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Some esoteric writing methods of demonological manuscripts

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This paper is concerned with some esoteric writing methods of demonological manuscripts related to the *Anhettuwela Yakaduru* generation and the importance of using esoteric writing methods in demonology. Demonology obtains a notable place throughout the history of rituals and beliefs. Demonology is a component of Ayurvedic medicine. In Sri Lankan culture various traditions of demonology can be seen. Apart from that, there are *yak thovil*, *deva yaga* and special *yaga* associated with protected magic.

The *Anhettuwela Yakaduru* generation is connected to the *Benthara* tradition which is a part of Sri Lankan demonology. This *Yakaduru* generation is mainly engaged with black magic. The present day *Anhettuwela Yakaduru* generation has mostly given up their demonological activities.

Demonology has impenetrable surroundings according to the black magic activities and white magic activities. Mostly demonological activities and knowledge is passed down through the generations. In the past various writing methods were used to protect this demonological data, such as using various languages, symbols, digits and etc. Therefore, these esoteric writing methods can be considered as a part of intangible heritage in Sri Lanka. This study is mainly based on personal communications as well as library survey method. Therefore, manuscripts related to *Anhettuwela Yakaduru* generation have been highly emphasized in this research.

Key words: *Demonology, Esoteric, Anhettuwela Yakadura, Manuscripts*