

A Study of Dharmasena Thero's Philosophical Approaches in Saddharmarathnāvaliya to Elevating the Vibrational Perception of Saṃsāra among Ordinary People

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The objective of this research is to examine the philosophical approaches that Dharmasena Thero has used in *Saddharmarathnāvaliya*, aiming to elevate the vibrational perception of *Saṃsāra* among ordinary people. Utilizing the qualitative research method, this study explores how Dharmasena Thero utilizes narrative and metaphorical expressions to cultivate spiritual awareness and moral understanding. *Saddharmarathnāvaliya*, composed in the 13th century, embodies and applies the fundamental doctrines of Early Buddhism, drawing upon the stories and teachings found in the *Aṭṭhakathā* and related commentarial texts. The concept of “vibrational perception of *Saṃsāra*” refers to a heightened state of spiritual awareness in which individuals intuitively perceive the continuous energetic and moral flux sustaining the cycle of existence. During Dharmasena Thero's era, ordinary people had a limited comprehension of *Saṃsāra*. Therefore, he employed simple stories and familiar metaphors to communicate complex Buddhist teachings effectively. *Saṃsāra*, one of the core doctrines in Buddhism, can be analyzed through metaphysical and epistemological perspectives. According to Buddhism, all beings transmigrate through *Saṃsāra*, bound by impermanence (*Anicca*) and suffering (*Dukkha*), until attaining *Nibbāna*. Dharmasena Thero has used various philosophical approaches to explain the nature of *Saṃsāra* to ordinary people. It can be explained through selected stories in the *Saddharmarathnāvaliya*. This study identifies multiple clusters of philosophical dimensions in selected stories in *Saddharmarathnāvaliya*, including the *Mattakundali* story (moral philosophy and existentialism), the *Patachārā* story (epistemology), the *Kisāgotamī* story (logic), and the *Cullapantaka* Thera story (metaphysics). These narratives reveal how Dharmasena Thero cultivated reflective listening, moral insight, and awareness of *Saṃsāra* as pathways to *Nibbāna*. Furthermore, the story of *Cakkhupāla* Thera demonstrates the inevitability of *karmic* consequences, even for *arahants*. Through showing the reality of life and the nature of *Saṃsāra*, a vibrational perception of *Saṃsāra* has been created among ordinary people. Conclusion, Dharmasena Thero's philosophical vision sought to elevate spiritual consciousness and foster a morally sophisticated society through a deeper *Vibrational* perception of *Saṃsāra*.

Keywords: *Buddhism, Dharmasena Thero, Philosophy, Saddharmarathnāvaliya, Perception of Saṃsāra*