

THE UTILITY OF BUDDHIST *JĀTAKA* TALES FOR THE INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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The stories which are about the previous births of the Buddha are known as '*Jātaka*'. The terms, 'Bosat Sirita', 'Bodhisatva Caritāpadāna' and '*Jātaka Katā*' also have the same meaning. The origin of *Jātaka* Tales is '*Jātaka Pāli*' which is Buddha's expressions. Sinhalese *Jātaka* tale has been composed during Kurunegala kingdom with the persuasion of the minister Weerasinghe Patiraja and King Paṇḍith Parākramabāhu iv keeping *Pāli Jātaka* Kata as the source.

These *Jātaka* Tales which depict characters of all types and which show virtues of Bōdhisatta in various births are very helpful for the purification of worldly goals and the beyond of a person and for the development of entire society. It is not wrong to appreciate the *Jātaka* Tales as the greatest advisory literature of the world because they show the way that the everlasting realistic principles of Buddhist philosophy are helpful for the development of society with a cause and effect relationship.

The objective of this research paper is to examine the utility of *Jātaka* Tales for institutional development. Institution can be considered from family institution to governing institution. In this way, all the *Jātaka* stories are examples for institutional development. The leader of the institution should be a person who is correct, direct, just, inquisitive, knowledgeable about law and is capable of carrying out the law in an impartial way. Suitable persons should be given suitable posts. *Ummagga Jātaka* Tale has presented all these matters in the right manner with the criticism done by using characters representing various characteristics. *Ummagga Jātaka* Tale which consists of many minor ridiculous stories shows very inquisitive intelligence, social reality, helpfulness and result of being cunning. If the advice given through various

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characters can be carried out in every institution, that is the foundation of institutional development. This *Jātaka* Tale tells us not only working in every matter in the right way doing the justice and helpfulness can lead to the victory, but also cunningness, selfishness and giving suffering to others can lead to the defeat.

When the *Jātaka* Tales, *Nandivīsāla*, *Arāma Dushaka*, *Bilāra*, *Caddanta*, *Mahilamukha*, *Nacca*, *Guna*, *Baka*, *Kukkura*, *Serivaniya*, *Kūtavanija*, *Dharmadvaja*, *Sakuna*, *Apaṇṇka*, *Nalapāna*, *Varinanda*, *Sammodamana*, *Swarnamiga*, *Negrodamiga* are examined, it is possible to prove that *Jātaka* Tales are very useful for a perfect institutional development.

Keywords: *Jātaka* Tales, institutional development, utility, advice, guidelines