

# How Ruvanyæli Dāgaba got its Name

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*Retold by*

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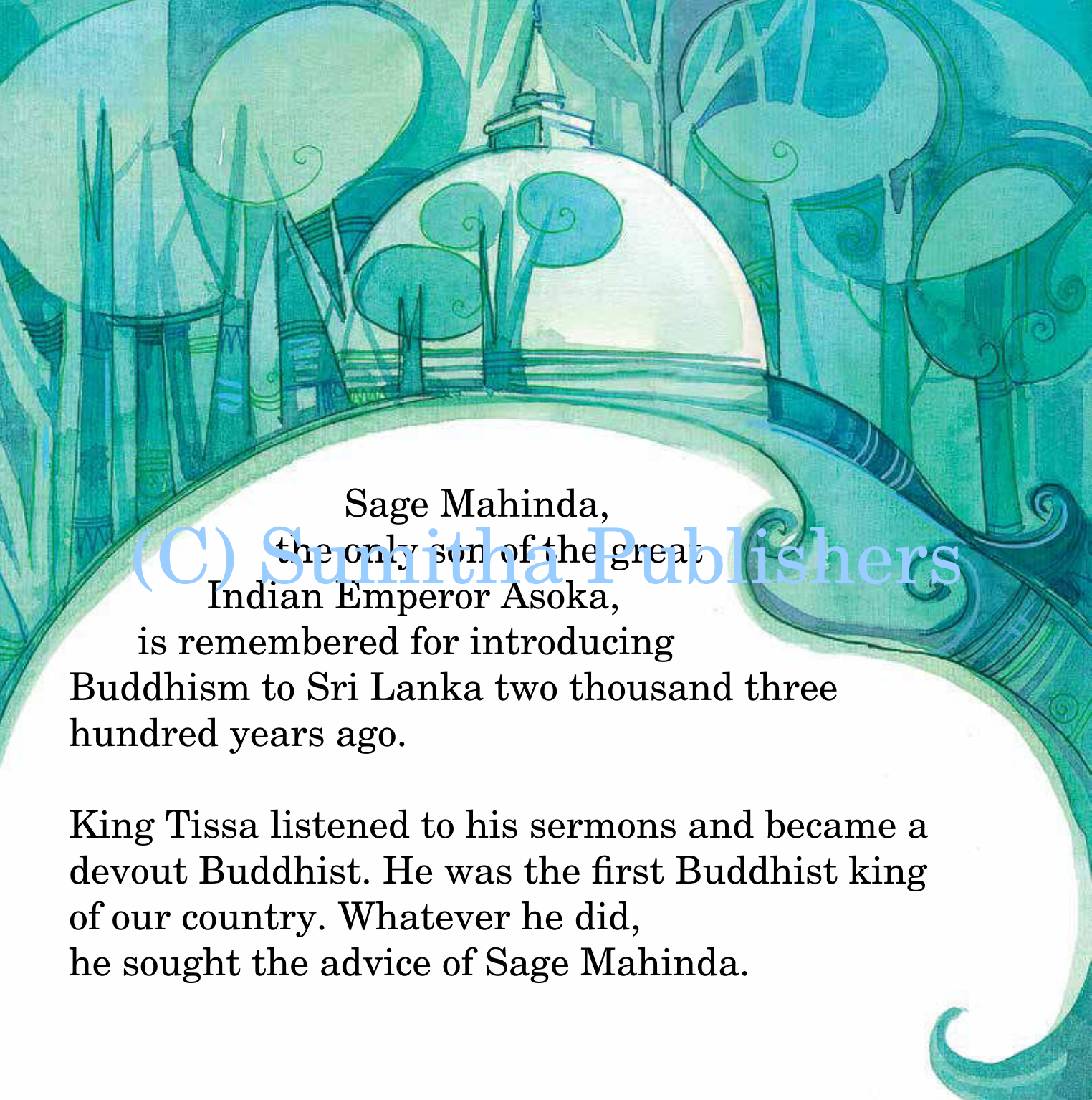
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Sage Mahinda,  
the only son of the great  
Indian Emperor Asoka,  
is remembered for introducing  
Buddhism to Sri Lanka two thousand three  
hundred years ago.

King Tissa listened to his sermons and became a devout Buddhist. He was the first Buddhist king of our country. Whatever he did, he sought the advice of Sage Mahinda.



One morning, Sage Mahinda came to the city of Anurādhapura.

King Tissa welcomed him by offering him *sapu* flowers and invited him to visit his royal park, *Mahā Mēgha Vana* – the park of the great rain clouds.

There was a lake by the name of *Kukudha* there.

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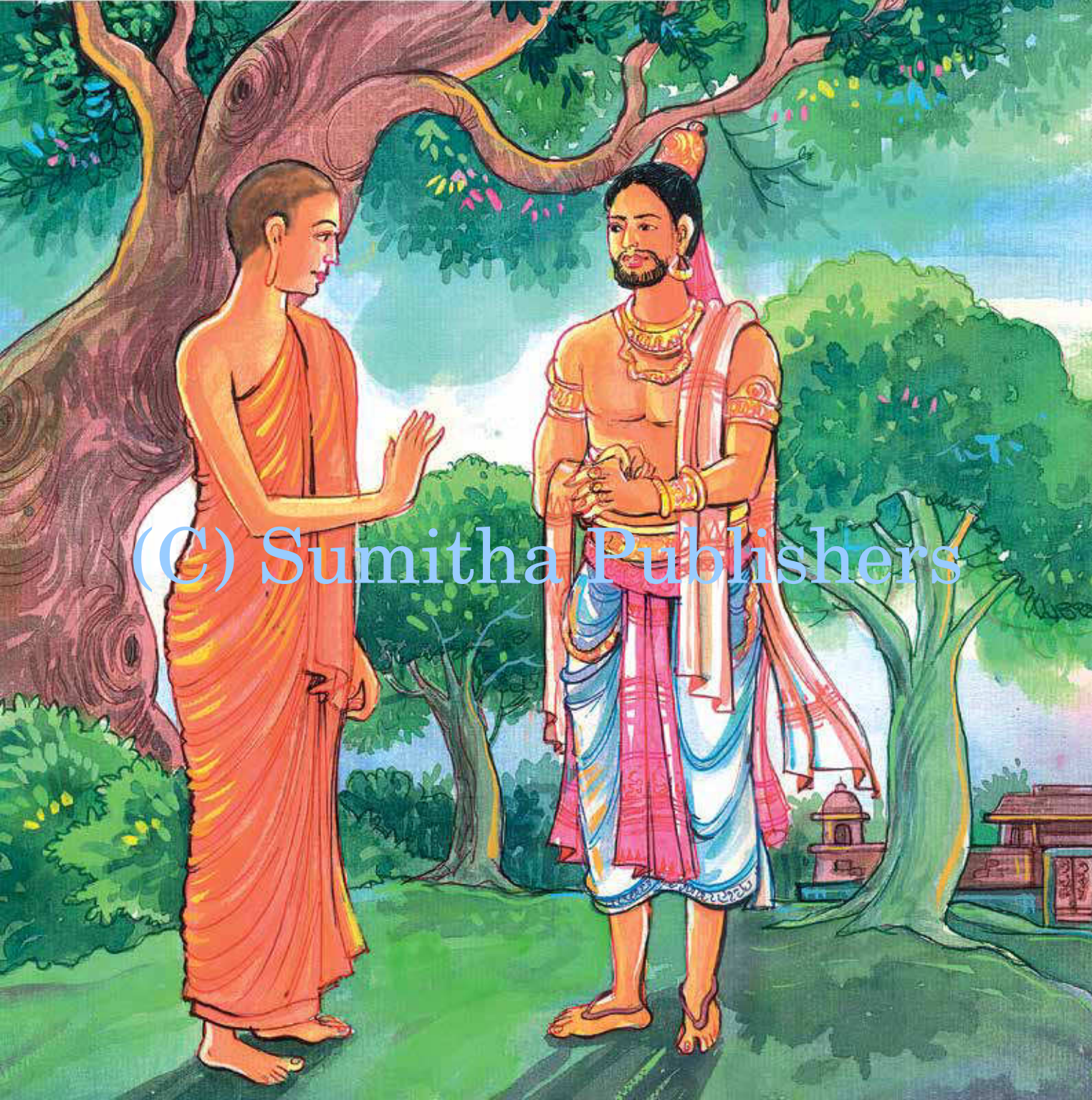
Nearby was a small hillock, which the king gifted to the sage.

The sage sat under a tree for a while in meditation.

The king also sat there in silence.



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After a while,  
the sage looked at the king and said  
“In the future will be  
born a king by the name of Gāmani.  
He will build on this spot a large *dāgaba* (stupa).”

The king was very happy to hear it.  
‘Others also must know  
about this prediction’  
thought the king.

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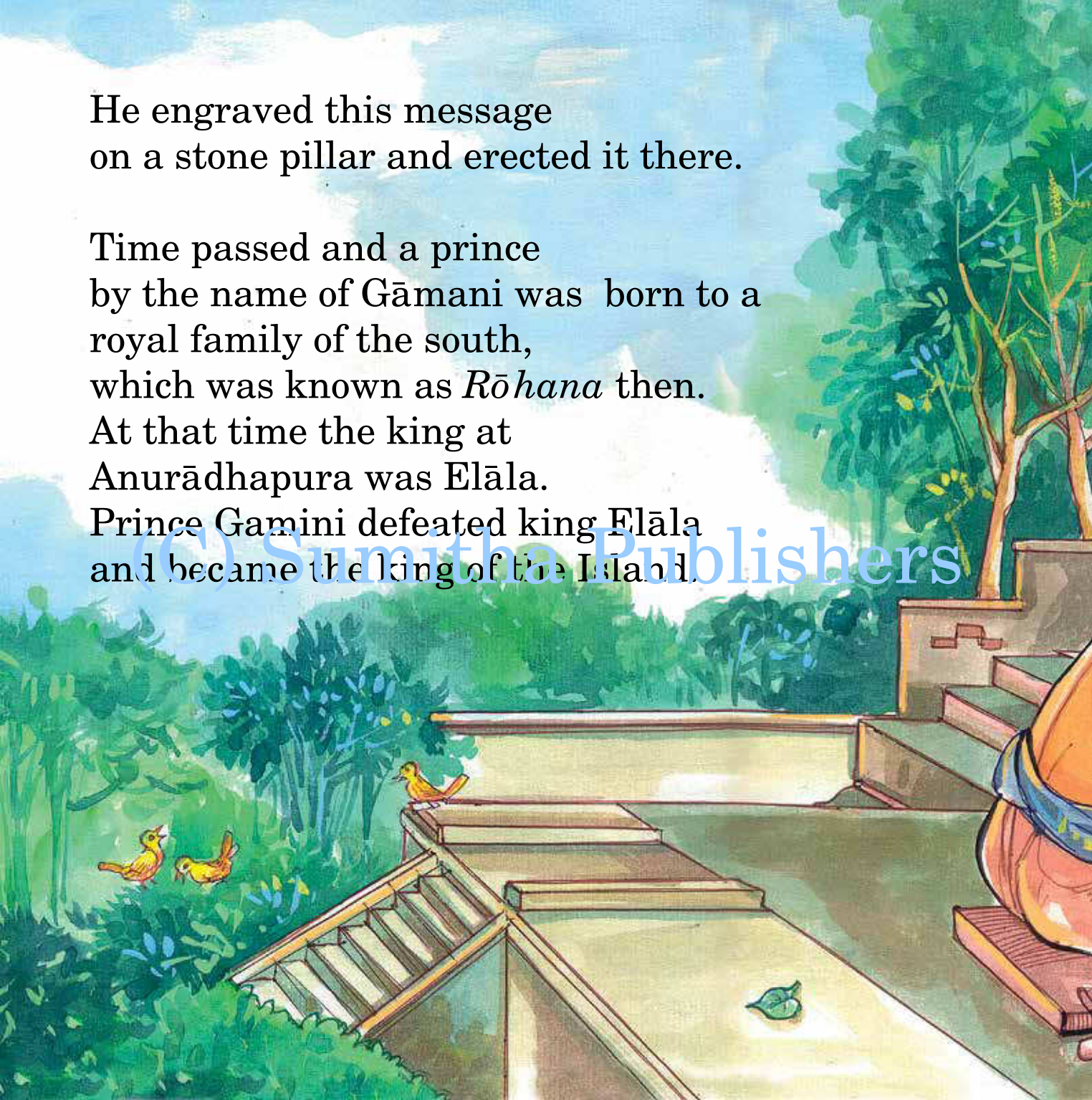


He engraved this message  
on a stone pillar and erected it there.

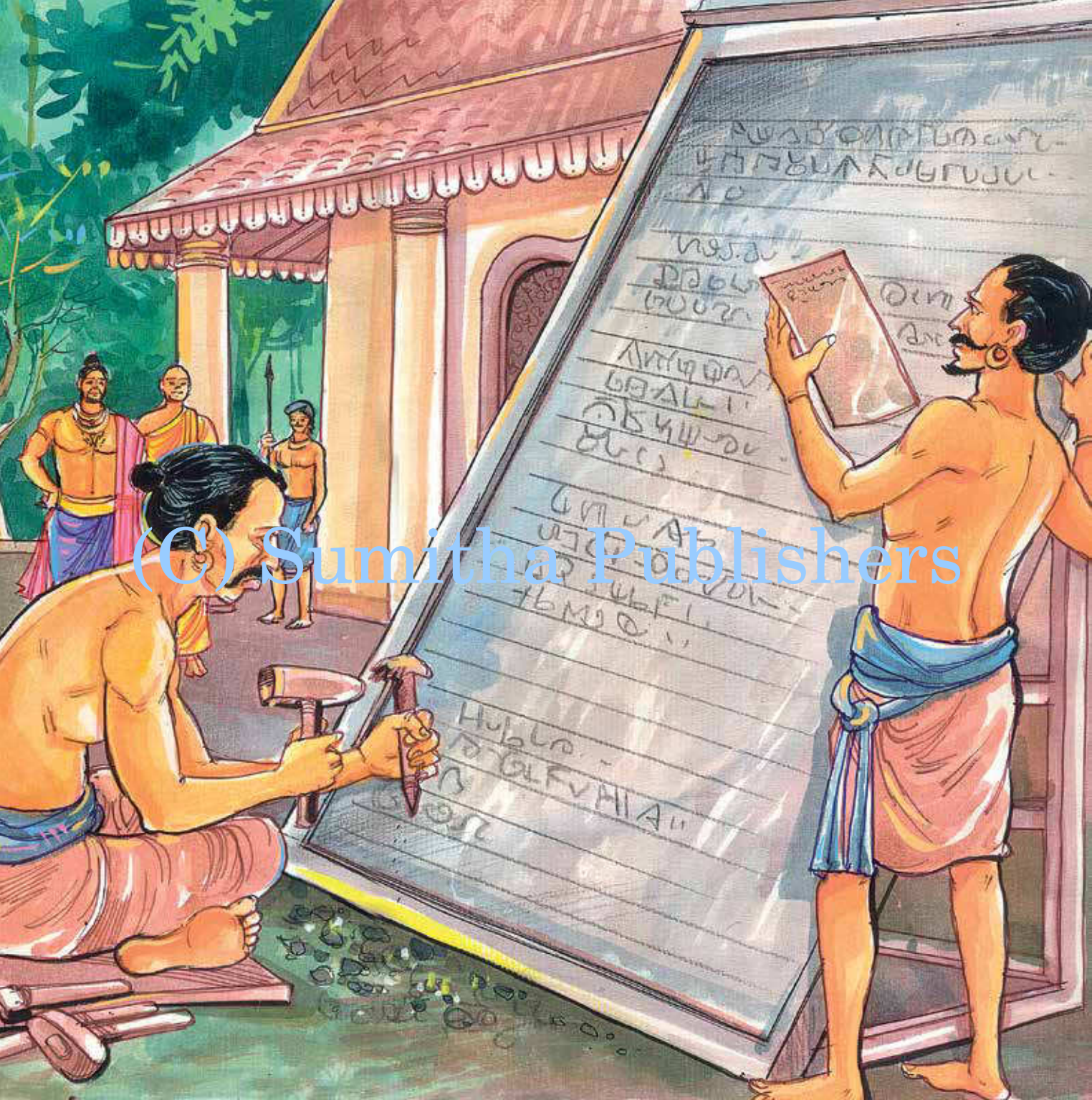
Time passed and a prince  
by the name of Gāmani was born to a  
royal family of the south,  
which was known as *Rōhana* then.

At that time the king at  
Anurādhapura was Elāla.

Prince Gamini defeated king Elāla  
and became the king of the Island.







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