Handagala-kanda is symbolic of the country’s rich Buddhist cultural heritage

Ancient cave temple

Handagala-kanda ancient cave temple

Handagala-kanda is a cave temple located in the southern part of the country. It is situated in the Anuradhapura district and is known for its rich Buddhist inscriptions. The temple was built in the 1st century BC and is one of the oldest cave temples in the country.

Disruptions and destructions

The temple was severely damaged during the civil wars in the country, and its infrastructure was destroyed. The temple was restored and rebuilt during the reign of King Walagamba, and it was further fortified during the reign of King Devanampiya Tissa.

Donations

Donations were made to the temple by a number of kings and queens, and these donations were recorded on the cave walls. These inscriptions provide valuable information about the history and culture of the country.

Due to ravages caused by foreign invasions and passage of time, what remains today is only a small portion of the original temple. However, it remains an important cultural and historical site for the country.

The temple is also an important pilgrimage site for Buddhists, and it is visited by thousands of pilgrims every year.

References:

The temple is mentioned in the Pali Canon, which is a sacred text of the Theravada Buddhist tradition. It is also mentioned in the Mahavamsa, a historical chronicle of ancient Sri Lanka.

The temple is also mentioned in the Agga Vivara, a collection of ancient Buddhist tales and stories.

The temple is also mentioned in the Chu Chi, a Chinese Buddhist text that describes the journey of a Chinese Buddhist monk to Sri Lanka.

The temple is also mentioned in the Jatakas, a collection of Buddhist tales that are used to teach moral lessons to children.

The temple is also mentioned in the Pali Abhidhamma, a philosophical text that is used to explain the deeper meanings of Buddhist teachings.

The temple is also mentioned in the Dhammapada, a collection of Buddhist teachings that are used to guide the ethical and moral conduct of a Buddhist.