

## Yaksha “Sahatsadecha”



**Yaksha** is a demon character, appeared in both religious and Thai literature. Influenced from Brahmanism and Buddhism, a Thai belief is that demons are classified in many levels, by their merit and halo. A legend said that once Buddha gave a sermon to demons to bate their bias and concreteness, demons that absorbed his sermon and Dharma, accordingly became patrons of Buddhism, known as heaven-bearer. They represented as guardians of Buddhism place and sacred architecture, such as temples, monasteries, Buddhist assembly halls, etc., to

hold up and sustain Buddhism.

**Yakshas**, that are famous to Thais and foreigners, are Yakshas from Wat Pho, and Wat Arun. Wat Arun is well-known in English as the Temple of Dawn. At the gate of the temple, there are two 6 meters-high statues of the demons, the characters from the Ramakian which is a Thai literature, standing in pair ,facing the gates with their backs to the temple they guard, holding a white mace. Each has a distinguishing color, the green one is named Tosakan whereas the white one is named Sahatsadecha.

**Sahatsadecha**, a white skin demon, is a demon of the North. In the reign of King Ram III, his sculpture was made of stucco and decorated with glazed tiles at his costume, the sculpture is standing at the gate of the Temple of Dawn, as a guardian deity to protect the religious important landmark.