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ABSTRACTS

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The identity of the person referred to as Ehelepola who was a *Dissave* of Sath Korale in the terminal years of the Kandyan Kingdom.

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Ehelepola was the successor of Megastenne to the post of Second Adigar, after his death which occurred around 1808. He was given Sabaragamuva, one of the two districts held by Megastenne, but the other district, Sath Korale was divided into two and given to be shared between Molligoda and Ehelepola. The portion given to Ehelepola from Sath Korale was known as Devamedda.

The division of Sathkorale into two and appointment of two chiefs over it was an unprecedented and unusual act of the king, Sri Wickrama. This caused dissatisfaction among the people and it was the major reason for the riots at Sath Korale in 1811. The riots were subsequently suppressed by Pilimatalave, the First Adigar by his personal intervention. Thereafter, as Henry Marshal noted (1846), Sath Korale was transferred to Pilimatalave and his nephew Ehelepola. (Pilimatalave was often referred to as the uncle of Ehelepola).

After the execution of Pilimatalave in 1812, Ehelepola succeeded as the First Adigar or the Maha Nilame of the King. The intrigue between the King and Ehelepola and the role played by the two which caused the fall of the Kingdom and its aftermath is well known to students of Sri Lankan history.

Ehelepola in all these occasions has been taken by historians as one person that is the famous Maha Nilame. But this paper will show that there were at least two Ehelepolas in office during the particular period and the person who was appointed to Sath Korale was not the famous Ehelepola, but a namesake who is a brother or a son of a brother of the famous Ehelepola.

Keywords: Ehelepola, Kandyan Kingdom, Sath Korale

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