

PARAKRAMABAHU THE GREAT

“He who humbles his enemies”

After Vijayabahu I, Sri Lanka was ruled by his son, Vikramabahu, who was not a very good king. Following was Vikramabahu’s son, Gajabahu II.

Gajabahu reigned for twenty two years before being defeated by his cousin, Parakramabahu (whose name means “he who humbles his enemies with a strong arm”).

Lanka’s Second Golden Age

Parakramabahu did a lot for the betterment of the country and earned himself the title “Parakramabahu the Great”. He improved irrigation by cutting canals and building tanks. He erected the Thuparama Stupa, Gal Vihara (rock temple) and the Jethawanarama Buddhist temple. His wife, Roopawathi, built the Rankoth Dagoba. Streets and shops, homes and palaces, parks and ponds were built, making Polannaruwa a city of extreme beauty.

This period in history is referred to as “Lanka’s second Golden Age”.

King Parakramabahu reigned for thirty three years and left the country in a state of great prosperity when he died.