

**25. Letter from Ven. W. Subhuti at Waskaduwa Vihara to W. C. Peppé in Birdpore, dated 7 October 1898**

*Has received parcel containing 21 relics, which he will open only in the presence of 'a large Buddhist community' to avoid suspicions over the genuineness of the relics. Thanks Peppé for his kindness and expresses gratitude on behalf of all the Buddhist in Ceylon. Has informed the King of Siam of Peppé's intention to take the relics himself to Siam to present them to the King at the suggestion of the Prince Priest. The latter is still in Buddha Gaya and he intends to write to him to return to Ceylon: 'As he being a Royal Prince, sometimes naturally gets excited for which I hope you will kindly excuse him'. Asks Peppé to answer his earlier questions.*

Waskaduwa  
Kalutara  
Ceylon  
October 7 1898

Dear Sir,

I am glad to inform you that I have received the parcel contains 21 relics and the letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> ultimo which were sent to me for the kindness and regard you have on me, the former I received several days after the receipt of the latter, but the parcel was not registered as mentioned in the letter, I did not open it still, because my object is to do it in the presence of a large Buddhist community. Simply to avoid the suspicion, if any, of the genuineness of the relics and to realize their faith on them (relics).

Although your letter says "I will send the answers to your questions today (16<sup>th</sup> ultimo)" yet I did not get them up to this day, however I thank you most heartily for your kind & most valuable present, and have to inform you that I will never forget in my life your kindness and generosity and am always ready and willing to comply with your requests whatever I could, and not only I even all the Buddhists in Ceylon should have the gratitudes on you for the meritorious act you have done to us.

I inform the King of Siam that your intention was to take those bone relics to Siam by yourself to deliver them to the King upon the suggestion of the Prince Priest and in meanwhile they were taken charge of the Govt of India & deposited them in the Museum there and ordered to be sent to the King of Siam.

The Prince Priest Jinawarawansa is still in Buddha Gaya and I believe he is going on corresponding with you on the relics matter, so I am now intending to write to him to return to Ceylon. As he being a Royal Prince, sometimes naturally gets excited for which I hope you will kindly excuse him. He wrote to me that he has presented to you two albums of stamps which were with me and lately despatched to him.

I wish you will kindly favour me with your answers to my questions, a copy of the report now being prepared and each of those portraits [sic] of different parts of the treasures you have been discovered, if you have any.

I remain, Dear Sir,  
Yours sincerely  
W. Subhuti  
High Priest