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PHRAMAHANRISMANT PHETNACHAK : AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF
BUDDHIST PRINCIPLES AND THE METHODS OF TEACHING IN KHLONG LOKANITI.

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The objectives of this documentary research is 1) to review the history of Khlong Lokaniti, and to study the moral teachings, 2) to analyse the teachings of Buddhism in Khlong Lokaniti, and 3) to compare the methods of teaching of the Lord Buddha and Khlong Lokaniti.

Khlong Lokaniti was created in Ayutdhayâ period, was re-collected and revised in the King Rama III reign by Krom Somdej Phra Dechadisorn. Khlong Lokaniti was inscribed on the bay of the Ubosot of Wat Phrachetuphonvimonmangkhalararn (Wat Pho). It was first published in 1917.

Upon analysis, the Buddhist principles in Khlong Lokaniti mostly concern the way of living that tends towards achieving the goal of mundane happiness. Some teachings however, concern the path to the supermundane happiness or Nibbâna. In addition, the Buddhist principles are still applicable to lay people, as the Buddhist Dhamma is the timeless truth, and worth experiencing by anyone's own mind.

It is found that 1) giving explanation, 2) telling tales, 3) inferring from the previous experiences, 4) stating the consequence of the action, and 5) using metaphors are similar teaching techniques to those of Lord Buddha's. However, Khlong Lokaniti, unlike the Buddhist teaching, was neatly created with beautiful rhyme, and meaningful and insightful language.