THE TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements
The Table of Contents
Abbreviation

CHAPTER I                                                                 Page No.
INTRODUCTION ........................................................................................................1
1.1. The Purpose and statement of the topic ....................................................1
1.2. The Scope of the topic ................................................................................10
1.3. Method and Structure of the thesis ..........................................................11
   1.3.1. Method of the thesis ...........................................................................11
   1.3.2. Structure of the thesis .......................................................................14
1.4. Relevance of present study .......................................................................16

CHAPTER II
"ŚRĪMĀLĀDEVĪ-SIMHA-NĀDA SŪTRA": AN OVERVIEW .......... 18
2.1. The Survey of Literature about the Śrīmālā sūtra ............................ 18
   2.1.1. Literary History ...............................................................................18
   2.1.2. Śrīmālā; Historical personal ............................................................22
   2.1.3. The Title of the Scripture ................................................................26
   2.1.3 The Text in Asian Countries ...............................................................28
2.2. The Meaning of the term "Śrīmālādevi-Simha-Nāda" and "Lion’s roar" ..........................................................34
2.3. The Comparative study of the Chinese versions of the Śrīmālā sūtra.....38
   2.3.1 General comparison of Chinese versions........................................38
   2.3.2 Signifying the contents, aim of the text........................................46
2.4. The Significance of the Śrīmālā sūtra...........................................52
   2.4.1. The significance of equality......................................................52
   2.4.2. Significance of aspiration of Queen Śrīmālā..............................53
2.5. The Characteristics of the Bodhisattva Śrīmālā in the Text.................63

CHAPTER III

THE CENTRAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE ŚRĪMĀLĀ SŪTRA......................70
3.1. The Theory of One Vehicle (Ekayāna).............................................71
   3.1.1. Principle and the meaning of the ‘One Vehicle’ ...........................71
   3.1.2. Historical development of ‘One Vehicle’....................................74
   3.1.3. The development of ‘One Vehicle’ theory...................................82
3.2. The Theory of Tathāgatagarbha.....................................................84
   3.2.1. Meaning of Tathāgatagarbha .....................................................85
   3.2.2. The Theory of Tathāgatagarbha in texts.....................................88
   3.2.3. The Tathāgatagarbha in the Śrīmālā sūtra.................................92
   3.2.4. The Characteristics of Tathāgatagarbha.....................................99
      3.2.4.1. Tathāgatagarbha as Actual subjectiveness...........................99
      3.2.4.2. Tathāgatagarbha and Its transcendence...............................103
3.3. The Theory of Trikāya.................................................................110
   3.3.1. The Concept of Dharmakāya in the Śrīmālā sūtra.......................116
3.4. The Noble Truths and the Meaning of Voidness..............................122
   3.4.1. The Noble Truths.......................................................................122
      3.4.2. Meaning of Voidness...............................................................133
      3.4.3. The meaning of Voidness in the Śrīmālā sūtra.......................136
CHAPTER IV
THE BODHISATTVA DOCTRINE IN THE ŚRĪMĀLĀ SŪTRA........144
4.1. The Concept of Bodhisattva..................................................146
4.2. The Bodhisattva’s Career.....................................................159
4.2.1. Stages of the Bodhisattva ..............................................161
4.2.2. Practices of the Six Pāramitās (Perfections) of Queen Śrīmālā ..176
   a. Dāna Pāramitā (giving)..................................................178
   b. Sīla Pāramitā (virtuous conduct)....................................180
   c. Kṣānti Pāramitā (patience)..............................................182
   d. Vīrya Pāramitā (energy)..................................................184
   e. Dhyāna Pāramitā (rapt musing).......................................186
   f. Prajñā Pāramitā (wisdom)..............................................190
4.3. The Bodhisattva ideal in Śrīmālā sūtra..............................192
4.3. Queen Śrīmālā: An ideal female Bodhisattva.......................199
4.4. The significance of taking refuge in the Triratna in Śrīmālā sūtra....206

CHAPTER V
BUDDHIST’S VIEWS ON THE POSITION OF WOMAN..................218
5.1. The Status of Women in Early Period in India........................218
  5.1.1. Early Vedic period (C. 1000 B.C. to 500 B.C.)....................220
  5.1.2. Smṛti- Purāṇa period (500 B.C. to 600 A.D).........................225
5.2. Position of Women in Buddhism........................................229
5.3. Lay Women Disciples in the Buddha’s Saṅgha.......................230
5.4. Significance of the Religious life of Buddhist laywomen.............237
5.5. The foundation of the Bikkhunī Saṅgha..............................245
  5.5.1. The Eight Chief Rules (Aṭṭhagarudhammad).......................250
CHAPTER VI

QUEEN ŚRĪMĀLĀ: AN IDEAL WOMAN

6.1. The Role of Women in the Śrīmālā sūtra

6.1.1. The role of a woman as a Mother

6.1.2. The role of a woman as a Daughter

6.1.3. The role of a woman as a Wife

6.2. Ten Great Vows of Queen Śrīmālā and Principle of Action for Society

6.3. Buddhist Principles of Social Actions

6.4. Social Relationships of the Laity in Buddhism

6.4.1. The relationship between parents and their children

6.4.2. The relationship between husband and wife

6.4.3. The relationship between student and teacher

6.4.4. The relationship between friends or family

6.4.5. The relationship between master and servant

6.4.6. The relationship between monastic people and the laity

6.5. Significance of Women’s role in Buddhism

CONCLUSION

1. Position of Buddhist laywomen in Modern society

2. Purpose of Women’s education through the image of Queen Śrīmālā

Appendix No. 1: Sanskrit – Chinese Index


Appendix No. 3: Translation of the text “Śrīmālādevi- Simha-Nāda Sūtra” in English.

Bibliography