

## **The Sri Lankan concepts of the Capricorn and the depiction of the capricorn in art work**

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In most of the civilizations of the world, the stories related on the Capricorn are very famous. But the hypothetical being, known as Capricorn, is meaningful only to the acceptable culture. China, the country of origin of the Capricorn or the "Country of the Capricorn" as we recognize, treats the Capricorn as a divine being. From the inception within the Chinese culture the Capricorn became a fanciful being in the religious field. After the introduction of Buddhism to China from India, the Capricorn concept developed within the Buddhist doctrine. Accordingly, it can be said that the Capricorn concept developed in China and India through their mutual friendship. Though the Capricorn concept powerfully influenced culture it has not made great influence in the Sinhala Culture. But as a result of the cultural connections that existed from ancient days, the Capricorn concept influenced Sri Lanka from China through India. Here we have to focus our attention to discuss how the Capricorn concept got involved in the Sinhala Culture.

Arts and Crafts of Sri Lanka take a leading role where the Capricorn is depicted in cultural items. When studying the Sinhala Buddhist Arts and Crafts which were nourished from the association of the Buddhist doctrine we can recognize some imaginary beings in the Sinhala art work from the Anuradhapura period. It can also be seen that the "Capricorn" the figure of the hypothetical being has been used in the Sinhala architecture as a decoration. The figure of the Capricorn can be seen in ancient architecture of Sri Lanka. They are the "Sandakadapahana" Korawakgala, Muragala and the Capricorn Pandal, the 4 architectural creations. In addition there are other items made of Gold, Silver, Brass and other metal like the handles of the Swords, arecanut cutters, padlocks, water pitchers like implements.

Relative to the Sri Lankan animals like the Lion, Elephant, Cobra and other animals the regard for the Capricorn is very low.

Our conclusion is that the artists are anxious to combine in their art work the idea derived from the Capricorn to the Buddhist doctrine in the architecture of Sri Lanka.

**Key words:** Capricorn concept, Hypothetical Being, Architecture, Arts and Crafts, Sri Lanka

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