

The Declaration of the Candidate

I, Basil Jayapala de Silva, certify that this thesis "Buddhist Critique of Materialistic Way of Life and the Relevance of Mind Culture"

**Buddhist Critique of Materialistic Way of life,
and the Relevance of Mind Culture.**

investigation is entirely my own, as indicated in the main text, in footnotes, and in the appendix. I do hereby assert that this was not submitted to any other University.

This thesis is submitted to the Post Graduate Institute of Pāli and Buddhist Studies, of the University of Kelaniya, in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree, Doctor of Philosophy, by,

Date, 26th May 2007.

Candidate's Signature.

Basil J. de Silva.

The Declaration of the Supervisor

**Prepared under the Supervision of
Professor Tilak Kariyawasam.**

I know that this thesis "Buddhist Critique of Materialistic Way of Life and the Relevance of Mind Culture" by Basil J. de Silva is his own work, and that he has successfully completed it under my

supervision.

Date, 26th May 2007 (after corrections).

Original Submission, 7th July 2006.

Date, 26th May 2007

Supervisor's Signature.

Abstract of the Thesis

From the very beginning the man's primary desire has been the improvement of his conditions of material existence. Thereafter craving for more, and then going ~ all out for further procurement, encountering confrontations. Aggressions, competitions, strife, ending up in wars, and waste. He behaves like this without knowing the undercurrents beneath such behaviour, which are greed, hate, and delusion, wrapped up in *dukkha*. He has not been aware of this, as his mind had been preoccupied with existentialism, materialism, and sensual pleasures.

In order to bring sanity into the individual, it has been shown that these are the workings of one's own mind. And that if 'right views' and 'right understandings' had been upheld, things would have been different. Therefore the need for mind culture has been emphasized.

For purposes of motivation, a glimpse of the historical past, from the inception has been shown, highlighting of the horrors of aggression, Waste, cruelty, *dukkha* and negativity gone through, overweighing the glamour, and the glory. The fates of unbalanced materialism has been indicated.

Considerable research has been done to show the behaviour of the mind in the light of current thinking, reconciling with traditional concepts, endeavoring to remove the misconceptions and difficult areas of comprehension. Thereafter the methodology for culturing the mind to attain the path of emancipation has been outlined, showing how to reach *Nibbāna*. The need to bring back the Arahats who have gone into oblivion has been emphasized.

Endeavor has been made to convince the reasonably intelligent person, that with the proper allocation of one's time having a margin for contemplation and meditation, one should be able to reach *Nibbāna* during the present times, provided one can change the materialistic ways of thinking. It is shown that presently there are even more facilities available for doing so, than in the past.