

Sanskrit *abhidharma* literature of the Mahāvihāravāsins

abstract

The thirteenth century Sinhalese *sanne* to the *Visuddhimagga* (Vism-sn) contains around sixty six Sanskrit citations. A few of these can be identified as from general Indian sources, from the grammatical literature or from the literature of non-Theravādin forms of Buddhism. The bulk of the remainder are specific to the Theriya *abhidha(r)mma* tradition. In this paper I argue that from the evidence preserved in Vism-sn we can show that at least one major figure of the Mahāvihāravāsin tradition, the seventh century Jotipāla, wrote in Sanskrit as well as Pali. Some of the preserved citations are definitely from his work, while others may be. Still others could equally be taken from his work or that of others, some of whom may have been followers of the competing Abhayagirivāsin and Jetavana schools. This evidence preserves for us a window on a time in the later part of the first millennium A.D. when the Theriya school was actively competing in a wider South Asian milieu.