

PORNVIPA WATARACHANAKOOL : A STUDY OF THE ROLES OF WOMEN IN THE JATAKA COMMENTARY AND THE JATAKAS COMPOSED IN THAILAND. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO. PROF. PRAKONG NIMMANAHAEMINDA, Ph.D., MR. BUNJOB BUNNARUJI, 148 PP.

This thesis focuses on the study of the roles of women in the Jataka Commentary and the Jatakas composed in Thailand in order to examine the roles of women in each Jataka, how much influence the former has on the latter, and how the roles of women in both kinds of Jatakas contribute to the Buddhist teaching.

According to the study, the roles of women in the Jataka Commentary influence those in the Jatakas composed in Thailand in 5 major roles; as a harmful person, a loving mother, a dutiful wife, an inferior sex and other miscellaneous roles.

The Jatakas composed in Thailand also provide some distinguished roles of women, such as a talented person, a dependable and helpful wife, a beauty queen, an intelligent lady, a honest and true friend of man, an independent person and a sole wife.

Besides, the roles of women in both kinds of Jatakas also contribute to Buddhist teaching concerning the cause of sufferings, the law of cause and effect, the truth of life, principles for making friends, gratitude, love and principles for married life.