The Tooth Relic of the Buddha

THE WORLD'S MOST SACRED RELIC

BY NISHANTHA CHAMINDA PEIRIS

It is very rare to find any surviving body parts of any religious teacher in the world. The physical relics of Gautama Buddha, who originated in ancient Dambadiva or Bhatath, India, are venerated in sacred monuments in many parts of the world after his great Parinirvana. The largest number of relics remain in Sri Lanka. Many historical sites were created in this country, including the sixteen great sacred places which the Buddha's feet touched. But the tooth relic of the Buddha, the crown jewel of the people of this country, is considered by all Buddhists in the world to be the living Buddha. Today, the left tooth relic, which resides in the Sri Dalada Maligawa in Kandy, is the supreme sacred object of this country and the greatest symbol of Statehood.

The Tooth Relic is a very important sacred object. Throughout the history of the Tooth Relic, we hear about its great miracles. There is no other sacred object that has been so completely and properly ritualised. Three Theva rituals are performed throughout the day, and this is the only historical site in the world where all rituals from the time of the kings to this day are performed in this manner.

The Tooth Relic was brought to Sri Lanka during the reign of the famous King Sri Meghavarna in the fourth century AD. King Sri Meghavarna (301-322 AD) was the son of King Mahasena. Princess Hemamala and Prince Dantha arrived in Sri Lanka from Kalinga after a very difficult journey. They carefully hid the Tooth Relic in Princess Hemamala's hair and disguised themselves as a Brahmin couple, to protect the Tooth Relic.

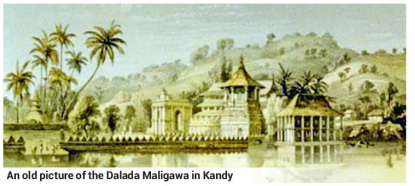
Information about the relic of the Tooth Relic is mentioned in many sources such as the Mahavamsa, Datavamsa, Poojavaliya, Dhathuvamsa, Dalada Siritha, Dalada Poojavaliya and the Rajavaliya. The Datavamsa in particular provides more detail on this.

Kalinga was located in a large area of India, including present-day Orissa. It was specifically known as part of a larger region known as Andhra Pradesh. Some sources have also pointed to such a connection, as it was a region where Mahayana Buddhism was prevalent at the time and King Mahasen of Sri Lanka was also a king who held Mahayana views.

At that time, news spread throughout India that King Guhasiva, the ruler of Danthapura in Kalinga, was worshipping the Tooth Relic and making his kingdom prosperous. However, a son-in-law of King Khiradhara of Pataliputra, who was determined to obtain the Tooth Relic, invaded Danthapura. He wanted to profit from the miracles of the Tooth Relic for his country. It is clear that he did so out of jealousy and hatred. When Guhasivaraja was about to be defeated in that battle, he ordered his daughter and Prince Dantha to immediately leave for Sri Lanka to protect the Tooth Relic. Accordingly, the two departed from the Thamaralipti port in India and arrived in Sri Lanka through a small port called Lanka Patuna in the eastern part of the country.



Dambadaniya



An old picture of the Dalada Maligawa in Kandy



Tooth Relic

Upon arriving in Anuradhapura, Hemamala and Prince Dantha met a monk at the ancient Meghagiri Temple and explained their intentions. At that time, Meghagiri Viharaya was the present-day Isuru Muni Viharaya. As indicated by the monks of Meghagiri Viharaya, Sirimevan handed over the Tooth Relic to the King and informed the king of all the news. King Kithsiri, overjoyed by this miraculous event, enshrined the Tooth Relic in the Dhammacakka Mandir near his palace and performed all the rituals. Accordingly, special offerings had been made to the Tooth Relic and an annual procession of the Tooth Relic was held from the Dhammachakka Mandir to the Abhayagiri Viharaya. This is evident from the fact that a Chinese monk named Pahiyan, who came to Sri Lanka in the fifth century, recounted in his account a procession and exhibition of the Tooth Relic that he witnessed with his own eyes. The travelogue of the Chinese monk Hiuen San, who visited India in the seventh century AD, also contains information about a Dalada Maligawa ceremony held in Sri Lanka. This implies that the Dalada Pooja festival, Dalada Perahera and Dalada Pradharsa were held with great pomp in Anuradhapura during the fifth and seventh centuries AD. This also confirms that information about those offerings had spread to other foreign countries.

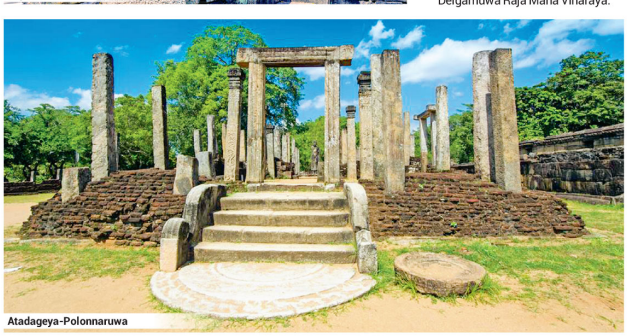
The ruins of an ancient Temple of the Tooth Relic near Thuparamaya in Anuradhapura and a temple of relics at Abhayagiri can still be seen. The original Temple of the Tooth Relic during the Polonnaruwa period was the Atadageya, built by King Vijayabahu I. The later built Hatadageya, the Temple of the Tooth, was used by Kings Parakramabahu the Great and Nissakamalla. Due to the South Indian invasions in the late Polonnaruwa period, the Tooth Relic was safely buried underground in the Kotmale area. In the thirteenth century, King Vijayabahu III built a temple on the Beligala mountain in Kegalle and enshrined the Tooth Relic there. He was the founding ruler of the Dambadeniya Kingdom. His son, Prince Parakramabahu II, built a two-storey temple at the Vijayasundararamaya Temple in Dambadeniya and held many ceremonies to worship the Tooth Relic.

King Buwanekabahu I, who founded the Yapahuwa Kingdom in the thirteenth century, had a precious tooth relic carved on the Yapahuwa mountain and enshrined it there. However, during the anarchy that followed him, the Pandyas from South India came to this country, invaded it, and took it back to the Pandyan land. Later, it is noteworthy that Prince Parakramabahu III brought the Tooth Relic back to this country from the Pandya region. King Buwanekabahu II of the Kurunegala Kingdom built a temple in Kurunegala to protect the Tooth Relic. King Buwanekabahu IV, a king of Gampola, protected the Tooth Relic at the Niyamgampaya Temple.

In the 14th century, King Buwanekabahu V brought the Tooth Relic to the Kingdom of Kotte. Meanwhile, during the Portuguese invasion of the Kingdom of Kotte, the Tooth Relic was hidden in a kurahan gala at the Delgamuwa Raja Maha Viharaya.



Yapahuwa



Atadageya-Polonnaruwa



Dalada maligawa

In 1592 AD, King Wimaladharmasuriya I founded the Kandy Kingdom. When the Dalada Thera arrived in Kandy from Delgamuwa, he built a beautiful Temple of the Tooth in Kandy. What we see today is the same Temple of the Tooth, which was later renovated by other kings.

Westerners like the Portuguese, Dutch, English, and even the LTTE organisation in recent times have tried to destroy the Tooth Relic. They even attacked the Temple of the Tooth Relic. But the Tooth Relic remains intact to this day. There are still many people in this world who do not understand the profound teachings of Buddhism. The light of the Tooth Relic is now an urgent need for hearts that do not understand the meaning of life.

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TEAM NATION Sri Lanka Cricket

VACANCY

PHYSIOTHERAPIST – NATIONAL SQUADS IN THE HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTRE

The Physiotherapist will be responsible for the overall management and development of physiotherapy, injury management, and medical support across the Sri Lanka Cricket Player Pathway. This role involves delivering high-level physiotherapy services and injury management to support the Sri Lanka Cricket National Teams.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Key Responsibilities

- Oversee the injury management of all players involved with Sri Lanka Cricket Men's National Teams
- Coordinate all required medical and other relevant referrals in regards to the injury management of the players
- Work in conjunction with the Men's National Trainer and High Performance Centre Physical Performance Manager to implement appropriate injury reduction (including musculoskeletal screening) and load management strategies, recovery protocols and individualized gym, conditioning and rehabilitation programs
- Maintain regular communication with management, selectors, coaches, players, and support staff regarding the injury status of players involved with the Sri Lanka Cricket National Teams

Secondary Responsibilities

- Maintain high standards of record-keeping, including physiotherapy notes, rehabilitation programs, and objective data
- Order and manage relevant supplies as required by the Physiotherapy and Medical Department
- Foster positive relationships with support staff, coaches, players, and administrators across the Sri Lanka Cricket Player Pathway
- Set a positive example by fulfilling and complying with all obligations assigned to Men's National Team players by Sri Lanka Cricket

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

- Demonstrated ability to make sound decisions using a combination of analysis, experience, judgment, and wisdom; capable of integrating diverse perspectives to arrive at balanced, well-supported conclusions
- Practices open and honest communication to build trust; communicates clearly and effectively while fostering innovation and encouraging new ideas, plans, and strategies
- Proven ability to handle stress, manage multiple tasks simultaneously, and adapt flexibly to changing work demands
- Strong organizational and planning skills; excellent communication, information gathering and management skills; keen attention to detail and the ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Undergraduate qualification in physiotherapy. Masters in sports physiotherapy is preferred.
- Relevant professional registration to practice physiotherapy (SLMC, HCPC, AHPRA)
- A minimum of 2 years providing sports physiotherapy and sports rehabilitation services in an elite sporting environment, ideally in cricket
- Understanding and experience of the unique demands associated with elite cricket
- Self-motivated with the ability to work independently or as part of a team
- Exceptional planning, coordination and organizational skills
- High level of interpersonal, written and verbal communication and influencing skills
- Good general IT skills
- Strong disciplinary skills
- Driver's License

General Information

This position will often involve working over weekends, holidays and occasionally into late evenings. The job will also involve travel domestically and internationally. The person taking on this role needs to be aware of this and be able to meet these demands.

An attractive and negotiable remuneration package, along with additional fringe benefits and excellent career development opportunities, awaits the selected candidate.

All applications should be forwarded to **vacancies@srilankacricket.lk** along with the names of two non-related referees who are not employed by Sri Lanka Cricket, within 7 days from the date of this advertisement.

**Please mention the post applied for on the subject line of the email*
**Please ensure all employment criteria is met prior to applying*
**Canvassing in any form will be a definite disqualification*

Human Resources Dept. Sri Lanka Cricket,
No. 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 7