

3. WATER (*vatura*) IN SINHALESE.*Indian Institute, Oxford.*

January 22, 1902.

DEAR PROFESSOR RHYS DAVIDS,—As the word *vatura* in the sense of ‘flowing water’ occurs in an inscription of King Dappula V (A.D. 940–952), which I have just edited for the “*Epigraphia Zeylanica*,” I had to go into the question of its correct signification and its etymology, about which you and Mr. Ferguson contributed several interesting notes to the *Journal* for 1898 (pp. 198, 367–369) and for 1901 (pp. 119–120).

There is no doubt that *vatura*, as well as its more archaic form *vaturu*, meant originally ‘water in motion,’ and not ‘water’ pure and simple, as it is now understood. To the authorities already cited, I may add the *Ruvanmala* and the *Piyummala* (Paṇḍit Baṭuvantudāve’s edition, 1892, pp. 21, 81, and 90), as well as Jayatilaka’s *Eḷu-akārādiya* (p. 37), where only the old form *vaturu* is given as a synonym of *ōga* (Pāli *ogha*), ‘flood’; *megha*, ‘rain-cloud’; *saḷu* or *piḷi*, ‘cloth.’ Of the words *diya* and *diyara*, the former is common enough in the literature, and always means simply ‘water,’ except, of course, when it represents the Skt. words *jaya*, ‘victory’; *jagat*, ‘world’; and *jyā*, ‘bow-string’ (*Piyummala*, p. 103); the latter, on the other hand, is not recorded in any of the well-known vocabularies such as *Nāmāvaliya*, *Ruvanmala*, nor have I come across it in inscriptions or standard works. Jayatilaka also omits it from his useful *Eḷu-akārādiya* (Colombo, 1893). We see, however, from Mr. Ferguson’s letter at p. 369 of the *Journal* for 1898, that *diyara* and *diya* were synonyms commonly used in every-day talk so far back as the beginning of the seventeenth century.

Turning to the etymology of these three words, we find James de Alwis derives *vatura* from Skt. *vāri*, Dr. Goldschmidt from *vātula*, while my friends Mudaliyar B. Guṇasekara and Professor Geiger connect it with

Skt. *vistara*, 'extensive,' through Pāli and Pkt. *vitthara* ("Etymologie des Singhalesischen," Munich, 1897, p. 78; also his "Litteratur und Sprache der Singhalesen," Strassburg, 1901, pp. 32 and 36). Mr. Ferguson, in his last note on the subject (J.R.A.S., 1901, p. 119), adheres to this etymology. There is yet another derivation which I wish to submit, and which seems to me to be more in accordance with the phonetic laws of Sinhalese. I should connect *vatura* or *vaturu* with the Sanskrit *vartarūka* (Hemacandra's *Anekārthasaṅgraha*, iv, 31), through a Prākṛitic form \**vattarūa* and Sinhalese \**vataru* and *vaturu* (cf. Sinh. *katura* = Skt. *kartarī*; Sinh. *туру* = Skt. *tārā* or *tāraka*; Sinh. *vat-man* = Skt. *vartamāna*; Sinh. *daru* = Skt. *dāraka*). *Vartarūka*, moreover, means a whirlpool, an eddy. It is also the name of a river. Compare in this connection Skt. *āvarta*, 'whirlpool,' and *ā-vartaka*, name of a form of cloud personified.

Professor Geiger has rightly adhered to the recognized etymology of *diya* from Pāli *daka*. We have *dala* from Skt. *jala* in *dala-dara* (Skt. *jala-dhara*, 'cloud,' and *jala-dhārā*, 'current of water, stream'). The word *diyara*, however, I am inclined to consider either as a derivative of a compound *daka-dhārā* or as a word formed from *diya* by adding *ra* on the analogy of *vatura*. The different spellings *diya-wara*, *diaura*, *diora*, quoted by Mr. Ferguson (J.R.A.S., 1898, p. 369), seem to support the first etymology. Compare also Sinh. *piyayuru* with Skt. *payodhara*.—Yours very truly,

DON M. DE ZILVA WICKREMASINGHE.

#### 4. TWO OLD MANUSCRIPTS.

17, *Elysium Row*, Calcutta.  
December 10, 1901.

DEAR SIR,—It may interest the members of the Society to learn that in the course of removing the Records of the Board of Examiners, Fort William, which is the existing