

## **King Devanampiyathisa had extended reciprocal assistance to King Dharmasoka of India**

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We were taught to believe for thousands of years by our chronicles, that the treasures which appeared when Devanampiyathissa succeeded his father were sent to King Asoka as a gift of gratitude. As there was no evidence to prove Asoka was as powerful as that to receive treasures from Devanampiyathissa as a gift of gratitude, I suggest those must be reciprocal assistance given by Devanampiyathissa to Asoka who needed it badly after the Kalinga war.

Information gathered from Indica suggests that, Lanka flourished in international trade even 49 years before King Asoka's accession to the throne. As an international trader, Devanampiyathissa must be a prosperous and intelligent king.

The Central Objective of this research is to look through the relationship of Asoka and Devanampiyathissa analytically and logically.

The research wishes is to shake off the inferiority mentality of our people and to prove that Devanampiyathissa had sent reciprocal assistance to Asoka.

In return King Asoka send his own regalia, with red colored earth which represent the earth of India, and invited Devanampiyathissa to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> coronation. If Asoka wanted to show off his supremacy, he had to ask Devanampiyathissa to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> coronation using Lanka's own regalia under the supervision of his ambassador.

According to Mahawansa, to be a king in a country one has to use that country's own regalia.

The research methodology used in this paper analyzes the primary sources to understand the real relationship between King Devanampiyathissa and King Asoka.

Though the scholars tried to impose an inferiority mentality in people of Lanka, Devanampiyathissa was the greatest among the kings during that period and he became the symbolic king of India.

**Key words:** Primary sources, Reciprocal assistance, Coronation procedure, Periods of ruler-ship, International trade.

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