

Perapat Sritula 2012: Athithaiphothihaht: A Prophetic Literary Work in the Early Rattanakosin Period. Master of Arts (Thai Literature), Major Field: Thai Literature, Department of Literature. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Sauvanit Vingvorn, Ph.D. 249 pages.

This thesis is a study of Early Rattanakosin apocalyptic literature entitled Athithaiphothihaht, basing on the literature's four versions: the inscription version, the manuscript in gold on black paper version, the manuscript in ink on white paper version, and the printed version in the *Collection of Wat Phrachetuphon's Inscriptions*. The research aims to investigate the content, literary language, and value of Athithaiphothihaht.

The study finds that in content, Athithaiphothihaht describes occurrences in the world which are ordained by the eight Earth Guardians, namely Indra, Agni, Yama, Narayana, Varuna, Vayu, Soma, and Kuvera. These Guardians exert their power to give rise to inauspiciously ominous events, which are related to the origin, role, and duty of each one of them. The literature also provides methods and mantras to relieve the ill effect caused by each occurrence.

Athithaiphothihaht reflects the truth about Thai society in several aspects: the intermingling between Brahman-Hinduism and Buddhism, the presence of animistic and superstitious belief; the firm absolute monarchy ruling system; the agrarian-based economy. Moreover, Athithaiphothihaht reveals Thai wisdom classified into the sanitary and health category in the *Collection of Wat Phrachetuphon's Inscriptions* because the literature includes methods to relieve people's mental distresses and, therefore, leading to physical well-being.

The value of Athithaiphothihaht lies, firstly, in its spectacular, artistic use of language, as proved by the author's word choices; and secondly, in its content which provides people with means to control themselves from frights so that they are able to lead a normal life. Moreover, it is a source for knowledge in the field of astrology and superstition.

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Thesis Advisor's signature