



# A CRITICAL EDITION OF THE NĪTI NIGHANḌUVA

WITH A HISTORICAL EVALUATION OF  
LEGAL PHILOSOPHY IN ŚRĪ LAṆKĀ

(UPTO THE BRITISH PERIOD)

By

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## ABSTRACT

This study consists of four parts I - IV. In the part I we present the history of the development of legal philosophy in Srī Laṅkā in a nutshell (see Introduction sections 1-10). In section 1 of the Introduction we discuss the origin and the evolution of Sinhala Society and Law. This section consists of 14 subsections. In section 2 the legal position of the king and the Sovereignty is presented. This comprises of subsections 15 - 22. In the section 3 the legal position of the Raj Sabhā- the Council of State is analytically presented. This comprises two subsections. Next, in the fourth section, the subject of the courts and the Judicature is discussed in nine subsections. This is followed by the section 5 which deals with the Local and International

Perspective limited to four subsections. In the following section 6 the concept of Punishment under the Law is discussed in subsections 1 - 6. Next the concept of property and Persons is examined under subsections of section 7. In section 8, the origin and the authorship of the Nīti Nighaṇḍuva is discussed. This is followed by section 9 which deals with the main Legal Concepts found in the Nīti Nighaṇḍuva. Part I ends in section 10, the Conclusion.

Next in Part II the Nīti Nighaṇḍuva is presented. This part consists of sections A and B. Under A we have two subsections (a) the preface to the text by T.B.Panabokke and (b) the Contents also given by T.B.Panabokke. Under section B we have the subsections: I. Obeisance of the original author, II. Introduction

to the text by the original author, and  
III the text of the Nīti Nighaṇḍuva  
critically edited by the present editor.

Part III comprises the Notes on the  
text by the present editor. Here we have  
given critical notes, shown errors and  
suggested improvements. This is to make  
the study of the text easy.

Part IV is a Glossary of the Legal  
terms occurring in the Nīti Nighaṇḍuva.  
These legal terms are presented with their  
English equivalents. This facilitates the  
reader to engage in a comparative study.  
This is followed by the Index to the entire  
study.