

Pali Text Society
JOURNAL
OF THE
PALI TEXT SOCIETY

VOLUME XV

EDITED BY
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Published by
THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY
OXFORD

1990

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ISBN 0-86013-297-8

First published in 1990
Distributed by Lavis Marketing
73 Lime Walk
Oxford OX3 7AD

Printed in Great Britain by Antony Rowe Ltd, Chippenham, Wilts

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NĀMACĀRADĪPAKA

INTRODUCTION

The *Nāmacāradīpaka* (The Action of Mind)¹ was traditionally attributed to the thera Chapaṭa² also later known as *Saddhammajotipāla*³ who lived in Arimaddanapura (Pagan) in Burma. This is one of the nine *Abhidhamma* manuals entitled in Burmese 'Let-than' or 'Little finger summaries'.⁴ In the beginning of Parākramabāhu's reign (1165 A.D.) Thera Uttarājīva left Pagan for Mahāvihāra,⁵ Anurādhapura, taking with him as a gift to the Sinhalese monks a copy of *Saddanīti*, a comprehensive Pali grammar⁶ written by Aggavaṃsa in 1154 A.D. He was accompanied by his pupil, Chapaṭa, a young novice (*sāmaṇera*). After sojourn in Sīhaladīpa, Uttarājīva left the Mahāvihāra for Burma; but Chapaṭa remained there from 1170 to 1180 A.D. learning the *Tipiṭaka* and he received his *Upasampadā* at the hands of the Sīhalasaṅgha. Chapaṭa wished to confer it on his brethren of Pagan and establish a fraternity in Burma. For this purpose he brought with him four theras of great learning and piety. Five is the minimum required number for ordination according to the *Vinaya*. They were Rāhula, born in Sri Lanka; Ānanda, born in Kañcipura; Sīvalī, born in the sea-port of Tāmralipti, India; and Tāmalinda, a Cambodian prince.⁷ The nucleus of the Sīhalasaṅgha was formed during the reign of Narapati-Si-Thu (1174-1211).⁸

Chapaṭa was the reputed author of *Vinayasamuṭṭhānadīpanī*, *Pātimokkavisodhanī*, *Vinayagūḥatthadīpanī*, *Sīmālaṅkarasaṅgahaṭṭikā*, *Mātikatthadīpanī*, *Paṭṭhānagaṇānāyā*, *Abhidhammattha-*

¹Also known in Burma as *Nāmacāradīpa* or *Nāmacāradīpanī*; Forchhammer, Essay, p. 35; *Piṭakatthamain*, Rangoon, 1906, p. 45.

²Sometimes pronounced as Chappaṭa or Chapada, the name of the village where he was born.

³Honorific title given by the king Narapati.

⁴See Introduction of *Abhidhammatthavibhavinī-ṭīkā*, ed. H. Saddhātissa, Pali Text Society, 1989, p. xiii foll.

⁵This was founded by the king of Sīhaladīpa, Devānampiya Tissa, for the Arahant Mahinda, Aśoka's son.

⁶See M. Bode, *Early Pali Grammarians in Burma*, JPTS 1908; *Saddanīti*, ed. Helmer Smith, Lund, 1928-66.

⁷*Sāsanavaṃsa*, ed. M. Bode, PTS, p. 65. See *Pali Literature of Burma*, reprint, London 1966, p. 18.

⁸Professor Hall, *History of South East Asia*, Macmillan, 1964, p. 143.