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PHRAMAHA SAYAM RATCHAWAT : A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE TRAIKIKHĀ
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Ph.D., PHRAMAHA TEAB SIRIYANO, Ph.D., BOON KETUTASSA, M.A. 194 p. ISBN 974-664-709-1

The Visuddhimagga, which is one of the important scriptures of Theravada Buddhism, was composed by Venerable Buddhaghosa, a monk of Mahavihara Monastery in Sri Lanka in 956 B.E.; while the Vimuttimagma, an important scriptures of Mahayana Buddhism, was composed by Venerable Upatissa Thera, a monk of Abhaiyagirivihara Monastery in Sri Lanka in 609 B.E. Both are commentaries, explaining the doctrine in Tipitaka and have been recognized as the best of scriptures in Buddhism.

This thesis is a qualitative research based on documentary study. The main objective was to compare the five aspects of the Traisikkhā (Threefold Training) in Visuddhimagga and Vimuttimagma as follows: (i) the structure (ii) the style (iii) the oratory (iv) the value of Pāli literature and (v) factors influencing in the tradition of Buddhist studies in Thailand.

From the study, it was found that Traisikkhā is the central practical doctrine in Buddhism. It is the process of study and practice in order to develop and upgrade one's way of life according to the highest goal of life.

In comparison, both scriptures are partially similar and partially different. As for similarities, (a) Both were structured in the same order: Sila (good conduct), Samādhi (concentration) and Paññā (wisdom) (b) In style, both prose and verses are used for classifying essence and practical method in groups (c) In oratory, the question and answer method, the analogy method and the reference method have been used.

As for differences, both scriptures are different in the following aspects: (a) the key topics: (b) the style of composition, i.e., Visuddhimagga is written in greater detail, more references from the various scripture and progression according to the seven stages of Visuddhi (purifications) and sixteen stages of Nāṇa (Knowledge), while Vimuttimagma contains shorter details and fewer references.

Both scriptures have been great sources and therefore of great value in many respects, such as Pāli literature, history of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, the method of practice, linguistics and Buddhist education. Furthermore, both scriptures are originally the best guides for the practice of meditation and constitute the curriculum for the Thai Ecclesiastical Study of Pāli grades 8 - 9.