

Pre-Buddhist Religious Beliefs in Ceylon

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The religious beliefs that were prevalent among the Sinhalese people before they accepted Buddhism in the third century B.C. have been very little studied.

The materials available for a such study are very scanty. The present paper is mainly a study of the religious foundations of Pandukabhaya (377-307 B.C.), supplemented here and there by epigraphical and other literary evidence wherever such are found throwing light on the subject under discussion. These conditions are, on the whole very similar to the state of religious beliefs prevailing in North India during the life time of the Buddha.

Key Words:

Buddhism, Jainism, Deities, Religious festivals, Divinity, Hinduism,
Phalic Worship

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[බුද්ධදත්ත පොල්වත්තේ (අනු.), 1961, චීන තෙරුන්ගේ ගමන් විස්තර හා

හියුං සියං හුමණ වෘත්තාන්තය, (3 මු.), අම්බලන්ගොඩ.]

රසවාහිනී, (1896), සරණතිස්ස සං., 2 මු., කොළඹ, බු. ව. 2439.

වංසනිප්පකාසිනී නාම මහාවංස ටීකා, බටුචන්ද්‍රඩාවේ හා ඤාණිස්සර

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