

THE BUDDHIST IDENTITY OF THE PAGODĀS IN BURMA

Ranjani Malawi Pathirana¹

Introduction

Burma is a Buddhist country which is popular in Tēravāda Buddhism. Burmese Buddhism is a combination of indigenous beliefs and customs and Tēravāda Buddhist concepts and practices. Burmese tradition invests the history of Buddhism in their land with and antiquity connecting it with the emperor Ashoka (3rd Cent. B.C.) And many kinds of Art and sculptures in Burma. Archaeological discoveries reveal to us that in Burma ancient architecture dates back to the 5th century A.C or even earlier. Religious architecture in Burma may be roughly divided into two categories, the Stūpa and the Temples. The Stūpas are called 'Pagodās' in Burma. They demonstrate the Buddhist identity of the Buddhist culture in Burma. Of the solid Stūpa, the earliest extant examples are the Bawbawgyi, Payagyi and Payama of the Bupaya of Pagān. When the great development of Burmese architecture commenced as from the 11th century, the Stūpas always took the form of a bell. Sometimes of great size with decorative bands round, and raised on a series of three to five stages or platforms decorated with boldly projecting mouldings with square panels between. The art of decorating the terraces of a pagoda with terracotta plaques, illustrating scenes from the Jātakas, is found to have commenced at an age period of Burma. Swēdagonpagodā is a world famous Stūpa in Burma. Burma is famous as 'Pagodāland' because of lot of Stūpas. This research paper reveals those facts with the Buddhist identity of the Pagodās in Burma.

Objectives and research problem/issue, significance

Many Researchers' attention is not focused on the Buddhist identity of Stūpas in Burma. The main objective of this research is to highlight the

¹ Assistant Lecturer, Department of Pāli And Buddhist Studies, University of Ruhuna. mpranjane@gmail.com



Buddhist identity in the revelation of the facts based on them. Introduce the special characteristics of Pagodās is the other objective of this research.

Methodology

The main focus of this research is heavily based on the literary sources. Mainly, Encyclopaedia of Buddhism provides the source. In addition, the secondary sources are books and articles based on it.

Results and findings

Burma is a Teravāda Buddhist country. It is the identity of the Buddhism in Burma. The Buddhist Stūpas demonstrate it. However this research evidently reveals its Buddhist identity with reference to the history. Also this is a discovery of the special characteristics of the Pagodās in Burma.

Conclusions, implications

Burma is a Teravāda Buddhist country which is famous for Pagodās. It is a Buddhist identity of this country. There are so many Pagodās throughout the Burma. They have special characteristics. These pagodās give an explicit example of the expansion of Buddhist Stūpas in Asia. It is very useful for the development of the Buddhism.

Keywords: Burma, Tēravāda, Buddhism, Pagodās, Identity

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