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THEPPORN MUNGTANEE : AN ANALYSIS OF THERAVĀDA BUDDHIST ETHICS IN MAHĀSUPINAJĀTAKA. THESIS ADVISORS : SUBHADR PANYADEEP, Ph.D., SARINTIP SATEERASILAPIN, M.A., PHRAMETEERATANADILOK, PARIENDHAM 9., Ph.D., 177 p. ISBN 974-663-149-7

This thesis is a documentary research and analysis of the interpretation of the Mahāsupinajātaka in the Theravāda Buddhist Ethics. It aims at clarifying ethical phenomena and proposing some applicable means for ethical problems in Thai society.

An analysis found that Mahāsupinajātaka differs from other jataka particularly in the metamorphical interpretation beyond time. It reveals that ethical dilemma involves individual as well as society and the natural environment. The occurrence of the ethical dilemma can be characterised as Paticcasamuppāda (the Dependent Origination) on the basis of Akusala-mūla which is deeply rooted in man's mind.

Analysis of contemporary social contexts leads to the specification of many social problems which were originally brought about by a lack of moral principles. More importantly, the consciousness, in well-planned prevention and preparation, can be expected in ethical problem solving which might arise.

The interpretation of the Mahāsupinajātaka implies that each aspect of ethical problems should be precisely considered in order to determine inter-related connections. As Akusala-mūla are the deteriorious roots of actions, problem solving involves, socially and individually, the fulfilment of ethical principles and duties.

The results of this study indicates that Mahāsupinajātaka interpretively presents ethical problems in contemporary Thai society. Problem solving must be balanced by three dimensions, man's mind and body, man and society, and man and the natural environment.