ABSTRACT

The Present work is entitled “Mahāparinibbāna Sutta: A Critical Study” is an attempt to trace the life and works of the Buddha from historical and socio-religious perspective. The first chapter is “The Brief Account of Mahāparinibbāna”. Its deals with the place of Mahāparinibbāna Sutta in Pali literature, the arrangement of Mahāparinibbāna Sutta, the authenticity of Mahāparinibbāna Sutta. The Mahāparinibbāna Sutta is the longest Sutta to be found in the second part of the Dīghanikaya of the Pali Suttapitaka. The Mahaparinibbana Sutta furnishes us with a detailed account of the last journey of the Buddha’s career. The narrative continues to relate how the Buddha passed away with full presence of mind. The Buddha approached the sala grove of the mallas in Kusinara and asked Ananda to prepare couch with its head to the north between the twin sala trees and laid himself down on his right side with one leg resting on the other.

The Second chapter is “Antecedent Referred in the Mahāparinibbāna Sutta”. It discusses the seven conditions of a nation’s Welfare, the seven conditions of Welfare of Bhikkhus, The disadvantages of breaking precepts etc.

The third chapter is “Last Teachings of the Buddha.” It deals with last advice of the Buddha to his disciples, It is said that the Buddha always reminds his disciples of the advice “All the conditional things are impermanent.”

The fourth chapter deals with “The places related to Mahāparinibbāna Sutta.” It has found in the Sutta that several places such as Rajagaha, Nālandā, Pātalī, Vesāli, Pāvā, Kusināra etc. mentioned in the Sutta.

The fifth chapter is “The record of a funeral rite and ritual”. It is hardly any evidence for the burial of the dead bodies in the sixth century B.C. It was conducted with rites and rituals to the dead body. The last is the “Conclusion”. 
In this Conclusion, the attempt will be made to draw the overall survey of the sutta and will give encouragement to everyone who interested in the sutta Buddha Literature. Having considered all the fentiment fast of the present thesis, They are compared evaluated and a logical conclusion is drawn.