

C-09: Some aspects of Buddhist philosophy in relation to prosperity through creativity

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Most people of various religious faiths in Sri Lanka, including a few 'Buddhists' believed that Buddhism had played a very inefficient role as far as prosperity and peace of the nation were concerned.

But the reality was not connected with the genuine Buddhist philosophy. Grave mistakes were somewhere else for such opinion to breed and for the serious lag in social and industrial progress of the country.

Nevertheless, the following facts speak for creativity and talents of the nation with a recorded history of over 2500 years:

- (a) Internationally-known Wesak was the most peaceful, all-loving, darkness-chasing of all the festivals in Sri Lanka. Starting with the full-moon in May, annually, Wesak emerged with high faith, devotion and, especially, creative talent of Buddhists. Numerous types of simple to complex and colourful decorations, small to big

and very attractive lanterns, pandals and many other depictions often connected with curiosities delivered by mechanical, electrical and electronic gadgetry were typical adorns among many other activities of the devotees. These attractions were designed, constructed and commissioned, in general, by anyone : from the smallest school-goers to the aging adult.

Simply, Wesak was a festival of glory, peace and happiness through creativity and innovation, if not through discovery and invention.

- (b) Many traditional festivals and peraheras of various cultures and numerous handicraft are very popular abroad.
- (c) Three very industrious nations Portuguese, Dutch, and British, respectively ruled the country (then Ceylon) from 1505 to 'independence' in 1948. Such ruling and administration left a nation relatively well-informed.
- (d) On a big-scale, students were sent on scholarships to developed countries from late 1950s to about mid-1980s or so, other than large numbers who had gone before and after that at their own expense.
- (e) Ancient places of cultural importance and worship, protected as rarities if not unique, ancient super-irrigation systems and self-sufficiency in agriculture, massive structures of admirable technologies, non-artificial-chemical dependent, agricultural and disease-curing practices of Sri Lanka were internationally acknowledged.

Despite all this reality, the number of genuine innovations and inventions of Sri Lanka, up to the present were surprisingly low in number.