

Magnificent
Sigiriya



Senarath Dissanayaka

Sigiriya, the abode of King Kashyapa who lived like Kuvera at Alakapura, according to Mahavamsa, the chronicle of Sri Lanka has fascinated the visitor from the time it was built in the 5th century CE up to now. However, there had been a period with the incursions from South Indian the 11th century CE up to the advent of the British in the late 18th century, this marvel of a construction being lost to the world and most of its grandeur obliterated. Since then archaeologists together with historians and architects, exploring and conserving this monument had managed to resurrect a miniscule of its glory and has confined their research only to writing not readily accessible to a random visitor of this world heritage site who experiences a climb of some 500 feet of sheer rock face viewing some fabulous paintings, the scenic panorama from what remains of the palace of Kashyapa and an equally treacherous descent. This flier 'Magnificent Sigiriya' prepared by Dr.Senarath Dissanayaka, the Director General of Archaeology and my colleague in the Department of Archaeology compressing the research and the opinions of scholars on the world famous frescoes, graffiti, the city and the royal capital of Sigiriya not only gives and insight into the arts and culture of the 5th century inhabitants of this country but also guides the visitor to appreciate the significance of its architecture, urban planning, hydraulic engineering etc. encountering in the ascent to the top of this citadel.



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