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THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE CHOLA INVASION OF SRI VIJAYA AS AN INVASION TO SOUTHERN SRI LANKA.

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It is believed that the Cholas have invaded Sri Vijaya under the king Rajendra Chola (1013-1044 AD) and this invasion has been regarded as a land mark in both South and Southeast Asian history. The present paper is meant for questioning the very authenticity of this expedition to Sri Vijaya and suggests that it would have been an invasion to Rohanadesa, the Southern Sri Lanka, where Kataragama was the capital.

The understanding of the Tanjavur *Prasasti* of Rajendra as a record of an invasion to Sri Vijaya has not been supported by any other evidence either from India or Southeast Asia, but has been accepted provisionally due to the lack of an alternative hypothesis. The places referred to in the *Prasasti* were identified tentatively and none of them were traced archaeologically. The logic behind such an expedition without fully conquering Sri Lanka can also be questioned. The possible incidents lead to the invasion and the aftermath of it is a mystery. Therefore, some scholars have already expressed their doubt that the so-called invasion actually took place. But none of the scholars, as far as I know, have even considered that southern Sri Lanka would have been the destination of the Chola invasion recorded in the Tanjavur *Prasasti*.

The Sri Lankan sources reveal a Chola invasion to Rohanadesa, even after the Cholas established in Rajaratta, the northern Sri Lanka. The invasion recorded in the Tanjavur *Prasasti*, which has hitherto been understood as an invasion to Sri Vijaya can be equated with this invasion. The city called Kadaram in the inscription can be identified with Kataragama, the capital of Rohanadesa and other places referred to in the inscription as coastal sites of Southern Sri Lanka.