

The Lion Hill

Sithiravelu Karunanandarajah



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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my

Parents:

Kurunathapillai Sithiravelu

And

Mrs. Sithiravelu Kanagapoorani

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book was first read by Mrs. Sheetal Karunanandarajah, my second daughter-in-law. She appreciated it and encouraged me to publish it. I thank for her supportive encouragement.

This book is a historical fiction.

I Thank all who gave historical information through various websites. All the information and relevant pictures were obtained through Google search engine. Thanks for Google.

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Synopsis

This story based on the information obtained from a sub chronicle called “Culavamsam”, of the main chronicle Mahavamsam, which describes the ancient history of Sri Lanka.

During 477 – 493 A.D., a patricide king named Kashyappan ruled Anuradhapaura kingdom in the North Central Region of Sri Lanka. He was the 1st son of a king named Dhattusenan, who built 18 irrigation tanks to develop agriculture in his kingdom. King Kashyappan was not considered for the throne because, his mother was not from Sinhala dynasty but, was the king’s concubine. Moggallanan was the 2nd son who was born to the queen from that dynasty and the King. Thus, he became the heir to the king. This has developed grievance to the prince Kashyappan over his father and he planned to capture the throne through a coup.

King’s daughter married her cousin Migara. He was greedy of wealth and tried to get his mother’s shares from his uncle. Migara’s mother argued with her brother for her shares but, it ended up with hatred between both parties. The king did not give his

sister's shares because he has spent all his wealth on building tanks.

Migara compelled his wife to ask both their shares but, she refused to do so. They both argued and Migara has whipped his wife harshly. The king was angry over this cruel treatment. He thought that his adorable daughter was tormented due to his sister's greediness. Thus, he killed his own sister by burning her alive. With bubbling anger Migara was waiting for a good time to take revenge on the king.

Migara and Kashyappan joint together on a same interest conducted the coup and the king was arrested. The heir of the kingdom Moggallanan with his friend Banthulla and 100 men escaped to Thamil Nadhu and obtained asylum from the king Pandiyan. Kashyappa became the king and Migara was appointed as the Commander in Chief of the Anuradhapura kingdom with a title name Uppa Thisa.

Both conspirators tried to find out the places where the king has hidden his treasures, but failed because the King did not have any treasure with him. Kashyappan was fed up of interrogating his father for treasure hunt. He palmed off the king's fate on the hands of Migara.

Migara, tortured his uncle to get the information about his treasures. The king Dhattusena requested Migara to take him to the bank of the tank he built, named Kalawewa. There he had a bath and took handful of water, and showed the people waiting and told: "This is the treasure I have. I have spent all my wealth to improve the agriculture of my kingdom and to provide enough water to my people and all living things." Migara was disappointed and ordered his soldiers to bury the king alive as naked in a wall and plaster it. Migara put the blame on Kashyappan for the assassination of the King. The king Kashyappan did not worry about his father's death but, was afraid of the local farmers and heir Moggallanan who has escaped to Tamil Nadhu.

To protect himself, Kashyappan lived on a hill with his beautiful concubines. They were more than five hundred. He spent his time with music dances and parties. On a small plateau about halfway up the side of this hill he built a gateway to his top residence, in the form of a big lion. Since then the Hill has been named as Sigirya-The LionHill. In the steep slopes of the hill he bred venomous wasps and bees to attack intruders. Kashyappa ruled the kingdom for about 16 years.

Migara was not happy with the King Kashyappan because of his luxurious life in the Lion Hill. He spent lot of his wealth for his concubines, decorating his palace in the hill, parties, music, dances etc. Thus, Migara was thinking of uniting with his cousin Moggallanan if he would come back to Sri Lanka.

Moggallanan, and Banthulla returned homeland with about two thousand soldiers. Tamil Commanders from Jaffna and Vavuniya kingdoms, local farmers, relatives including his cousin Migara, secretly showed their support to Moggallanan. Migara was in jealous with Moggallanan's best friend Banthulla because he might be appointed as the Commander in Chief if Moggallanan would come to power. Thus, Migara planned craftily to kill Banthulla.

He first secretly supplied some of his soldiers as body guards to Moggallanan and Banthulla and assured them they were trust worthy.

After two years of their return, Lion Hill was brought under siege by Banthulla and Moggallanan. The supplies to Kashyappan was cut off and thus, he came out of his strong hold for a direct confrontation in the land.

Migara led the army of Kashyappan. In the middle of the war he ordered the army to withdraw. In the dilemma under the instruction of Migara, one of the body guards of Banthulla threw a spear in the back of Banthulla. Banthulla died.

Kashyappan was alone, surrounded by the enemies and finally, he cut his throat and died. Moggallanan came to throne and took revenge on the leaders who supported Kashyappan. He killed more than thousands of local leaders. Because of slaughters he did, he was called as Devil King. Migara continued to be an important figure in the Anuradhapua kingdom.



Figure 1: Sigiriya-The Lion Hill.

The Lion Hill

Chapter - 1

The Coup and Escape

An afternoon of the beginning of 477

A.D.

The sun was about to set. An ancient ship was moving towards north coast across the Palk Strait of India and Sri Lanka. From the upper deck of the ship, prince Moggallanan, was gazing the south coast. He was the heir of the Anurathapura kingdom of North Central Region of Sri Lanka, an island looks like a tear drop of India.

‘It is far away I don’t see anything’ the prince said to his friend Banthulla. Banthulla nodded his head and told: ‘not to worry Moggal we have passed the dangerous limits. Hereafter his fellows would not reach us.’

They started their voyage from North western coast of Sri Lanka to Rameswaram a town of Tamil Nadhu in South India. Moggal sighed deeply, thinking of his father and said: ‘I don’t know what that son of a bitch has done to my dad. By this time, he would have killed him. I am not worried about his death, let him die, he is old and has lived enough but...’ he

paused, tears dropped down from his eyes like pearls.

Banthulla was so sorry about his friend. Unable to convince him that nothing would have happened to his father. Banthulla also did not see his father since he joined Moggallanan to escape from the country. But he was sure that he would also be under the custody of Kashyappan. Though he did not know what would have happened to his father, he was comforting his friend Moggallanan.

Kashyappan is the elder brother of Moggallanan born to a different mother and same father King Dhattusenan. With the help of their cousin Migara, Kashyappan has performed a coup and over threw his father from his throne and has arrested him. Luckily, Moggallanan and his friend Banthulla have escaped from the coup and they decided to leave Sri Lanka for their safety. When they left the country with hundred selected people, all others were standing in desperation and were not able to stop them and assure that they could help Moggallanan to defeat Kashyappan. They did not have enough weapons, no trainings, not enough food to withstand if they would fight back. They were thinking about all these negative aspects and kept quiet while Moggallanan and his friends escaped through the sea.

They did not know what the Moggal's plan was and where he was going with his group in that dark night. Moggal disappeared in the dark through jungle with his best friend Banthulla and hundreds of warriors.

Moggall escaped from the grip of Kashyappan while the anarchy was taken place because he was away from his palace with his friends on hunting. He heard the news that his step brother Kashyappan has conducted the coup and arrested his father. With the advice of his friend Banthula and his close circuits, suddenly he has planned to leave the country, leaving his family and friends. There were no any other options for him.

Moggall was worrying about his father and told to Banthula: 'I don't know how he is going to kill my father.' He might torture him asking for wealth and interrogate him severely. Kashyappan would put my dad into severe sufferings. That old man can't tolerate such cruelties.' Moggall was unable to control his tears. Banthula consoled him by comforting words.

During the coup and the arrest Banthulla's father Keerthi was also in the palace. He was the minister and best friend of the King Dhattusenana. Now both are under custody of Kashyappan.

‘Banthu...! Ask that fellow to bring some Toddy’ said Moggall. ‘No Maggull it has finished all our people have wiped out the vat. Nothing available. We will reach the shore very soon... there we can try some toddy.’ Said Banthulla.

In the coast of Sri Lanka and South India, both Palmira and Coconut palm toddy were available in plenty. The people from palace to cottages were enjoying that drink.

Moggall turned into his cabin. ‘How to spend the time until I reach the shore of Tamil Nadhu? Moggall was restless. The voyage was tiresome for him in that chopping see.

‘Hey! Call that girl man.’ Moggall told his attendant. Within a few minutes the one and only girl who was brought by him came to his cabin.

She was pale and weak. Due to the swing of the ship in the chopping see, she had vomited a lot and became very tired. ‘Oh! Are you not well?’ Asked Moggall.

‘Yes lord’ she said.

‘Go away I can’t enjoy with you’ Moggallanan sent that girl away and has gone to sleep.

The door was knocked. Mogall opened the door, Banthulla was there and told 'It has dawned Mogall! we could see the shore well, which has become closer to us.'

Moggall came out and went to the upper deck and found his colleagues were shouting with joy. The shore was in front of him. 'Yes, I have come to the safest place. No one would touch me. I am safe.' Moggall thought. When his people saw him in the upper deck, all were silent and showed their respect over him.

Figure 2: Palk Strait

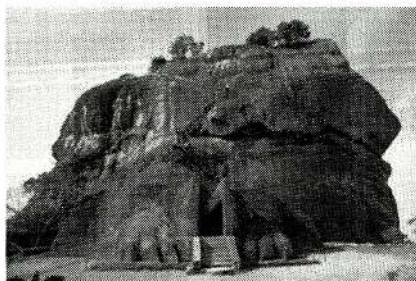


Figure 3. Lion Hill-Way to King's Residence

Chapter - 2

Arrest of the King and the Minister

On the same night, the heir of Anuradhapura kingdom Moggallana vanished into the jungle with his friends, Kashyappan was with his King father Dhattusenan at the fortress of Anuradhapura. Keerthi the minister of Dhattusenan as well as the father of Banthulla was also present at the scene. The room was surrounded by the Kashyappan's army to give tight security to the king Dhattusenan and others.

Kashyappan politely initiated the talk. 'Dear dad! you know... that the kingdom is under my control now. My cousin and your nephew Migara is with me. He is heading my army. Now the problem is to cater my colleagues. I need enough wealth to give them their wages. Currently I am bare handed. I need your support. Please show me where have you kept your treasures?'

The king replied with anger – 'Kashyappah! You are not the heir for the throne of my kingdom. I cannot abide your demands and

commands. Please leave the kingdom, handover it to Moggallanan.

Kashyappan told 'I am sorry father your cowardice heir to Anuradhapura kingdom has vanished. I am unable to bring him in front of you. I understand that he has gone to South India for seeking asylum under the king Pandiya. If you show me where you have hidden all your treasures you could continue to be the king under my reign of Anuradhapura. If otherwise I will bring Moggallanan's head in front of you. You shall keep your crown over his head.'

'You scoundrel rascal! I will teach you a lesson for your cruel mind and ideas. Hey! Guards! Who are there? Come and arrest him.' King Dhattusenan called his guards but, no one turned. Kashyappan laughed at the king and said:

'Dad! now you are only the father, not the king. If you would compromise with me I will give you some guards. Not to worry. Until such, you are under my arrest. Please co-operate with me. My colleagues need to be paid for their support in coup to capture the throne. Some of my warriors have died and their families should be catered respectfully. Please don't make me angry.

You know that I am a very cruel rascal, I don't have many options.

'What options do you have?' The king asked.

'I have nothing other than killing you, your people and Moggallanan.' 'Because you are my father, I tolerate your adamant attitude. It is better if you would listen to my request, if otherwise I have no choice.' Kashyappan told frankly to his father.

The king Dhattusena laughed at Kashyappan 'Ha! Ha! Assassination! If you want to slay me do it. I am not afraid of it but I cannot obey your demands because, I have nothing to declare.

Kashyappan got so angry, became violent over his father and gave a strong slap brutally on his father's face by his right hand. The old king was knocked out and fallen on his friend Keerthi's lap.

'Hey! Kashyappah! What are you doing? He is your father please don't torture him. If you want to hit somebody you hit me or kill me. Leave that innocent old man. Give him due respect. He is the king for all of us.' Minister Keerthi rebuked Kashyappan.

Kashyappan turned towards Keerthi and gave the next blow to him by his hand. 'Shut up. You don't come into this matter. This is between me and my father. I don't want you to teach me morals. Because of my patience and morality, so far I left you both without harming and requested politely about the whereabouts of treasures. If you know any clues you tell me, if otherwise die with your beloved king friend.' Kashyappan roared like a lion.

The vibrating noise of Kashyappan echoed the walls of the fortress of Dhattusenana. In that roaring sound, the fainted king suddenly awoke and was trying to open his eyes. His nephew as well as son-in-law Migara stayed beside him and laughed at both Keerthi and the king.

He stared at the king with hatred and said 'Tit for tat, you killed my mother, she is your own sister as well as your own daughter's mother in law. Where were your morality and love while you kill my mum? How could you expect the same from us? Even, Kashyappan would release you, I won't. Both of your sons have abandoned you and your colleagues. By this time, they would be enjoying the hosting of Pandiya, your former enemy from Tamil Nadhu. How come, your enemies became friends to your sons?

Shameless cowards. Have ran away in exile to get refuge from our invaders, ancestral enemies.'

Both the king Dhattusenan and Keerthi the minister did not say anything. They were thinking what could be done to escape from these rascals.

A long horse whip was brought by a servant of Kashyappan and it was handed over to Migara. He whipped it freely in the air to make noise and threaten both the king and the minister. And he told them, 'now is my turn. I am not like Kashyappan, never speak with my mouth. Only this whip will speak. Immediately tell us the places where you have hidden the treasures.

Dhatusena and Keethi were looking at each other. The king did not have anything to show or tell about their whereabouts. Kashyappan left the room.

Migara whipped both severely and let them stay in a dark room after tying them. Both Migara and Kashyappan went to the lady's area to spend their night with toddy and girls.

No sooner the coup was successfully completed and the King and his closed colleagues were arrested, Kashyappan

immediately appointed his cousin as well as brother in law Migara as the Commander in Chief of his forces. Migara married to the sister of both Moggallanan and Kashyappan. However, Moggallana is the son of the queen and Kashyappan is the son of the king's Tamil concubine. Because Migara married king's daughter, he was expecting a lot of wealth from the king.

When the mother of Migara argued with the king about sharing wealth to his son and daughter in law, the king got annoyed and angry over her. As the result of the consequences, king Dhattusenana killed his own sister. Migara lost his mother and was looking for a better chance to take revenge on the king.

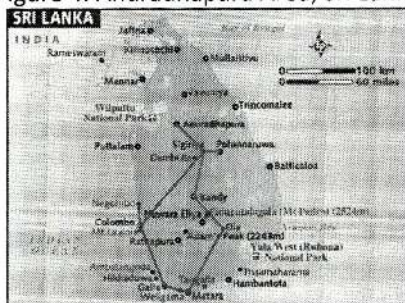
Kashyappan was also worried about his status for the throne. Thus, both parties joined together to capture the kingdom of Anurathapura. Migara's aim was to kill the King and rob the treasures he had and Kashyappan's aim was to capture the kingdom.

On that night both Kashyappan and Migara did not sleep well. Even after the successful coup they were unable to find any treasure from the treasury of the fortress. Throughout the night, they searched each room of the palace but, nothing was found.

‘Your father and minister Keerthi only know about the treasures. There is no point in uselessly wandering through out this fortress.’ Said Migara.

Migara was full of hatred over the king and the minister Keerthi. He did not want to keep them alive even if the treasures would come to his hands. His plan was to kill the king and minister without the permission of Kashyappan. He was with full of despise over the king and his beloved friend Keethi. The reason for his hatred over Keerthi was due to his loyalty over the king. Thus, he was planning a suitable way to assassinate both, as soon as possible. He thought that if things are delayed the internal civil war would be initiated by the king’s, minister’s and Moggallanan’s supporters. As the commander of the army Migara was thinking of how to suppress the insurgents.

Figure 4: Anuradhapura Area, Sri Lanka



Chapter – 3

Asylum in Thamil Nadhu

Moggallana's ship was anchored in the sea, half a mile away from the coast of Rameswaram – a town in the Pandiyan Kingdom. Banthulla ordered their men to gather at the upper deck and said:

'Dear friends. We have come into the territory of Pandiyan Kingdom. Please remove all your weapons except your waist knives, and keep them in the ship.'

With the small tender boats attached to the ship, the men of Moggallanan reached the shore leaving the prince in the ship. Banthulla was the head of the group.

The coast guards of the town have noticed that a ship had been anchored in the sea and informed the message to the local head of the town. 'There is only a ship and a few men without arms are coming from it sir.' Said a coast guard to the local head.'

'Ok, they are not coming to attack us. Such a small group of a tiny ship can do nothing to us. However, we should send a messenger to Madhurai to inform about this to our emperor' said the local head.

The head came to the sea side and was waiting for the tender boards to reach the shore.

Banthulla first got down from the boat and went only with his waist knife. He did not wear any shield or sword. He went towards the local head, bowed and said:

‘Sir we are from Anuradhapuram. Our prince Moggallanan, the son of king Dhattusenan is here with us in the ship. I think that your king would have come to know through his spies that what has happened to our kingdom. Through a coup, the Prince Kashyappan the son of our king to his concubine has over thrown the king’s government and keeping his father the King Dhattusenan and the minister as well as my father Keethi under detention. We are in a desperate situation. Now we have come here to seek help from Pandian Emperor of Madhurai. Please take us to him.’

The local head with the smile and told to Banthulla:

‘Oh! You are welcome! Our king would always be happy to help King Dhattusena because your king was deadly against the presence of our representatives in Sri Lanka. Also, he has killed our last representative

Pythia as well. We Tamils don't keep anything in our mind and don't wreak or avenge, even to our enemies, if they approach us for help. Our great poet Thiruvalluvar has told in our holy book Thirukkural that:

"The punishment to those who have done evil is to put them to shame by showing them kindness in return." Thus, not to worry. Now you are our friends and special guests. Bring your prince to the shore. I will send the boat to bring him.'

Banthulla was very happy about the kind attitude of the local head. Bowed and said thanks to him. A well decorated boat was sent to the ship with Banthulla and some of the guards from both sides to bring Moggallanan to the shore.

Banthulla explained Moggallanan about the hospitality of the local Tamil head and convinced him that there would certainly be help and support from Pandian emperor for our kingdom to be regained.

No sooner Moggallanan stepped at the shore, the local head came towards him and warmly welcomed him with a bow and said:

'The Prince and the future King of Anuradhapura Kingdom is warmly welcomed by the sincere servant of the Pandiyan Empire of Thamir Nadhu.

I have already sent people to inform your arrival to our Emperor. Also, have recommended for a full-scale support and help for you to regain your kingdom.'

The prince Moggallanan and local head hugged together and exchanged greetings to each other. Local head shouted three times as: 'Victory for the King Maoggallanan' and all the others shouted the same.

The local head invited Moggallanan and Banthulla to his palace and to stay there as his guests until the messages come from the Emperor of Pandiyan Kingdom. Moggallanan, his concubine and Banthulla were staying in the palace of local head and all other colleagues were allocated with another guest centre.

Both Moggallanan and Banthulla were worrying about their fathers throughout their stay at Rameswaram. They were thinking about their future but did not know what was going to happen to them. They were under the compassion of local head and the Emperor of Pandiyan kingdom. How far and how long they would help them? Not quite

sure. They both were discussing about their plans of collecting trained armies for the fight but, nothing was available in their hands. They needed to collect enough people, train them and arm them with suitable weapons.

‘Currently, we have only hundred loyal men who could sacrifice their lives for the course of recovering our kingdom.’ Said Banthulla.

‘Kashyappan is with more than ten thousand trained and fully armed strong men. They are loyal to him. My cousin as well as brother in law Migara is their commander. Many of them are related to each other through their ancestral family links.’ Said Moggallanan.

‘Not to worry Moggall, they are related to us as well. No sooner we step on to our land with at least two thousand strong and fully armed men, more than half of the Kashyappan’s people would turn to support us. I am quite sure about this. But, we should not start the fight no sooner we have landed. Must wait in the jungle and slowly spread our arrival to our supportive village heads. All Tamil Vanniyas would come to help us, I have no doubt. We can even get their assurance by sending our messengers, by now itself. The king from Jaffna kingdom would also help us by giving some armies.’ Banthulla encouraged Moggallanan.

Moggallannan sighed. He was found to be a bit of relieved and told: 'I am very sure that Tamils in the north would help me.'

He immediately jumped out of his easy chair and continued:

'Bandhu we must not delay. Immediately we should meet our host and request him for a few messengers to send Jaffna and Vavuniya, to get help from them. As you said, they would help us. Emperor Pandiya would also give us some strong men from here. That would be more than enough to combat that son of a bitch.' With severe hatred, he scolded his brother Kashyappan.

Figure 5: Tamil Nadhu



Figure 6: Pandyan Kingdom



Figure 7-Thiruvalluvar-Preacher of
Tamil's Religion -Tamilism
Through Thirukkual vetham

Chapter – 4

Family Dispute for Wealth

In the fortress of Anuradhapura, Kashyappan and Migara were having deliberation with the VIPs. The VIPs were secret enemies to Dhattusenana because of his extravagance - on their view, which affected their income from the monarchy. Thus, all were supporting the coup and appreciated it. Finally, they all have palmed off the fate of King to Kashyappan and Migara.

Dhattusenana built eighteen irrigation tanks to develop agriculture in his kingdom. Some of them were interconnected through canals to save the water and to prevent from wasting through spill ways. In addition, he had spent his wealth on building a thirteen-metre-high

Buddha statue which was carved out of a large granite rock. His treasury had become empty and he was unable to provide enough subsidies to the men of his court.

This has created an unpleasant hatred about the king Dhattusenan among many of his VIPs and they were hesitating to openly discuss about this matter because some of the people - including mother of Migara, argued about this with the king and as a result they were beheaded or killed in various ways.

By making use of this situation against the king, Kashyappan and Migara planned and executed a successful coup, and brought the kingdom under their control. They kept both Keerthi the Minister and the king under detention. Now their problem is how to get the treasures of the king to serve and satisfy their men who helped them in their mission. Migara was continuously agitating Kashyappan to confiscate the treasures from the king. He has created a belief in Kashyappan's mind that the king has lots of wealth in his possession.

Kashyappan asked: 'Migara do you really believe that my father has lots of treasures.'

'Why not?' Migara replied, and continued: 'My mother told me that he has lots of

jewelleries but, most of them are belonging to her.

They were given to her by my grandpa and grandma. However, he has taken all our jewelleries, gems, other gold and silver utensils under his possession. When my mother asked them, he has refused to hand over them to us. My wife also did not take enough interest on this matter. She was thinking that his father would give all those treasures to her. She argued with me. How could she justify her father would give my mother's assets to her? He should get her part separately from her father.'

'Is that the reason you whipped my sister? Is that the reason my father got angry over your mother with a belief that she was behind that cruelty?' Kashyappan asked straight to the face of his cousin as well as brother in law Migara.

Migara was silent and nodded his head. The silence continued for a few seconds. And he said: 'Your father has killed my mother in very cruel way. I cannot forget or forgive that. Tit for tat', he gnashed his teeth.

Kashyappan did not want to continue that embarrassing situation. Although the king is his father and the uncle as well as father in law to Migara, he was the common enemy for

both of them. Thus, no need to recollect the useless past, Kashyappan thought.

‘Alright Migara I leave the fate of my father as well as your uncle in your hands. Try to find out the places of his treasures, he has hidden. I do not want to interfere in this matter because his blood is in you, your wife, your deceased mother, Moggallanan and me. Now, the people closer to us are not worried about his life. Most of them are happy about it but....’ Kasyappan paused a bit.

‘But! What?’ asked Migara.

Kashyappan continued: ‘The farming community of rural areas and their heads would not accept the assassination of my father because they are the people who benefitted out of his irrigation schemes. There are about two hundred villages do paddy cultivation with the help of the tanks he built. They have loyalty and gratitude over him.

If they come to know that how their king was treated and killed, there would be uproar with rebellious local war. Could you suppress these atrocities?’

‘Yes of course.’ Said Migara with a strong confidence.

'All right, it is the time for me to have rest and enjoy. I am going to the girl's. Do you join me?' Asked Kashyappan.

Migara told: 'No'. Because he wanted to go to his palace and try to find out his wife's views on the arrest of her father.

Migara's Wife did not say anything about her father's detention. She has come to know that all his wealth had drained out on his irrigation development schemes and she and her husband were deceived. However, she did not know that her husband has an idea to kill her father as a revenge.

She justified her husband's angry over her father as it was reasonable. His mother was killed by the king. The king did not consider that she was his own sister. Although there were some family disputes Migara's wife did not expect that the scale of this quarrel would have escalated to this level. Only after the sudden death of her mother in law, she realised that there are lots of mistakes and cruelties in the attitude of the king Dhattusenan. Even though, the king loved his daughter very much, he was unable to give the shares of her from the treasure he had. She, and her husband and his mother as well as king's sister were totally deceived in this

regard. In addition, Migara's mother was killed in a cruel way by burning her alive.

Migara whipped his wife in a family quarrel but, she has forgiven him because she later felt that, there were some mistakes in her as well.

When Migara arrived at the palace, as usual, she invited her husband calmly and provided food and satisfied all his needs. She only enquired about both of her brothers. She was little worried about one of her older brothers Moggallanan because no one knows about his whereabouts. Her eldest brother Kashyappan was very fond of her and she also loved him very much. Even during the family dispute between her and her husband he angrily came to their palace and argued with Migara for her sister.

Even though Migara was his best friend, Kashyappan did not appreciate the act of Migara towards his sister. Migara was warned by Kashyappan at that time. But, Moggallanan, did not even come to see her. He never wanted to interfere into the family affairs and did not utter even a single word of condolence to her husband's mother's death. She is his own aunt but still he failed to tell anything bad about his king father on the killing of his aunt. He was more selfish in supporting his father because he was the heir

to the throne and wanted to maintain an unbreakable bond with the king.

Migara was happy about his wife's attitude towards the arrest and detention of her father. He was expecting that she would grumble over the arrest of the king but, she has kept quiet.

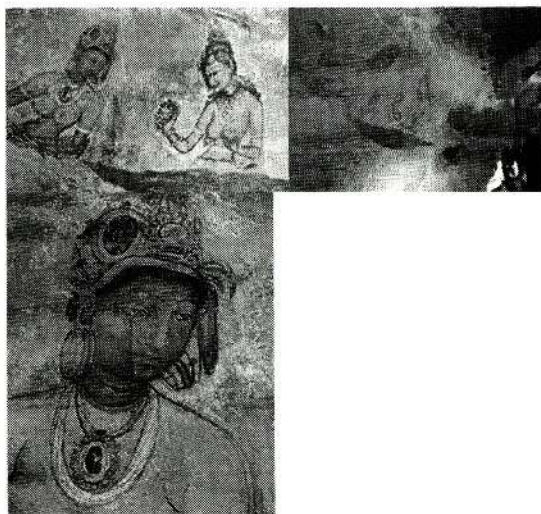


Figure 8:
Portraits of King Kashyappa's Concubines

Chapter -5

Assassination of the King

King Dhattusenan was tired and sleeping in the prison room of Anuradhapura fortress while Migara came to see him. When the door was opened he suddenly awoke and gazed at Migara. With a cruel laugh Migara told the King that:

‘Your son Kashyappan, the king of Anuradhapura kingdom has palmed off your fate in my hands uncle. I have no any options than finishing your story. Before you die, please tell me where have you kept my mum’s jewellerys and other treasures. If otherwise, you will suffer a lot before you die. Uncle! Your daughter - my wife, is also requesting her share of your wealth. At least give her part, please.’

King Dhattusenan was unable to tell anything because he has spent all his assets on agricultural development schemes. He had nothing in his hands. He said to Migara: ‘Migara! Please take me to Avukkana Budha statue near Kalawewa reservoir, there I can show you the places where my treasures have been kept.’

Migara got delighted. On that night, he arranged a horse cart and took king Dhattusenan to the spot where he had built a very tall statue of Buddha which is facing the Kalawewa reservoir.

King Dhattusenan got down from the cart at the bank of the reservoir and had a bath in the cold water, turned towards the statue of Lord Buddha and praised the three gems of Buddhism:

‘Buddham Saranang Gacchami
Dhammam Saranang Gacchami
Sangham Saranang Gacchami’.

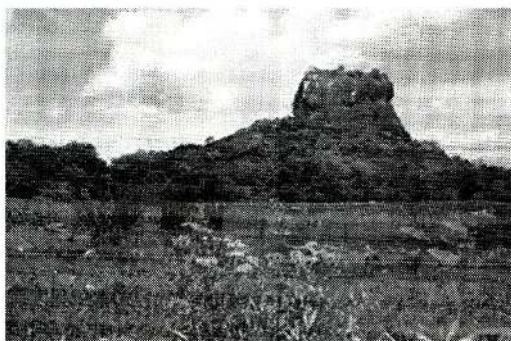
Then he took hands full of water, showed them to greedy Migara and his fellow men who came to assassinate him, and said:

‘Dear fellows this is my wealth. See the water I have saved for irrigation and all living things including you, to drink. I have no any other assets than these water resources in my Kingdom. The Lord Buddha is there to teach you dharma.’ King Dhattusenan stretched his right hand in the direction of the statue of Buddha of Avukkana and came out from the reservoir. His assassination was already determined but, no one knew that, how he was going to be murdered. Even Migara did not plan it.

Finally, because the king failed to show his assets as they expected, Migara wanted to kill the king by burying alive in Kalawewa dam. Migara told the king while he was giving his final order to his men:

‘You cruelly killed my mother by burning her alive, dumped my and my wife’s treasurers in vain in these dams. Thus, I dump you alive in this dam you built.’ The king was buried alive. “In the history, still this incident is found to be a misery and mystery. Some people were believing that Migara made the king naked and vertically kept him alive in a wall which had been built and covered with bricks and lime.”

Figure 9: Sigiriya – Distant view



Chapter -6

Safest Resort Sigiriya

The Lion Hill

Kashyappan was informed about the assassination of his father but, he did not worry much about this cruel act of his cousin friend Migara. Migara was a commander under Dhattusenana but, Kashyappan has already appointed him as the Commander in Chief of the Anuradhapura Kingdom with the title name of 'Upa Thisa'.

Though Kashyappan and Migara conducted their coup courageously, their minds were always thinking of their safety and about the dangers they might face. The king Kashyappan said to Migara – Upa Thisa:

'Thisa! It is not very safety to stay in this fortress. We should find a safest place to protect us from Moggallanan who has escaped to Tamil Nadhu. Any time he might come with a strong army to attack us.'

Migara accepted it and told:

'Yes, it is better to build a new citadel for you to live peacefully without any fear. There are enough lands in our kingdom but, I don't

think that the plains are suitable for our purposes. Best idea is, build a fortress in a high altitude where enemies cannot easily reach. I could recommend a hill near Dhambulla which has many flat plateaus. I have kept some of our prisoners including minister Keethi on top of the hill. Because of tight security and high altitude, they can't escape from there.' Kashyappan was happy about this plan and he immediately shifted his residence with his girls on a temporary arrangement to live over there. Kashyappan had to leave the fortress of Anuradhpura because of the fear of farmers who were benefitting through the irrigation systems built by the deceased king Dhattusenan. The new king wanted to keep his whereabouts very secret. The blame for the assassination of the king Dhattusenan was sarcastically put on the new king Kashyappan, by the Uppa Thisa -Migara

Although Kashyappan was heading for the coup and the arrest of Dhattusenan, the cruel way of that murder was not designed by himself. He made a mistake that he has palmed off the responsibilities to Migara to handle the king. The people loyal to the king in the rural areas of Anuradhapura kingdom have come to know that the way their beloved king was killed. This has created disgrace to the new King. People started to

search the body of the king to give him due respect and cremate him but, unfortunately, no one could find out the exact location of the place where the king was buried alive.

Because of the intensive search by the people for the old king's body, insurgency started throughout the Kingdom of Anuradhapura. This brought serious concern for the new king about his safety. As the result, he has shifted his shelter to the top of the hill they have selected.

The king Kashyappan was very interested in arts with the sense of beauty. He always had music and dancing events in his palace. He built a palace on the top of the rock he was hiding and decorated its sides with colourful frescoes. On a small plateau about halfway up the side of this hill he built a gateway to his top residence, in the form of an enormous lion. Since then that hill was named as Sigiriya – The Lion Hill.

Kashyappan had more than five hundred beautiful concubines. Many of them were from Tamil community. He ordered his artists to draw their portraits in the walls of his palace. The portraits of those girls were with their true cultural looks such as Kumkum – red spot in their fore heads and flowers in their heads.

Many of the drawings were destroyed or damaged after the expedition. Weathering was also a reason for that damages.

The citadel Sigiriya was built very gradually. The new king's foremost idea was to establish strong protection through naturally found defending facilities in the hill. He started to breed venomous bees and wasps in the vertical escarpment of the hill to attack the enemies whenever they intrude. Due to this dangerous defence system, no one could be able to attack the fortress Sigiriya. The combs of the bees and wasps are still found with their living colonies in the steep slopes of the Sigiriya hill.

King Kashyappan ruled Anuradhapura kingdom for about sixteen years. During his reign, he was living with fear due to the hatred of the people over him, because he was a parricide. However, he managed his government for a good length of period. During this period, Keerthi – the minister of Dhattusenan, kept under imprisonment has also died in the prison.



Figure10: Bhudha Statue - the Village of Avukkana Srilanka. Carved under the order of King Dhattusenan.

Chapter - 7

Dispute among Betrayers

Although there was an enormous support given to Moggallanan in Thamil Nadhu, he was unable to start his expedition for about 16 years. Pandyan emperor kept Moggallanan and his men as the guests.

They were given luxurious shelters and due respects. However, immediate support was not given to Moggallanan because Pandian was also facing problems caused by his enemies. Moggallanan was in India for more than fourteen years. During this period, it seems, he visited Orissa as well, to find military help.

In the beginning of the year of 493 A.D., Prince Moggallanan and his Two thousand trained armies headed by Banthulla, started their voyage from Rameswaram towards Puttalam – Kalpitty, the coastal area of the North-Western province of Sri Lanka. They landed in a dark night and diffused slowly into the Jungle to settle in their camps which were already established for them. Some people from Jaffna Kingdom and Vanniyas of Vavuniya guided them for their first mission of establishing secured settlements in the jungles. Local leaders of the farming community were also present on their arrival

and arranged to provide the food for the army.

The spies and leaders from Jaffna and Vavuniya came to meet them and assured that they would provide trained and armed soldiers, for the fight to defeat Kashyappan and to capture Anuradhapuram. But, all said that the war shouldn't be started in a hurry because, Kashyappan was very strong.

Prince Moggallanan and his commander Banthulla slowly diffused the news that they were going to attack Kashyappan very soon. Little by little the farming community, who were praising their former king Dhattusenana, for his agricultural development activities, started to meet prince Moggallanan and his commanders secretly. They all agreed to give their full support to the prince.

Moggallanan requested the farmers to stop giving taxes to Kashyappan. Cut of tax, in the form off paddy, vegetables, fruits and other commodities, brought Kashyappa and his officers into great difficulties. The king was unable to pay enough subsidies for his higher-ranking officers, who were in the administration of the kingdom. Local unrest slowly started and lifted to an internal war. Sporadic fights erupted then and there between Kashyappan's army and

Moggallanan's supporters. However, the fights were not escalated to a full-scale war. Banthulla was very careful in controlling the situation until a suitable time come in favour of them.

While Moggallanan was preparing his army to combat with Kashyappan. Migara, the Commander in chief of Anuradhapura kingdom has secretly inclined towards Moggallanan and obliged to support him. Migara was greedy of wealth and unable to get much from the king Kashyappan, to satisfy his greediness. Kashyappan was spending his wealth on decorations of his citadel hideout Sigiria, the girls, dance and music parties etc. Grievance developed to Migara over Kashyappan due to his extravagance but, was unable to tell anything against him. Thus, he has shown green signal to his cousin as well as brother in law Moggallanan that his support would be given in an appropriate time. Moggallanan was believing that his father was killed by Kashyappan but, not by Migara.

Once Kashyappan has come to know about Moggallanan's arrival into the kingdom, he called Migara and told:

'Migara! The situation is not in favour of us, please start to prepare for a war with

Moggallanan. Collect our soldiers, give proper training and arm them.'

'We don't have enough resources to cater the soldiers, the farmers don't pay their taxes.' Migara replied.

Kashyappan was very upset and worried about the carelessness of Migara in this critical condition. Kashyappan had a suspicion that Migara would sometimes betray him and act in favour of Mogallanan, Because Moggallanan is also the cousin of Migara. Thus, the king Kashyappan was watching Migara very carefully but, could not do anything because he was the Commander in Chief and had full control of the army of Kashyappan. In addition, Kashyappan was living in Sigiriya - the Lion Hill without much of contact with the people in land. He was fully dependent on Migara's support. Thus, the control of land including territorial defence and all other administrations were looked after by Mihara while king Kashyappan was enjoying his life with more than five hundred girls in his citadel Sigiriya- The Lion Hill.

Suddenly, the provisions to Lion Hill were cut short, Kashyappan called Migara and argued with him about the shortages in the supply. The argument brought bitterness in between

the King and the Commander in Chief with harsh exchanges of words.

Migara told the king that: 'I have been catering you with supplies for your irresponsible luxurious life in this top of the hill. Servants are reluctant to carry heavy items in the slopes, they get easily exhausted and complaining me that they are unable to climb the hill. How could I continue to do this? Can your tender girls do this difficult job? Why don't you limit the number of your concubines? You are greedy of ladies...'

Kashyappan got angry. He did not want Migara criticising him for his lust on ladies. And said: 'Stop your nonsense. You are not here to criticise me. If you cannot serve me with supplies, palm off your duties to others who are capable enough to do this. Please get away from here and if you like, go and surrender to your cousin Moggallanan.'

Both were hurt. Migara left the Lion Hill with grievance over Kashyappan. Kashyappan was very frustrated and sat on his seat silently for a long time.

In a night with twinkling stars and a shining half-moon, Moggallanan and Banthulla heard noises of the hooves of some horses near their camp. They were expecting it. Both

came out and saw five people were there in the horses surrounded by their guards who were holding fire torches. Moggallanan had identified his cousin as well as brother in law Migara.

‘Hi Migara! You are welcome. We were expecting you. After fifteen years, we meet each other. How is my sister? How are my nephews and nieces?’

Moggallanan showed his concern about his kith and kin for the first time. He never worried about them in the previous past. Migara laughed within himself about Moggallanan’s dramatic affectation of affection, showed towards his family.

For a moment, he was thinking of his true friend Kashyappan and thought ‘he was always true to me and purely loved my wife and children, but what could I do? The situation is not very conducive to me and him. I have no option than taking a middle-path. Wherever the situation is favourable I should give my support accordingly.’ He has decided.

A brief discussion was made about the current situation and Migara assured Moggallanan that he would give his support when there is an urgent need. Until such, he said that he would be with Kashyappan

because, then only he could secure his post of Commander in Chief of the Anuradhapura Kingdom. Indirectly, Migara told Moggallanan that after Kashyappan is defeated, he should be appointed to the same position. Moggallanan was thinking to appoint his beloved friend Banthulla as the Commander in Chief of the Anuradhapura Kingdom. Now his cousin Migara has come and stretched his hands to support him. He was unable to get a final decision in this regard. Banthulla noted his embracing situation and kept quiet. After the meeting, Migara vanished with his men.

Migara was envious over Banthulla, because he felt that Banthulla might be appointed by Moggallanan as the Commander in Chief. Somehow, he should prevent Banthulla from taking such position. That would be dangerous for him because he tortured his father Keethi as well in parallel with the king, while interrogating them to find out the hidden places for treasures. If Banthulla come to know about this, as a Commander in Chief, he would take revenge on him. Thus, Migara planned to kill Banthulla during the battle and minister Keerthi in the prison to close their chapters. He first killed the minister Keerthi- Banthulla's father and was thinking a plan to kill Banthulla.

Migara planned craftily to kill Banthulla. He offered some selected men to Moggallanan to help him during the war. Sent a message to Moggallanan that they were very trust worthy and even could be used as the personal guards for both Banthulla and Moggallanan. Moggallanan has accepted them and appointed as their guards and the messengers in between them and Migara.

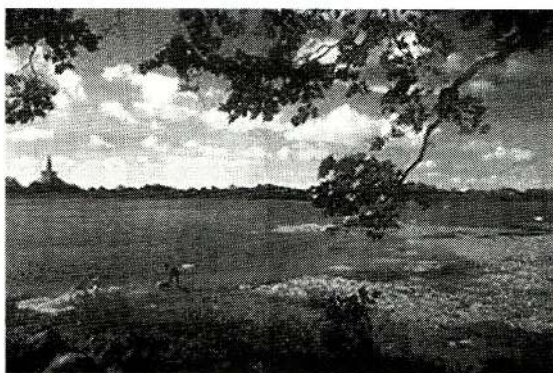


Figure 11: Kalawewa Tank built by King
Dhattusenana

War and the fall of Parricide King

The day has come for the war. It was not very easy to enter the territory of Kashyappan and fight with him because there were wasps and venomous bees surrounded his dwelling Sigiriya- The Lion hill. If the wasps are disturbed, they would start attacking the army of Moggallanan. Thus, the army of Moggallanan surrounded the Lion hill for more than a month to block the supplies which were going to Kashyappan and his people living in the hill. Migara was also not very keen to send supplies to the king. As the results of food shortage due to the betrayal of Migara, Kashyappan had to come down for a direct war with Moggallanan and his armies.

King Kashyappan was leading his army on his Elephant and confronted the Moggallanan and his soldiers. The fight was very severe with blood shed.

Moggallanan and Banthulla were well prepared to fight because they were well

trained by the Tamils of South India. Whereas Kashyappa came into power through a coup with the help of Migara.

Kashyappan's skills in fight or war did not come through any intensive trainings or his personal experiences. In the middle of the war, Kashyappan thought that his strategy should be changed by attacking the enemies from another side. Thus, he ordered his elephant rider to turn the elephant towards another side. The Army of Kashyappa was excited due to this act and thought that their king was trying to retreat. The situation became quandary and the Commander Migara made use of this dilemma and ordered his armies to withdraw from the war. During this time, as already planned, many of the armies of Migara mingled with Moggallanan's forces to attack Kashyappan and his strong supporters.

That was the appropriate time for one of Migara's men appointed as the guard to Banthulla. He threw his spear to Banthulla from behind. Banthulla turned and noted him. He immediately got down from his horse with the stabbed spear in his back and the sword in his hand, cut his head with a full blow and fallen. Moggallanan was fighting with enemies a bit away from Banthulla, noted that Banthulla had fallen upside down.

He came quick to the spot and removed the stabbed spear from his back and kept him in his lap with his bleeding back and told with tears:

‘Banthulla my beloved friend you are brave. You sacrificed your life for me. You should not die falling upside down.’

A few drops of his tears fallen on Banthulla’s face. He opened his eyes, smiled at his friend Moggallanan. He was happy to die on his friend’s lap. Banthulla was very thirsty. He tasted his friends tear drops and told:

‘Mogall! Victory is for you. Kashyappan and his army are retreating. Don’t delay leave me and chase them. Capture him. Please save my father if possible.’ Banthulla’s head collapsed and he died. Moggallanan was speechless for a moment. He ordered his soldiers to remove the body of Banthulla from the Battle ground to their camp. He rode his horse behind the elephant of Kashyappan.

Moggallanan did not know who has killed Banthulla because many soldiers from opposite side have mingled with his army when Kashyappan was retreating. Thus, he thought one of them would have thrown his spear to Banthulla. It was already accepted, in the middle of the battle, Migara’s army will

turn against Kashyappa to help Moggallanan. Thus, Moggallanan was always thankful to his cousin Migara for the help he rendered during the war.

Kashyappa was left alone and the enemies have surrounded him. He was unable to resist them alone. He determined: 'I will not die in the hands of my enemies.' Thus, he decided to kill himself. He took his waist knife, cut his throat and died.

The Prince Moggallanan became the king of Anuradhapura kingdom. Whenever Moggallanan came to know that any powerful person or group in his kingdom had been attached to Kashyappan, who killed his father, he was angry and gnashed his teeth as a devil and immediately severed their heads. He killed more than thousands of high officials no sooner he has come to power. Due to his anarchy, he was named as Rakksha - Devil King (Rakksha means "devil in Pali) but, he has lost his best friend Banthula in the war and unable to save his father Keethi – the minister and friend of Dhattusenana. Buddhist monks preached Lord Buddha's teachings to cool him down, after he had killed many of his immediate enemies. Finally, he had calmed down.

A Chariot driver who was in favour of King Dhatusenana gave a letter of Dhatusenana written to Moggallana. He shed tears and gave a gate keeper post to the chariot driver. Moggallana ruled the Anuradhapura kingdom for about eighteen years.

He had abandoned Sigiriya -The Lion Hill, the hide out of Kashyapana.

The Lion Hill is still remaining and reminding the parricide king Kashyapana's history by exposing its antiquarian ruins and the beautiful portraits of his concubines

- End -



Figure 12: Sigiriya-Bee Combs and Entrance to the King's Citadel

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The following are the resources from which information were obtained to write this story. All of them are found in the Google search engine.

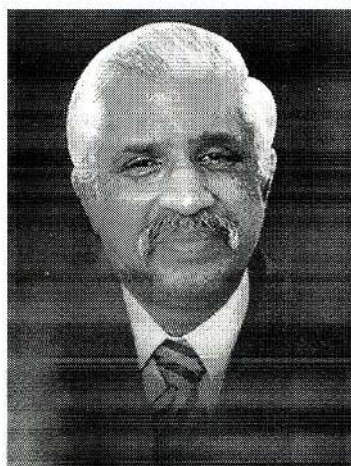
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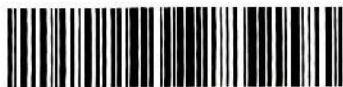
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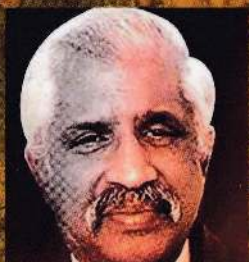


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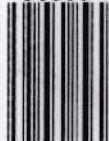
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