

Buddhadatta

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhadatta>

Buddhadatta Thera was a 5th-century Theravada Buddhist writer from the town of Uragapura in the Chola kingdom of South India. He wrote many of his works in the Bhūtamangalagāma monastery and his patron was Accutavikkanta of the Kalamba dynasty (Kalambhakulavamsa jāte Accutavikkamanāme Colarājini Colarattham samanūsante). Buddhadatta traveled to Sri Lanka's Mahāvihāra in Anurādhapura to study and translate the commentaries on the Buddha's teachings from Sinhalese to Pali. He is said to have met Buddhagosa at sea while returning to India, his work unfinished. Buddhadatta asked Buddhagosa to send him his translations and commentaries and used them in the writing of his Abhidhammāvātāra. Buddhadatta's other works include the Vinaya-Vinicchaya (“Analysis of the Vinaya”), the Uttara-Vinicchaya, the Rūpārūpa-Vibhāga.

The Abhidhammāvātāra (Pali: “The Coming of the Abhidhamma”) is one of the earliest and most important Abhidhamma manuals. It is a systematized overview of the doctrines in the Abhidhamma Pitaka, written largely in 24 verse

chapters. The Abhidhammattha-sangaha has, in essence, superseded it.

Works

Uttaravinicchaya

Vinayavinicchaya - a Vinaya manual

Abhidhammavatara - an Abhidhamma manual

Ruparupavibhaga

Madhuratthavilasini - a commentary on the Buddhavamsa.

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<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Buddhadatta>

Buddhadatta

Buddhist scholar

compilation of “Abhidhammavatara”

In Abhidhammavatara

...by the poet and scholar Buddhadatta in the region of the Kaveri River, in southern India.

contribution to Buddhist literature

In Buddhism: Early noncanonical texts in Pali

Buddhadatta, a contemporary of Buddhaghosha, was a native of Uragapura, near modern Tiruchchirappalli, in southern India. Like Buddhaghosha, he went to Sri Lanka to study at the Mahavihara in Anuradhapura, and upon his return he wrote his works in a monastery on the banks of...

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<https://www.wisdomlib.org/concept/buddhadatta>

Significance of Buddhadatta

In Theravada tradition, Buddhadatta is identified as an elder noted for his role in translating the teachings of the Buddha into Magadhan. He is recognized for his significant contributions to the spread of Buddhist teachings prior to his encounter with the renowned scholar Buddhaghosa. This context highlights Buddhadatta's influence in the preservation and dissemination of Buddhist texts within the Theravada school.¹

Buddhist concept of 'Buddhadatta'

Buddhism Books

Buddhadatta is interpreted in Buddhism as an influential elder who contributed to translating Buddha's teachings into

Magadhan, playing a significant role prior to his encounter with the prominent scholar Buddhaghosa.

Significance in Theravada (major branch of Buddhism):

Theravada Books

From: Visuddhimagga (the path of purification)

(1) An elder mentioned in the text who was also translating Buddha's teaching into Magadhan before meeting Buddhaghosa.

Theravada is a major branch of Buddhism having the Pali canon (tipitaka) as their canonical literature, which includes the vinaya-pitaka (monastic rules), the sutta-pitaka (Buddhist sermons) and the abhidhamma-pitaka (philosophy and psychology).

Significance in Tibetan Buddhism (Vajrayana or tantric Buddhism):

Tibetan Buddhism includes schools such as Nyingma, Kadampa, Kagyu and Gelug. Their primary canon of literature is divided in two broad categories: The Kangyur, which consists of Buddha's words, and the Tengyur, which includes commentaries from various sources. Esotericism and tantra techniques (vajrayana) are collected independently.

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