

Abstract

The objectives of this research were to study the historical background of Catugāma-Rāmateva, belief and the attitude of believers, and to study the effect on the principles of Buddhism. This work is a document research.

The findings revealed that mainstream Buddhism means the conservative Buddhism which tries to preserve the original Dhamma and discipline taught and explained by the lord Buddha. Mainstream Buddhism consists of 4 principles: (1) threefold training, (2) middle path, (3) law of Karma and threefold refuge and (4) faith.

According to Buddhist scholars, there are two views on Catugāma-Rāmateva, the first one regards Catugāma-Rāmateva as the deity of Theravada Buddhism with the duty of protection of the great pagoda of the lord Buddha. The second one regards Catugāma-Rāmateva as deity of Brahmanism and Hinduism which imitates the great deity of both.

Making Catugāma-Rāmateva amulets of Buddhist monks is acceptable in terms of a good intention. On the contrary, exploitation is unacceptable because it is against disciplines and degenerates Buddhism.

The effect on Buddhism, the findings revealed that the practices of believers in Catugāma-Rāmateva go to against the principles of the threefold training because it is a wrong view and contradicts the middle path because the believers plead for help without doing anything themselves. Exploitation of such believers is a wrong livelihood. Waiting for helping from supernatural powers of Catugāma-Rāmateva opposes to the law of Karma, all successes are the result of ones's own actions. Belief in Catugāma-Rāmateva is not based on reason and wisdom, and thus opposes the principle of faith in Buddhism.

The way to solve the problems are that Buddhist monks must preach the right view to the believers and point out how to view the phenomena of Catugāma-Rāmateva, lay Buddhists must study the Buddha's teachings earnestly for the sake of practicing accordingly, and the religious government office needs to support the propagation of the Buddha Dhamma to cultivate proper values and beliefs. The

government must establish an inspection agency to control the making of amulets.
Monks and lay Buddhists must treat the problems in unity for the sake of sustainable happiness.