

## Religious co-existence of Polonnaruwa period: two incidents of Cholas and Sinhalese

AHMH Abayarathna<sup>1</sup>

co-existence is very important fact in the modern world. in ancient Sri Lanka although there were political conflicts the co-existence of various religious groups was very common. The main object of this research paper is to identify the religious co-existence of Polonnaruwa period (1000-1215 A.C) specially between Sinhalese and Cholas.

The methodology used in this research is the examination of some primary sources belonging to the both ethnicities above mentioned.

In this research I selected two incidence occurred in the period. The first incidence is, the Chola who invaded Sri Lanka in the late decades of 10<sup>th</sup> century A.C gained political power in the Anuradhapura and established Polonnaruwa as their administrative centre. Although they were invaders they had built a Buddhist temple in *Trincomalee* area called Welgam Vehera or Rajaraja Perumpalli.

The other incident is Vijayabahu I who fought against the Cholas and established the Sinhala dynasty, had built Hindu Kovil in *Kanthale*, and he granted lands for it according to primary sources. Another important fact is this king handed over the responsibility to protect the Temple of Tooth Relic to Velikkaras who came from south India and were not Buddhists.

**Key words:** religious co-existence, Cholas, Sinhalese, Vijayabahu I, Ethnicity, Invaders

<sup>1</sup>Department of History, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka