Nāmarūpaparicchedo

of

Ven. Anuruddhācariya Thera

A Critical Edition

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In Part Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Philosophy of
The Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies
University of Kelaniya
Sri Lanka
2000
September
Abstract

Namarpuparichchedo is a compendium on Abhidhamma, which consists of 1858 stanzas, and was written by Ven. Anuruddhacariya of Polonnaruwa period for mediators and those who were interested in Abhidhamma studies.

The thirteen chapters of this treatise is sub-divided into two categories. In the first Abhidhammadhikara, the first seven chapters are included while the last six chapters are given in the second part named Bhavanadhikara.

The well-known texts like Abhidharmakosa of Sanskrit traditions and Visuddhimagga of Buddhaghosa, encyclopaedic works of Pali tradition are included can be regarded as most important sources of this compendium.

Using a bigger number of chapters for the explanation of Abhidhamma and the use of different meters in the composition of last verses are among the special characteristics of this text.

Preface given here is a brief introduction to the present text and the introduction comprises of six subtopics. In the first chapter named 'Authorship, Date and contemporary Abhidhamma Literature, facts on the author, time of composition and the nature of the text are discussed. In the second named 'Comparison between Abhidhammatthasangaha and Namarpuparicchedo' the similarities and differences of two texts as compendium are discussed. The third 'Summary of the Content' summaries the contents of thirteen chapters. The fourth chapter 'Style of Language' discusses the linguistic characteristics and the influence of contemporary Sanskrit poetics and prosody on the text.

The fifth chapter named 'Ola-leaf Manuscripts and Editions Consulted' describes basically the nature of different Ola-leaf and printed copies of Sinhalese, Burmese, Thai traditions and the copy obtained from Pali Text Society. The sixth 'Methodology and Sources' explain the methodology used in this edition, which consulted fifteen different copies.

It is inferred here, that texts like this; ancient Sri Lanka would have generated a physically and psychologically healthy population with contentment and concentration of mind, which made them inheritants of a great culture.

Hence this is a book of the nature of a handbook of which the Buddhist philosophy is enclosed and would enable to counsel the present society to discipline the mind and body for a contented living.