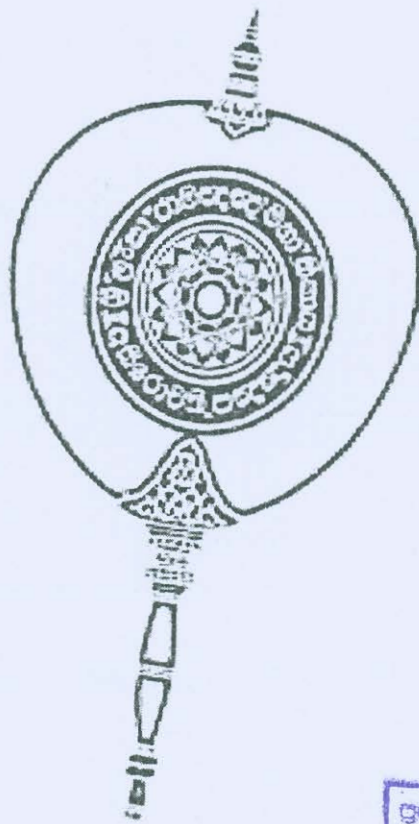


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2015

## Abstract

Sri Lanka Ramanna Maha Nikaya (the Burmese sect) occupies a very significant place in the history of contemporary Buddhism in Sri Lanka. Two factors seem to have influenced the origin of this sect in Sri Lanka. The first, need for the revival of the status of Buddhist monks, which was declining at that time. The second, necessity of a liberal attitude to allow admission to the monkhood, without discrimination on cast, as done in other sects such as Siyam Nikaya. Ven. Ambagahawatte Indasahawaragna thero was able to obtain the ordination for monks from Burma Accordingly a festival of admission to the higher order was held on mouth of the river known as Ging Ganga. The details of this ordination festival is described in the first chapter of this study. The prime aim of Ven. Ambagahawatte Nayake Thero was to establish a community of pious and disciplined monks in the country. The second chapter discusses the spread of the Ramanna Nikaya or sect in the island. The developments and the set backs from 1864 up to the present will also be examined. The characteristic features of the monks of Ramanna sect. Such as the use of gotuatta, use of begging bowl, manner of clouring the robe will be described in this chapter. The third chapter is devoted to examine the administrative structure of the Ramanna Nikaya. Ramanna Nikaya is administered by a special council consisting of four chief monks including the Mahanayake Thero of the sect and there are 44 sanga sabha or monks councils. Accordingly, it can be described as a decentralized administration system. The system of justice and discipline this sect is designed pure to improve and develop the order of the monks. The fourth chapter describes the services rendered to the enhancement of the Ramanna sect by its Nayaka Theros of the parl. The origin of the Ramanna Nika arakaka Sabha (The security council of the Ramanna sect and services redered by it to the development of the Nikaya will be examined in the fifth chapter. The services of all the chairmen of the Nikayarasksaka Sabha from Hon. D.S. Senanayaka up to Hon. Karu Jayasuriya will also be disused. The Ramanna Nikaya which started as a means for the revival of Buddhist Sanga and for providing anybody the opportunity to the monkhood, without discrimination according to the cast, has been able to create a new era among the contemporary Sri Lanka Society.

Key Words :- Ramanna Maha Nikaya, Ambagahawatte Indasahawarana Thero, Gotuatta, Bowl, Sanga Sabha