

# **The Foundation of Theravada Buddhism in South East Asia in Reference to Ceylon**

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Buddhism arose in India in about 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. and soon began to play a vital role in Indian history. The populace of Buddhism to other countries outside India with personal endeavours can be dated from 3<sup>rd</sup> century on wards and India played a vital role in disseminating the message of Buddha in neighbouring lands. Buddhism underwent dynamic changes in India, the Mahayana replacing the hinyana as major school of Buddhism from about 1<sup>st</sup> C. A.D. Around time 3<sup>rd</sup> C.A.D Ceylon where the Buddhism had enthusiastic reception comprehensive sway and rapid expansion, become the main center of orthodox Buddhism Hinyana Buddhism had flourished from India to South East Asia as well and these countries began to look to Ceylon for religious inspiration. The 11<sup>th</sup> century become a very significance period in history of Theravada Buddhism. The common bond and meticulous observation of Thervada Buddhism brought Buddhism in South East Asia, Ceylon playing a leading role in exchange of ideas between them and ethical discipline.