

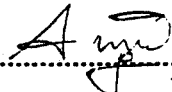
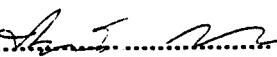
The Therīgāthā is a collection of sayings of the Therīs as incorporated in the Khuddakanikāya of the Suttantapiṭaka of the Pali Tripitaka. The present thesis is the outcome of the study firstly of the writing style and prosody employed in the text, secondly the analysis of the life of these Therīs before and after the admission into the Buddhist Saṅgha, and thirdly the Buddhistic principles which are mostly emphasized by them, and also the causes of the renunciation of these Therīs.

In the study, a careful comparison is made between the Thai edition of the text, the Nalanda Devanāgarī edition and the Pali Text Society edition. Palm leaf manuscripts found in Thailand are also used. It is found that there is minor variation in the numbering of verses. The Pali language employed is standard, except for some grammatical forms. Six prosodiac meters are used, with Pathyāvatta being the commonest. These verses hardly deviate from the rules given in the Vuttodaya text on Prosody. It is believed that in the 5th or 6th century A. D. Dhammapāla wrote the Paramatthadīpanī, a discussion on the lives of the Therīs in the Therīgāthā.

The majority of the Therīs are from the higher castes. It is the faith on the Ratanattaya which exerts strong influence upon them to seek ordination, with the loss of their loved ones coming up as the second cause. The emphasis is placed on the Buddhist teaching of Tilakkhaṇa, namely, life is attended by suffering, life is fleeting and there is no everlasting soul or permanent substratum. Other teachings which are stressed concern the Heedfulness (Appamāda) and the undesirable result of indulgence in Kāma or Longing.

It is suggested that other text from the Khuddhanikāya of the Suttantapiṭaka be studied along the same line and compared with the present text.

ภาควิชา ภาษาตะวันออก
สาขาวิชา บาลี - สันสกฤต
ปีการศึกษา 2533

ลายมือชื่อนิสิต 
ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษา 
ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาร่วม 