

Dissertation Title: A Study of Female Characters in the Jātaka Stories: A Critical Approach

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Abstract

The aim of this research paper is to highlight the roles of women in Buddhism and to defend feminine power as a constructive force in the Buddha's path to Enlightenment. The researcher has focused on interpretative plasticity and compares the interpretation of recurrent themes against various shifting contexts. The study focuses on historical depictions of women in the Jātaka Stories, where images have been categorized as negative, neutral and positive. Moreover, the construction of feminine power has also been categorized into three groups, namely, destructive, neutral and constructive. Such a presentation is extremely rare in modern academic institutions for the fact that a Buddhist scholar native to the forerunning Theravada nation of Burma has attempted on a most difficult topic with contemporary women's rights assertions, recounting and drawing allegories of the past with the present.