Let’s Read About Our Past - 7
King Dhaṭusēna

by
Kamala Silva

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After the death of King Mahāsēna, King Siri Mēgha Vanna, King Buddhadāsa, King Upatissa and King Mahānama ruled ancient Sri Lanka.

During King Mahānama’s rule, six Pāndyan leaders from South India overthrew the Sinhalese king and invaded Rajarata. As a result, the Sinhalese leaders fled to Ruhuna and they ruled from Ruhuna for over twenty years.
Dhātusēna was born in Ruhuna to King Mahānāma’s daughter, Sanghā. The Pandyan leaders who knew that Dhātusēna was next in line to become king searched for the young prince. Sanghā, to protect her son, asked her uncle who was a Buddhist monk also named Mahānāma to raise her son. Monk Mahānāma, disguised and protected Dhātusēna by ordaining the young prince as a Buddhist monk.
As the prince became a young adult, he was eager to win back his kingdom. Therefore, he gave up his robes and started to build an army. Then, after much planning, he marched with his army to Anurādhapura, fought with the Pāndyan army and defeated the last Pāndyan king named Tiritara.