor-in-Chief ..... 18
Origin and Development of Bodhisatva Cult in Sri Lanka - M.M.R. Upali ..... 19
Saintly Individuals Who Attained Nibbana - P.B. Thilakaratne ..... 22
Sir Baron Jayatilaka Memorial Lectures conducted by the Colombo YMBA ..... 26
Events of the YMBA ..... 28
Buddhist Reaction to Social Challenges - Dr. Nishadani Peiris ..... 30
YMBA News ..... 32

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Address - Colombo YMBA, No 70 , D.S. Senanayake Mawatha, Colombo 8, Srilanka.

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Phone +9411-2695598 +9411-2682397
+9411-2695786 +9411-2682398 +9411-2698083
Fax +9411-2682397
Website www.ymba-colombo.org
Email ymbacolombo@sltnet.lk
Facebook www.facebook.com/ymba.org
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## Cover Photo

Rankoth Vehera is a stupa located in the ancient city of Polonnaruwa in Sri Lanka. The stupa was built by Nissanka Malla of Polonnaruwa, who ruled the country from 1187 to 1196 . The Rankoth Vehera has been built according to the tradition of the stupas of the Anuradhapura Maha Viharaya and bears a close resemblance to Ruwanwelisaya. In fact, a stone inscription situated close to the stupa even identifies it by the name "Ruwanweli". However, it has later come to be known by the currently used name, Rankoth Vehera. In Sinhalese, ran means gold, kotha is the name given to the pinnacle of a stupa, and vehera means stupa or temple. Thus, the name Rankoth Vehera can be roughly translated to English as "Gold Pinnacled Stupa". Along with the Kiri Vehera, it is one of the most revered stupas in Polonnaruwa.

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## Sir D.B. Jayathilake





13th February 2020 is Sir Baron Jayatilaka's 152nd Birth Anniversary. May he attain the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana.

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Editor - Mr. Piyadasa Wattegama
Asst: Editor - Mr. Kusumabandu Samarawickrama
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## $\sim$ Editorial $\sim$ The Uncrowned Monarch of Sri Lanka

It$t$ is perhaps a sad fate to have the occasion to commemorate the life and services of a National Hero who though qualified to be elevated to the level of even a Monarch was denied this unique distinction. It happens to be so from the fact that, it would be clear to any person who scrutinies the history of the country with perceptive vision that, if his mature intellect and intuitive grasp of the reality, the religious, cultural, educational and political landscape of the period was correctly understood and was given the opportunity to utilize it for national upliftment, the present state of the country would have been different and the political and social climate would have generated a national leadership with the capacity to produce a change. We make this observation as a prelude to commemorating the 152nd Birth Anniversary of Sri Baron Jayatilaka, the Uncrowned Monarch.

Starting his early education under the tutelage of Ven. Dharmalankara, Principal of Vidylankara Pirivena, he later entered Baptist Mission School of Waragoda for his primary education in English medium. Later for his education at Senior Level he entered Wesley College, Colombo, where he excelled as a brilliant student carrying all the prizes for which he could compete. He acquired a masterly proficiency in both oriental languages such as Sinhala, Pali and Sanskrit as well as Western languages such as English and Latin which served him in later life as a potent instrument in his literary researches.

Youth Jayatilaka who had by this time, in 1890, secured passes in Cambridge Junior and Senior Level Examinations selected Latin and English as Degree Subjects and registered himself on an undergraduate of the University of Calcutta.

While the whole island was, by this time, being engulfed in a wave of religious controversies, an overwhelming campaign pradaiming Buddhism as a heresy was in action, being launched by Christian missionaries with the blessings of the English Government authorities. While a campaign for the proselytisation of the local population had been initiated through the medium of Missionary Education, dissemination of the news of the famous Panadura Religious Controversy had the effect of attracting to Sri Lanka Colonel Steel Olcott and Madame Blavatsky whose arrival induced Young Jayatilaka to align himself with their movement dedicating his life to the upliftment of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. As a result of this association he received appointment as the Principal of Dharmaraja College of Kandy which happened to be one of the earliest Buddhist Schools to be established by the Buddhist Theosophical Society founded by Colonel Olcott. In recognition of the exceptional efficiency displayed by him in this capacity he was, shortly afterwards appointed as The Principal of Ananda College,

Colombo. Jayatilaka demonstrated through his performance that newly established Buddhist Schools were capable of producing to the Buddhist public a system of education qualitatively equal to or even better than that provided by the Christian Missionary authorities.

In 1905, he was appointed as the General Manager of Buddhist Schools, and he executed with remarkable efficiency, the formidable tasks of maintaining the schools already established and of establishing new schools in regions that needed them.

Unlike today, during a period when the establishment of Buddhist Associations was a formidable challenge, he founded Colombo Young Men's Buddhist Association and, within a short period, promoted it to the level of an umbrella organization with a network of affiliated Associations, spread island wide and accomplished a monumental task towards the establishment of a society with a deep Buddhist Orientation. He held the position of President of the Colombo YMBA for a continuous period of 44 years from the very inception and rendered to us a stupendous service.

He never treated any problem of life as a challenge. At the ripe age of 42 , demonstrating to the contemporary youth a rare example of life he proceeded to England in order to pursue further education. He received education at Jason College of Oxford University and was enrolled as a Barrister-at-Law of Inns of Court and thereby fortified his background to shoulder responsibilities of national, religious and educational rejuvenation of Sri Lanka that was emerging at the time. Being endowed with exceptional oratorical capability he soon flowered as a captivating public speaker and a prominent leader of the international movement for popularisation of Buddhism.

Another activity that engaged Jayatilaka's attention was the Temperance Movement that had by then originated in Sri Lanka. He initiated this campaign while he was in England and made representations to the Secretary of state of the Colonies highlighting the evil consequences of the Excise Policy of the Colonial Government in Sri Lanka.

He soon rose to eminence as a leading forerunner amongst the assemblage of National Leaders and Intelligentsia who firmly held the view that the local Excise Ordinance was dangerously detrimental to the future social well-being of Sri Lanka population. The British Colonial Government was so enraged by observing this phenomenon, that he was incarcerated without trial along with the other national leaders immediately with the outbreak of the Muslim Extremist Riots. However those unpleasant experiences did not deter our Leader Jayatilaka from engaging with unabated enthusiasm in the national struggle for political reforms. Even after the implementation of the Reforms offered by the British Government in 1924 and later the Donoughmore Reforms of

1931, he continued his struggle in league with other National Leaders, unceasingly making demands for the grant of full Independence from British rule. He was victorious as the member representing Kelaniya Electorate in the General Election held in 1931 for the election of Members of the state council newly established under Donoughmore Reforms with the establishment of the State Council he was appointed as the leader of the House which position was equivalent to that of the office of the Prime Minister in a Parliament.

In 1932 Jayatilaka was honored by the conferment of a Knighthood by His Majesty the King of England. He entered history as the first Buddhist Public Leader hnoured with this distinction. Undaunted by the weight of the religious and political activities already assumed by him, he acquisced with all the new responsibilities and offices conferred upon him with delight.

Pirivena education had made him a consummate Oriental Scholar. In the midst of his busy programme of social and political activities he utilized his Oriental learning to edit a series of classical Sinhala texts such as Saddharmaratnavaliya, Dahampiya atuva Getapadaya and Buduguna alankaraya and to function as the Chief Editor of the Sinhala Etymological Dictionary.

He had a clear vision of Religion and Economic and Social Development. He was a unique National Leader who never utilized his social and public enterprises for his personal advancement. While elevating his own religion he extended equal support to other contemporary religious faiths. If not for his far sighted progressive proposals for constitutional reforms for Sri Lanka, grant of indepence to Sri Lanka would have taken a longer period of time.

National Leaders who pursue programmes for the progress and advancement of the country, the nation and religion are scarce in modern society. Jayatilaka's scathing criticism of the imperial government became a painful experience for them. However his arguments were so poignant and forceful that they could not be easily rejected. He was a national hero in the true dimension of the term. He had all the qualifications to be crowned as King of Lanka. His character was that of a paragon worthy of emulation by any national leader. While he was respected as the uncrowned King of Lanka had he been crowned, he would have certainly moulded Sri Lanka as a country for different from what it has happened to be.

We are prone to honour him as the Uncrowned King of Lanka, in recognition of his exceptionally unique character which no other Sri Lankan could claim.

May he attain Supreme Bliss of Nibbana.

# Origin and Development of Bodhisatva Cult in Sri Lanka 

$\infty$<br>M.M.R. Upali Lecturer, Rajarata University



The original Buddha Dhamma Proclaimed by Supreme Buddha Gautama underwent a series of ramifications and transformations in course of time. Accordingly we can discern today the result of this development into two traditions presently identified as Theravada and Mahayana.
We can discern today a series of characteristics which differentiate these two traditions, while this bifurcation of the original Unitary System tookplace as a result, mainly of the outcome of the Second Buddhist Council held after the lapse of 100 years from the Parinibbana of the Buddha this sub division had promoted the long duration and stability of the two systems independently over the past period. Western scholars have expressed their opinion that the primary objective of Theravada Buddhism is the attainment of the State of an Arahant while that of Mahayana is the attainment of the State of a Bodhisatva. However neither conclusion is correct. Both traditions hold the Bodhisatva Concept in high esteem.

The State of Bodhisatva can be identified as one of the most popular concepts discernible in the Teachings of the Buddha. There is hardly any other concept in the Mahayana tradition that is held in equally high esteem as the Bodhisatva concept. This concept permeated the religious

thoughts of the Eastern Buddhist countries parallel with the spread of the Mahayana Tradition to those countries. But the concept however did not take root as one feature specific to Mahayana Buddhism. Buddha has elucdidated in Suttas such as Bhayabherava and Dvedhavitaka how He, throughout past births as a Bdhisatva fulfilled the requirements to attain full enlightenment as a Buddha.

This hypothesis in the Theravada tradition exemplifies the prerequisite which the Buddhahood - aspirant should fulfil in order to attain Buddhahood. But according to Mahayana tradition, every Mahayana adherent is a Bodhisatva an aspirant to Buddhahood. This is so because a seminal aspiration to mature as a Buddha eventually designated in Mahayana tradition as Bodhicitta exists in the mind of every Mahayana adherent. This mental disposition called Bodhi Citta is the normal psychological disposition constituted by a combination of compassion and wisdom embodying an aspiration to blossom as a Buddha some day in future and help others including as well as divine beings to redeem themselves from the woes of Samsara. All Bodhisatvas aspiring to Buddhahood possess this mental disposition. Bodhi Citta is the first step in the programme to become a Buddha.

There is ample evidence to corroborate the view that the Bodhisatva concept has survived in Sri Lanka in some form or another. These provide an exposure to examine how it originated and developed in Sri Lanka.

Bodhi is the embodiment of the Mental Development (Nana) derived through the attainment of the Four Wisdoms of the Paths and Fruits and Omniscience Jataka Atuva Getapadaya (glossary to the Jataka Commentory) presents the following definition of Bodhi.

Bodhi is the Four-Fold Wisdom comprising the wisdom of the Four Paths and Fruits and Omniscience designated as Bodhi. An individual psychologically attaches himself to this state confirmed by a nomination by a Buddha as a Future Buddha thus satisfying all the requirements to be designated as Bodhisatva". Jataka Commentary defines a Bodhisatva thus:-
"Bodhisatva is an individual who has made an unalterable determination to attain full enlightment as an Omniscient Buddha some day in future, and has already received a Prediction called Revelation designated as Vivarana in Buddhist terminology from a fully Enlightened Buddha and has commenced fulfilling the Perfections (Paramita) which are pre requisites for such attainment. However the Bodhisatva Concept is more frequently repeated in the Mahayana System and has been acclaimed as the most Fundamental and Principal Doctrine in Mahayana Philosophy. According to Mahayana Doctrine, the ultimate release from Samsara is attainable only through the attainment of Buddhahood.

Nirvana cannot be realised through any attainment short of Buddhahood. This hypethesis has driven the Mahayanist to hold in supreme esteem not the status of a Buddha but that of a Bodhisatva.

Prof. Wickramagamage reveals the existence of seven Bodhisatvas through his researches into Buddhist Sculpture in Sri Lanka. They were Vipassi, Sikhi, Kanagama, Kakusanda, Kassapa and Gautama,

Likewise the present aspirant to next Buddhahood is identified as the Maitreya Bodhisatva. It is not possible to determine for how long the said Bodhisatvas remained as being qualified to be aspirants to Buddhahood. But they are qualified to be identified as Bodhisatvas from the time they receive the first revalation (Vivarana) from Buddha until they finally attain Buddhahood in the final birth in the human world. According to Mahayana Doctrine Bodhisatvas are so-called from the time they surview in Thusita Heaven until they descend to human world and become Buddhas. They survive in Sukhavati Heaven world in Sambhoga Kaya. They are treated as sons of Dhyani Buddhas.

Accordingly, Samanta Bhadra, Vajrapani, Ratnapani, Padmapani, Avalokitesvara and Visvapani are Bodhisatva Putras
of Dhyani Buddhas, Vairocena, Ratnasam bhava, Amitabha and Amoghasiddhi.

According to Buddhist traditions, there exist two classes of Bodhisatvas - Bodhisatvas mentioned in the palitexts are human beings while Bodhisatvas in the Mahayama tradition are called Dhyani Bodhisatvas. According to Sri Lankan texts in the early period the practice had been to venarate Human Bodhisatvas. Local texts mention the following as Human Bodhisatvas Vipassi, Sikhi, Vessabhu, Konagamana, Kakusanda, Kassapa, Gautama and Maitreya The existence of the Bodhisatva concept is discernible even in the Theravada Buddhist religious practices that prevailed in Sr Lanka from ancient times.
It is the view of scholars that the sculpturing of Bodhisatva images originated in India in about the 3rd Century C.E. Historiouns are of the view that this art had spread to Sri Lanka about 4th Century C.E. However the exact date of origin of the sculpturing of Bodhisatva images in Sri Lanka has not been historically established. It is clear from historical and archaeological evidence that worship of Bodhisatva images has taken root in Sri Lanka about 5th Century C.E. References are formed in Pali Commentaries and Chronicles, But this practice had not gained currency until the advent of Mahayana Buddhism to Sri Lanka. A number of inscriptions dating to Anuradhapura period has references to Avalokeshwara Bodhisatva.

Since Bodhisatva Concept commanded popular respect, it was adopted as an honorific title to elevate kings particularly those who exhibited extreme piety towards Dhamma.

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Monarchs - Buddhadasa and Siri Sanghabodhi had been edified by adding this cognomen to their names.

As a consequence of the Hindu Chola invasion of the 10th Century C.E. Buddhism suffered a heavy decline. With the revival of local supremacy established by Parakramabahu I, he effected a refinement of the Buddha Sasana also. He established three Bodhisatva Statues. Inscriptions at Lankatilleke Temple and Gadaladeniya Rock make reference to God Natha and Mitreya Bodhisatva Pepiliyana Rock Inscription established by King Parakramabahu VI in the 15th Century makes references to Bodhisatva Natha, Maitreya Natha and Lokeshvara Natha. Lankatilake inscription of Kandy also mentions Bodhisatva Lokesvara Natha, The Image House of Vegiriya Gampola has statues of God Natha and Goddess Tara mentions Sandesa poems also contain descrptions of Devalas with statues of Natha Bodhisatva Mahayana Bodhisatva Avalokitesvara was transformed in Sri Lanka as God Natha Maitreya Bodhisatva during the Kandyan Period.

The second development was the transformation of Hindu Gods as Bodhisatvas There is reference to eight such Bodhisatvas in Rajavaliya These local referances which bear evidence of the prevalence of Bodhisatva worship in Sri Lanka serve to strengthen the postulation that although Bodhisatva worship was previously a Mahayana practice is has been absorbed into Theravada Liturgical system and was accepted with respect by the local community of Bhikkhuys. Hence the sculptural style of Bodhisatva Images got firmly established in Sri Lanka. It developed into a significant sculptural style towards the end of Anuradhapura Period.

Arachaelogist Professor D.K.

Dohaniyan has expressed the view that this sculptural trait was imitated from Pallava Kingdom of South India. A large number of Bodhisatva Images of Different material have been discovered at many historical sites of Siri Lanka. The gold plated large size Budhisatva Image discovered from Veheragala is acclaimed as the most outstanding Bodhisatva image of Sri Lanka. A large number of Avalokitesvara statues in full royal attire, have been discovered from Sri Lakan Temples. The Dambegoda statue is the largest out of them In Sri Lankan tradition Avalokeshwara is also called Natha.

The status of Bodhisatva Maitreya, the next aspirant to Buddhahood deserves consideration. This Bodhisatva, Presently in Tusitha Heaven is respected in both Theravada and Mahayana traditions. Sri Lankan Buddhists hold this Bodhisatva in great respect Statues of this


# Saintly Individuals Who Attained Nibbana 

P.B. Thilakaratne


The first human being who attained Nibbana during the dispensation of Buddha Gautama was Ascetic Kodanna. He had the opportunity to listen to the first discourse delivered by the Buddha in the company of the other four ascetics of his group namely Bhaddiya, Vappa, Mahanama and Assaji. This discourse was later identified as Dhamma Chakkappavattna Sutta. According to textual accounts, besides the five ascetics who were the only human beings present there had assembled thousands of Devas and Brahmas in the sky to listen to the discourse.

While the delivery of this sacred discourse which commenced when the sun was setting, continued throughout the night until the dawn of the following day. As day broke, Ascetic Kondanna had attained the stage of the stream enterer (Sotapanna). For the Buddha it was a cause for immense joy to observe that there was at least one human being who could fully comprehend the abstruse Dhamma that he realised on successful fulfilment of the thirty - fold cluster of perfections starting with charity (Dana) throughout an incalculable period of time. He gave vent to his exaltation twice thus. "Hail Kondanna, comprehended the Four Noble Truths" - Kondanna comprehended the Four Noble Truths.

Buddha continued to explain the abstruse parts of the doctrine

to the other four Ascetics during the ensuing days. On each day, in turn, Ascetics Vappa, Bhaddiya, Mahanama and Assaji successfully attained the stage of sainthood of stream enterer (Sotapanna). Buddha had to devote about a week to elevate the ascetics who had been deeply ingrained in Egoistic faith
of the existence of a self (Atto) to the stage of Arahanthood after expatiating to them the falsity of a self by making them listen to Anattalakkhana Sutta.

We should understand and accept the fact that it was with the potency of the fulfilment of perfections (Parami) throughout a countless

##  <br> February - 2020

One day he conceived a hallucination that he had attained Arhanthood. On this occasion one of his relatives who had attained some divine powers knowing that Bahiya was under a hallucination cleared his misbelief and convinced him that he was not an Arahant.

Then Bahiya inquired whether there was any Arahant anywhere in the land. Thereupon the relative informed him that the Buddha who is an Arahant is residing at Soratthi in the Northern Province. He preaches Dhamma in order to guide the people towards Arahanthood. On hearing this Bahiya set out immediately towards Jetavanaramaya in Savatthi.

As he reached Jetavanaramaya Monastery, Buddha was setting out on his alms-round and heading towards Central Region. Noticing the serene walk of the Buddha, Bahiya immediately fell at Buddha's feet and pleaded for a word of Dhamma to attain Arahanthood.

To this request Buddha responded thus;

"This is not the time to preach the Dhamma this is the time for setting out for alms." But Bahiya was not to be disuaded and pleaded three times saying" Please Venerable Sir, considering the nature of life I lead, I can be exposed to peril at any moment. If any danger be falls, your reverence - I have no chance of listening to the Dhamma"

Thereupon Buddha responded thus:
"Well, Bahiya, then listen, you should discipline yourself thus - "Seeing a form is only an act of seeing. Hearing a sound is only an act of hearing smelling an odour is only an act of smelling conceiving a thought is only an act of conceiving "Hence Bahiya, You shared should discipline yourself thus. You should contemplate: Through the effect of a cause you happen to notice something, hearing a sound is only an act of hearing, conceiving something is only an act of conceiving. "By virtue of this line of reasoning you turn out to become an individual unattached to sights of form. Thereby you become an individual without attachments.

By divesting yourself of attachments you are freed from potentiality to be reborn. In this world and in the next world you will not be reborn in either"

While Buddha was returning to the Monastery from alms-round Arahant Bahiya unexpectedly entered Pari Nibbana being gored by a cow that was guarding her newly born calf.

Buddha who noticed this incident made the following utterence addressing the Bhikkhus.
"Bahiya is intelligent. He did not torment me over his urge to listen to a word of Dhamma." Buddha approved the erection of a stupa after cremating Arahat Bahiya’s Body.

Only the Buddha can identify persons who have attained higher stages of sainthood leading to arahanthood. Even one Arahant cannot indentify another Arahant by mere sight.

Brahmin Pukkusati had been ordained as a Bhikkhu but he had not seen the Buddha. When Bhikkhu Pukkkusati went to meet the Buddha he had to spend the night in a potter's kiln where it so happened that Buddha too had taken shelter at the same shed at that night. But Bhikkhu Pukkusati failed to identify the Buddha when he saw the Buddha. Arahat Lakunthaka Bhaddiya who was an unsightly, dark-skinned dwarf whom people failed to identify as an Arahant was subjected to ridicule by some people due to his unsightly features.

Identify an Arahant as an Arahant is a difficult task. But through a long period of close association one can form an absolute conclusion regarding the sanctity of his moral discipline. His conversation is entirely in conformity with the dimensions of right speech (Samma Vaca). Through conversation with an Arahant one can gauge the depth of his wisdom (Panna). His conversation displays his inner purity. Buddha has thus explicated

## A discourse on the Four Noble Truths aimed at delineating the Path to Nibbana is one not heard before. Only an enlightened exponent of the Dhamma has

the capacity to deliver a discourse aimed exclusively at the Truth of Nibbana. Only an Arahant who has attained the four Analytical Insights (Patisomdhida) is endowed with such capacity.
to King Kosala, the technique of identifying with certainty an Arahat.

A discourse on the Four Noble Truths aimed at delineating the Path to Nibbana is one not heard before. Only an enlightened exponent of the Dhamma has the capacity to deliver a discourse aimed exclusively at the Truth of Nibbana. Only an Arahant who has attained the four Analytical Insights (Patisomdhida) is endowed with such capacity. There are immense references in The Sutta Pitaka where thereas with such supreme powers expound the Dhamma. Such discourses conclude with exultations such as "Birth is extinguished. Lived in the Noble Life. Nothing more needs to be accomplished for attaining the state of an Arahant. This physical body is the last that I hold."

Holy ones who had attained the Paths and fruits can be identified by mastering the nuances presented in the Ratana Sutta. Even those saintly beings who had attained any stage of the scheme of paths and
fruits short of attaining the state of an Arahant are liable to Commit Evil Acts that are not so grave as to lead one to a purgatory. Sarakani Sutta embodies the incident where the Sakya clancman Sarakani who had attained the stage of stream enterer died of intoxication having taken liquor. Since there can exist even today in Society such individuals who have attained the stage of stream enterer, any attempt to ridicule them can expose one to the felony of reviling a saint. (Ariyopavade).

Arahants who have attained the paths and fruits are truly contented. They are free from craving. They have totally annihilated selfEsteem(asmimana) without residue. They have redeemed of Ignorance (Avijja), and Delusion (Moha). They are totally free from liability for rebirth. They have attained Nibbana. Their minds are not liable to stir. They are free from wordly attachments, free from infloax (Asava), mastered the reality of five aggregates (Panca Kkhandha). They have acquired virtues of devotion (Saddha), modesty (Hiri), remose of wrongs (Ottappa), Erudition (Bahusacca), Resolution (Araddha Viriya), Wisdom (Panna), Constituents of wisdom (Bojjhanga) Such as mindfulness (Sati) Investigation of Law (Dhamma Vicaya). Energy (Viriya) Rapture (Piti), Repose (Passaddhi) Concentration (Samadhi) and Equanimity (Upekkha), which are the constilments of wisdom, the wisdom of Arahanthood (Asekha Nana), there bases of discipline (Te Sikkha) morality (Sila), concentration (Samadhi) and wisdom (Panna).

They have realised with certainty that the five Aggregates, namely, Form (Rupa), Feeling (Vedana) sensation (Sanna), Volitional Activities (Sankhara) and consiousness (Vinnana) are subject to impermanence. Suffering and state of being without self.


He detests and treats with digust the Aggregates of Form, Feeling, Sensation, Volitional Activities and wisdom. He has entered cessation (Nirudha). All these attributes connote that he is an Arahant. He has nothing more to achieve.

He understands, in their true form, the origin (Uppada), and Loss (Vaya) of the five Aggregates, and the Phenomena of Enjoyment (Assada), Adinava (Danger) and Departure (Nissarana) and he becomes a fully enlightened Arahant, free from grasping (Upadana). There is nothing more left for him to achieve. He is a confirmed celebate. (Brahamacari). Having accomplished the task dedicated to righteous acts, has eradicated fetters and is fully released.

Arahants who have eradicated all defilements totally abstain from free heinous acts. They do not intentionally kill an animal, do not steal, do not engage in sexual relationships, do not lie and do not-keep a residue of food to be
consumed later.
Buddha has prescribed five means of verifying whether an individual has attained Arahanthood. He has full control over sights seen by eyes, sounds heard by ears, smells sensed by the nose, tastes felt by the tongue, contacts felt by the body, and thoughts conceived by the mind.

If he has released himself from thoughts of "My Self and Mine" regarding the dingings from thorough form, feeling, senses, and formations he has attained certainty of these positions, then he is one who has attained Arahanthood.

There exist six elementary characteristics of the five aggregates; they are hardness (pathavi), liquidity (Apa) heat (Teja), bouyancy (Vaya). Vacuity (Akasa), and consciousness (Vinnana). An individual who realises with finality that he is released from these influxes (Asava) is an Arahant.

Buddhas, silent Buddhas
(Pacceka Buddhas) and Arahants
too experience feeling (Vedana), conceive sancations (Sanna) and generate thought conceptions (Vitakka) but they cease as they arise. They see their vacuity (Sunnata).

Stream Enterers , (Sotapanna), once returners (Sakadagami) and non-returners (Angami) conceive desirable (Manapa) as well as undesirable (Amanapa) thoughts. They shrink and feel ashamed. This is the behaviour of the Noble Learner. (Sekha). This sensation should be eliminated, individuals should live with consciousness.

They must be diligent to cultivate equanimity in the face of sensations invading through the senses. "Be expeditious - avoid repenting. This is my advice Buddha exhorted the Bhikkhus.

> (Translation of a Sinhala article that appeared in "Vesak Sirisara of 2019").

February - 2020

## Sir Baron Jayatilaka Memorial Lectures conducted by the Colombo YMBA reges

|  | Year | Subject | Lecturer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1st | 1968 | The Buddhist Pilgrim's Progress | Prof. G.P. Malalasekara |
| 2nd | 1969 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { The Influence of Buddhist } \\ \text { Learning in South East Asia }\end{array}\right\}$ | His Highness <br> Prof. Prince Purachatra |
| 3rd | 1970 | $\left.\begin{array}{l} \text { The Neglect of Buddhist } \\ \text { Learning in Ceylon Today - } \end{array}\right\}$ | Prof. K.N. Jayatilaka |
| 4th | 1971 | Removal of Cankers - Practical Techniques | Ãchãrya Buddharakkhitha Nayaka Thera |
| 5th | 1972 | The Psychological Aspects of Buddhism | Ven. Piyadassi Nãyaka Thera |
| 6th | 1973 | Some Aspects of Buddhism in Indian History | Dr. L.K. Loshi |
| 7th | 1974 | Basic Tenets of Buddhism | Ven. C. Nayanasatta Thera |
| 8th Thera) | 1975 | Society and the Challenge of Nibbana | Prof. Jothiya Dheerasekara (Now Ven. Prof. Dhammavihari |
| 9th | 1976 | The Psychology of Emotions in Buddhist Perspective | Dr. Padmasiri de Silva |
| 10th | 1977 | Buddhist Meditation Methods in North East Thailand | Ven. T. Kanthipalo Thera |
| 11th | 1978 | Psychology of Buddhist Meditation | Ven. Dr. Walpola Rahula Thera |
| 12th | 1979 | Early Buddhism and the Quality of Life | Prof. David Kalupahana |
| 13th | 1980 | Buddhism for the Millions | Ven. Henri Zeyst |
| 14th | 1981 | Nibbana, The Ideal Aim of the Buddhists | Ven. Dr. Hammalava Saddhatissa Nayaka Thera |
| 15th | 1982 | Theravada and Vibhajjavada | Prof. Y. Karunadasa |
| 16th | 1983 | Non-Theravada Scholars of Ancient Sri Lanka | Dr. Hema Goonetilaka |
| 17th | 1984 | Ahinsa-Non-Violence in the Buddha Dhamma | Ven. Bhikkhu Nanajivako Thera <br> Prof. University of Yugoslavia |
| 18th | 1985 | $\left.\begin{array}{l} \text { International Politics - The Needs for a } \\ \text { Buddhist Approach } \end{array}\right\}$ | Prof. Ralph Bultjens, New York University |
| 19th | 1986 | The Living Message of the Dhammapada | Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi Thera |
| 20th | 1987 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Practical Application of Mindfulness in } \\ \text { Daily Life }\end{array}\right\}$ | Ven. Olande Ananda Thera |
| 21st | 1988 | Ending of Violence in Accord with the Dhamma | Mr. Bogoda Premaratne |
| 22nd | 1989 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { The Buddhist Historical Tradition of } \\ \text { Sri Lanka }\end{array}\right\}$ | Dr. Ananda W.P. Guruge |


| 23rd | 1990 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Buddhist Principles of Democratic } \\ \text { Statesmanship }\end{array}\right\}$ | Prof. L.P.N. Perera |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 24th | 1991 | Changing Identities to the Buddha | Prof. Chandima Wijebandara |
| 25th | 1992 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { The Arahat and the Bodhisatva-Two } \\ \text { Complementary Buddhist Ideals }\end{array}\right\}$ | Ven. D.K. Dhammajothi Thera |
| 26th | 1993 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Buddhist Principles and Evolving } \\ \text { Constitutional Systems }\end{array}\right\}$ | Prof. G.L. Peiris |
| 27th | 1994 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Ethnic Identity in Crisis - A Buddhist } \\ \text { Response }\end{array}\right\}$ | Prof. Asanga Thilakaratne |
| 28th | 1995 | Relevance of Buddhism to the Modern World | Deshamanya Dr. Neville Kanakaratne |
| 29th | 1996 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Buddhism in the Modern Sociological } \\ \text { Perspective }\end{array}\right\}$ | Prof. Nandasena Ratnapala |
| 30th | 1997 | Can we Realize Nibbana in this Life itself? | Deshabandu Alec Robertson |
| 31st | 1998 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { From Dvesha to Maitri (From Cannibalism } \\ \text { to Vegetarianism) }\end{array}\right\}$ | Prof. Lily de Silva |
| 32nd | 1999 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Bhikkhu Sanga-The Oldest Surviving } \\ \text { Institution }\end{array}\right\}$ | Deshabandu Olcott Gunasekera |
| 33rd | 2000 | Significance of Buddhist Customs | Prof. J.B. Dissanayake |
| 34th | 2001 | The Social Philosophy of the Buddha | Dr. Piyasena Dissanayake |
| 35th | 2002 | The Buddhist Vision for the Future | Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne |
| 36th | 2003 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Buddhist Philosophical Influences on } \\ \text { Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity }\end{array}\right\}$ | Prof. Arjuna de Zoysa |
| 37th | 2004 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Buddha's Teaching on Kamma and Free } \\ \text { Actions }\end{array}\right\}$ | Prof. P.D. Premasiri |
| 38th | 2005 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Development and Buddhist Concept of } \\ \text { Happiness }\end{array}\right\}$ | Prof. Buddhadasa Hewavitharana |
| 39th | 2006 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Jataka Tales and its Impact on Human } \\ \text { Behaviour }\end{array}\right\}$ | Prof. Sunanda Mahendra |
| 40th | 2007 | Violence in Society | Prof. Harendra Silva |
| 41st | 2009 | Meditation and Daily Life | Ven. Olande Ananda Thera |
| 42nd | 2010 | Role of Mindfulness in Buddhist Practice | Dr. Kanishka Karunaratne |
| 43rd | 2011 |  | Mr. U. Mapa |
| 44th | 2012 | $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Alcohol-consumption \& consequences in } \\ \text { Sri Lanka }\end{array}\right\}$ | Dr. Anula Wijesundera |
| 45th | 2013 | Buddhist concept of satisfaction (Titti) | Prof. Sumanapala Galmangoda |
| 46th | 2014 | Can one change ones Kamma Vipaka? | Dr. Kosala de Silva |
| 47th | 2015 | Can one attain nibbana within this life? | Ven. Polpitimukalane Pannasiri Thero |
| 48th | 2016 |  | Ven. Siri Vajiraramaye Nãnasiha Thera |
| 49th | 2017 | Buddhist Law as applicable in Sri Lanka | Dr. Wickrema Weerasooria |
| 50th | 2018 | Challenges Faced by the Presentday | Justic P.A. Rathanayaka |
| 51th | 2019 | Dasa RajaDharama | Ven. Polpitimukalane Pannasiri Thero |

## Events of the YMBA







The Founders day Alms giving was held on 05th January 2020 and the photograph of former President Deshabandu Thilak de Zoysa's photo was unveiled at this occasion.




Relic casket was received by the President of YMBA Mr. Maddumage Ariyartne at the Founder's Day Alms Giving.


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The Governor of YMBA Mr. Sumedha Amerasinghe and Board Members Dr. Thusitha Tennakoon and Mr. Ranjith Jayewardene offering alms for monks at the Alms giving.








Prof. Sampath Ameratunga, Vice Chancellor, University of Sri Jayawardanapura, Board Member of delivering the special address at the Affiliated YMBA's conference held on 14th December 2019 at the Main Hall of YMBA Borella.





Section of participants from the affiliated YMBA's at the Annual Conference of Affiliated YMBAs held on 14th December 2019.




Staff members together with their family members at Sigiriya on the Annual staff trip conducted on 27, 28, 29 December 2019.








## Buddhist Reactionto Social Challenges



Dr. Nishadani Peiris Lecturer, Uva-Wellassa University

I$t$ is a daunting task for an ordinary individual to face social challenges properly without any trepidation. However, it is not a difficult task for a Buddhist Disciple. Buddha's admonition to us has been that we face, with equanimity, the Eight vicissitudes of life such as gain and loss, fame and disgrace, praise and ridicule, comfort and distress avoiding any perturbation. All social phenomena are subject to this Universal Law. If we are to face these social challenges
with fortitude, it is essential that we comprehend fully their true nature. Let us go back to history.

The city of Savatthi, the capital of the Kingdom of Kosala, can be identified as one of the centres where Buddhism had been firmly established. Buddhism received patronage from all citizens of Savatthi. From the King downwards. Even Buddha's chief Lay Patron, the Millionaire Anatha-Pindika and Chief Lay Patroness, Visakha were residents of Savatthi. Hence Savatthi rose to prominence as the Centre where the Buddha, along with the Community of Sangha, received maximum patronage by way of not only material gifts, the Four monastic Reqisites but also social endowments such as honours, appreciations and commendations. At the same time Buddha received ridicule from mentally polluted $y$ individuals. In these circumstances Savatthi
can be identified as a seat of social challenges.

Buddha has described in full detail how a person could remain unmoved and unperturbed when showered with gifts, endowments, eulogies and commendations in Labha Sakkara Sutta (S.N.). The fact that, out of forty three Suttas included in Labha Sakkara Sanyutta, forty two had been delivered in Savatthi at Jetavana Vihara can be treated as testimony of the profusion of hospitality and gifts Buddha received at Savatthi.

Buddha's act of comparing the profusion of material and non-material gifts, adulations, appreciations, received at Savatthi to the bait of a fisherman resembles how Mara controls such an individual in the same way as an angler tames a fish, or a turtle, that he successfully captures. (Khaliya Sutta and Kumma Sutta). Buddha has compared the individual who conceives an inordinate desire to be showered with endowments, gifts and commendations to a worm who while consuming excreta prides himself claiming that other worms have less quantities of excreta for consumption.

##  <br> 2020- ๑๐อరองช

Vinaya
He has also condemned the individual who is overcome with craving for endowments, and commendations comparing such individual to a bird encountering his ruin being swirled by a cyclonic storm (Metaka Sutta and Yeramba Sutta. S.N.). Buddha has further identified massive benefactions to poisonous thorns that jeopardise attainment of final salvation (Labha Sakkara Sutta. S.N.).

In the Labha Sakkara Sutta Buddha enumerates four individuals in society as measuring standards determining how the four classes of Buddha's Disciples should behave when receiving offerings, treatments, encomiums and eulogies. The four individuals thus identified were the following :-

They are, namely :-
(i) Male Lay Devotees

- Householders Citta and Hatthalavaka
(ii) Female Lay Devotees Khujjuttara, Nanda Mata
(iii) Bhikkhus - Ven. Sariputta and Moggallana
(iv) Bhikkhunis - Khema and Uppalavanna

Buddha admonishes thus in the said Sutta :-
"If a female Lay Devotee desires to habituate her only child to the correct path she should adopt these balanced approaches as guiding principles of life". "Let us shun our cravings for gain, reputation, praise, adulations. Let us not defile our wholesome thoughts."

Accordingly, the Buddhist Devotee should be equanimous in the face of gain, support, laudation and adulation. The Buddhist Devotee should adopt a balanced approach to fates and fortunes. Sundara Sutta gives an example of approach to vicissitudes of life. During the time when Buddha was residing at Jetavana Vihara at Savatthi, heretics who were jealous of the Buddha murdered a female mendicant named Sundari and

Pitaka contains
details of many other instances demonstrating how Buddhist Devotees had faced tormenting situations unperturbed with fortitude. Punnovada Sutta illustrates one such instance.
fursted the accusation on Buddha. They concealed her body in the vicinity of Jetavana Monastery and later exposed it. The citizens who first believed them accused the Buddha and the resident Bhikkhus and abused them.

When Bhikkhus brought this situation to the notice of the Buddha, Buddha advised them to remain unmoved, indicating that the accusations would last only one week. While Biddha remained unmoved the truth about the crime came to light and the citizens absolved the Buddha and Bhikkhus from all accusations.

It is not the Buddhist attitude to submissively recede and deviate in the face of social oppressions but to confromt them squarely and intelligently.

Vinaya Pitaka contains details of many other instances demonstrating how Buddhist Devotees had faced tormenting situations unperturbed with fortitude. Punnovada Sutta illustrates one such instance. When Bhikkhu Punna requested Buddha for a brief admonition embodying the life style to be observed in solitude, Buddha inquired about his destination for such living and Bhikkhu stated it was Sunaparanta. The dialogue that ensued thereafter between the Buddha and Bhikkhu Puuna was as follows :-

Buddha stated - "Punna, inhabitants of Sunaparanta are avicious lots if they were to abuse you in acrimonious language what
would be your reaction?"
"Venerable Sir, if they were to abuse me I would engender a feeling such as this - They are definitely a virtuous community. They don't batter me with hands."
"If they were to batter you with hands?"
"They are certainly a decent lot They don't strike me with missiles"
"If they were to strike you with missiles?"
"They are certainly a decent lot They don't strike me with cudgels"
"If they were to batter you with cudgels?"
"They are certainly a decent lot - They don't injure me with weapons"
"If they were to injure you with weapons and terminate your life"
"Venerable Sir, Arahants who have terminated the continuity of life have no attachments to their lives. There are many such Noble Disciplines who seek early termination of their lives. I have realized such early termination without seeking. They have done to me a service".

Buddha who admits that Bhikkhu Panna who had totally subdued the vitality of organs has the necessary aptitude to sojourn in Sumapareanta gave hum permission to proceed there for the rain retreat.

Ven. Purna succeeds in converting five hundred residents of Sunaparanta as Ardent Devotees and also elevating them as Arahants.

These episodes clearly demonstrate that according to Buddhism, the Buddhist Devotee who faces social challenges equanomously attains a level in society to be salutary to oneself as well as to the society at large.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2019/2020

The Annual General Meeting of the Colombo YMBA for the year 2019/2020 was held on 02nd November 2019 at the Auditorium of the Headquarters of the Association at Borella.

The meeting was declared open by lighting the traditional oil lamp.

The President Deshabandu Thilak de Zoysa stepped down from his office due to medical reasons. The new Office Bearers and members of the Board of Management were elected as follows.

Hony. President
Mr. Maddumage Ariyaratne
Vice Presidents
Mr. Kusumabandu Samarawickrama
Mr. Nalin J. Abeyesekere
Mr. Anura Serasingha
Mr. Daya Weerasekara
Mr. Sunil S. Sirisena

Hony. General Secretary
Mr. Mahendra Jayasekera
Hony. Treasurer
Mr. Prasantha Abeykoon
Eight members elected to the Board of Management

Mr. Lakshan Goonetilleke
Mr. M.S.R.Ariyaratne
Prof. Sampath Ameratunga Major General A.M.U. Seneviratne Mr. D. K. Rajapakse Dr. Thusitha Tennakoon Mr. J.A. Wasaba Jayasekera Mr. Sujeewa Rajapakse

While the Annual Report and the statements of Accounts for the year 2019/2020 were adopted and B.R. de Silva \& Company was elected as Auditors of the Association for the current year.

## RELIGIOUS CEREMONY IN COMMEMORATION OF THE LATE FOUNDER AND LATE PRESIDENTS

The Customary Almsgiving for Bhikkhus held annually in commemoration of the Late Founder, Late Presidents, Office Bearers, Members of the Board of Management and the Office staff who rendered a distinguished service, towards the advancement of the Association was held this year too on 05th January 2020 at the Headquarters Building of the YMBA.

The photograph of former President Deshabandu Thilak de Zoysa's was unveiled at this occasion by Mr. Maddumage Ariyaratne, President of the Association. Governors, Board Members \& members of the staff of the Association participated at this occasion.

An Almsgiving was offered to 25 Bhikkhus from Gangaramaya Temple, Tilakaratnaramaya, Borella who were regularly invited to conduct the normal religious observances conducted at Association premises. The principal religious events were conducted under the guidance and directions of Venerable, Mederipitiya Chandravamsa, an outstanding Dhamma Preacher and Meditation Preceptor and Chief Incumbent of Pattana Viharaya, Rajagiriya, and Venerable Morawaka Shantha Thero, Chief Incumbet of Migadaya Buddhist Center, Pore, Athurugiriya. Venerable Bhikkhus conferred merits on all the late benefactors of the Association who rendered services towards its advancement according to conventional rituals.

## THE "SIYAWASAKA ABHIMANAYA" CONFERENCE OF AFFILIATED YMBAS

The "Siyawasaka Abhimanaya (1919 - 2019)" conference of Affiliated YMBAs was held on 14th December 2019 at the Auditorium of YMBA Head Office at Borella. A gathering comprising 97 officials from 53 Affiliated YMBAs, officials and staff of Colombo YMBA participated at this meeting.

The conference was organized with the initiative of the Branch Secretary, Vice President Mr. Kusumabandu Samarawickrama and the welcome address was delivered by the President Mr. Maddumage Ariyarathne.

The Keynote lecture was delivered by Professor Sampath Amarathunga, Vice Chancellor of Sri Jayawardanapura University. He quoted the "Mahawansaya" and stated that we had a very good Buddhist education system during the ancient time and it was destroyed by "Kalinga Magha" period and now it is the duty of us to rebuild that system again. It was a very interesting lecture and everyone appreciated it.

In furtherance of the practice observed up to the previous year financial grants were made of Rs. $25,000.00$ for one year for the education of one child of an economically disadvantaged family nominated by the affiliated Associations. These financial grants were handed over to the recipients by Mr. Maddumage Ariyaratne, President of the Association.

## THE ANNUAL EXCURSION FOR THE OFFICE STAFF

In keeping with the staff welfare programme of the YMBA, The Board of Management provided all necessary facilities including financial cover for the Annual welfare Excursion for the Office Staff and their family members this year too which took place on 27th, 28th and 29th December 2019. This year's Excursion covered the areas of Sigiriya and the participants had the opportunity of visiting. Sigiriya, Ritigala and Kandy in the course of the tour.

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[^1]
[^0]:    (Translation of a Sinhala article that appeared in "Budu

    Maga" monthly Journal of November 2019). $\leftrightarrow$

[^1]:    "Registered in the Department of posts of Sri Lanka under N0. QD/79/్̧రอో/2020"

