

Late 19th Century Jātaka Murals at the Buddhist Monastery in Batuvantudava, Sri Lanka

With this essay I would like to draw attention to the murals (19th century CE) of an image house situated at the Buddhist monastery of Batuvantudava in Sri Lanka. This temple encloses two shrines for Buddhist gods and a sanctum occupied by a seated Buddha sculpture. The inner walls of the image house depict seven stories (Jātaka) from the previous lives of Buddha Gautama. The presentation of these murals together with an explanation according to the Sinhalese sources are the main focus of this article.

Keywords: Sri Lanka; Jātaka murals; Culladhammapāla-Jātaka; Devadhamma-Jātaka; Dhammasoṇḍa-Jātaka; Khadiraṅgāra-Jātaka; Khantivādī-Jātaka; Sambulā-Jātaka; Sattubhastha-Jātaka.