

Silapathigaram Analysis

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Abstract:

Silapathigaram is an ancient sangam literature poem. In this analysis we study Kannaki's argument to the king.

Key words: Silapathigaram, Kannaki, Kovalan, anklet injustice

Theme:

In the poem silapathigaram judiciary plays a major role as Kannaki's husband Kovalan has been killed by the cunningness of the minister. Kannaki argues with the king for justice. Proving her side points and cursing the king and kingdom to ruin. The truth also plays an important role because of the curse of Kannaki. The whole king and kingdom got ruined.

Introduction:

In this paper we are going to study Kannaki's words towards the king. From mathurai kandam 10th stanza

Poem with Tamil verse in English letters:

Thera manna ! sepuvathudaiyen
Ellaru sirapin immaiavar viyappa
pullaru Punkab thirthen annriyum
vayil Kadai mani Naduna nadungga
avain kadai mani uguneer nenju suda
Thaamtham arumperal puthalvanai
Aaliyil madithon
Avur esa sirapin isaivillamu perungudi
Masathuvan makanai aghi
Valthal vendi ulvinai thirappa sugalal manna
Ninpla kolai kalapatta kovalan manaivi kannaki enpathu en peyera

Poem in Tamil:

தேரா மன்னா! செப்புவது உடையேன்;
என் அறு சிறப்பின் இமையவர் வியப்ப,
புன் உறு புன்கண் தீர்த்தோன்; அன்றியும்,
வாயில் கடை மணி , நடுநா நடுங்க,
ஆவின் கடை மணி உகுநீர், நெஞ்சு சுடத்,
தான் தன், அரும்பெறல் புதல்வனை ஆழியின் மடித்தோன்
பெரும் பெயர்ப் புகார் என் பதியே; அவ் ஊர்,

ஏசாச் சிறப்பின், இசை விளங்கு பெருங்குடி
மாசாத்து வாணிகன் மகனை ஆகி,
வாழ்தல் வேண்டி, ஊழ்வினை துரப்ப,
சூழ் கழல் மன்னா! நின் நகர்ப் புகுந்து
இங்கு, என் கால் சிலம்பு, பகர்தல் வேண்டி,
நின்பால், கொலைக்களப் பட்ட
கோவலன் மனைவி;
கண்ணகி என்பது என் பெயரே'

Major objective of silabathikaram:

Kannaki asked for justice from the Madurai king Neduchellian, proving her side's truthful points.

Historical background of the verses:

The verses from silapathigaram are mainly due to wrong judgement of the king's improper enquiry towards kannaki's husband Kovalan crime. Kovalan had been assassinated. Kannaki is proving her truthful points towards her husband's crime.

Importance of the verses:

In ancient days itself a woman fought alone for justice from the king. This shows a woman fighting against injustice and standing against injustice.

Analysis of the poem:

These verses are Kannaki's words. The whole stanza is a monologue of Kannaki. The emotion of justice had been expressed by Kannaki. The major point is that the whole verse is Kannaki emotionally introducing herself to the king in a melancholy way. Her husband Kovalan has been killed by the king by wrong judgement of the crime. She entered the kingdom in a tragic way by having untied messy hair, eyes full of tears so the king questioned who the tragic woman was. In a respectful manner, she started introducing herself.

Literal meaning of the verses:

"Thera manna sepuvathudaiyen " an unsuccessful king says "Ellaru sirapin immaiavar viyappa" sirapu means pride. immayam means sky, immayavar means people from the sky. "Viyappa" means exclamation. Being awed. The total meaning of the line is her pride is not only awed by people from earth but also awed by people from the sky.

"pullaru punkan thirteenth annriyum pull" means a bird her king once helped dove also so Kannaki mentions their king even settled down dove's problem.

"vayil" means entrance "mani" literally means bell. "Kadai mani" means the bell tied in the entrance. The whole meaning of the line is her king giving justice to the cow (inside meaning : in ancient days there would be a bell hanging in the king palace entrance. Those who have a problem may hit the bell when the king hears their problem. Once there was a cow who lost her cattle and hit the bell. The king, really worried for the cow put his son under the wheel of a chariot, killed his own son with a burning heart. So Kannaki means to say there was even the deepest justice given even to cows emotion).

"avain kadai mani " avain means cow. Naduna nadungga means the bell rang. Thamtham means to his own arumperal means pride puthalvan means son aaliyil avur esa sirapunmadithon means kept him under chariot killed him. so she longs for such a kingdom where even a cow had deepest justice."

thaamtham" his self or his belongings "arumperal" meaning anything we get by prayer."puthalvan " means son "aaliyil madithon" means killed by keeping under chariot wheel."uguneer nenju suda" means by burning heart he had done this. "Perimpeyar pugar enpathiye" "perumpeyar " means well known or popular,"pugar" means name of the city, "en pathiye"literally means my husband.

The total meaning of the line is that her husband belongs to the well-known city, pugar. It is now called poombugar in Madurai district. Still there are archaeological evidence are found in Madurai of silapathigaram.

"asa sirapin isaivillamu perungudi" esa sirapin means pride ,"perungudi" means generations, "masathivan maganaiyagi" masathuvan is name of the person here - Kovalan father's name, magan means son. Total meaning is her husband is masathuvan's son

"valthan vendi ullvinai thurapa" valthal vendi means in order to live vendi means request "ulvanai" means fate "thurapa" means chasing ..fate chasing meaning their bad time in their city. So they came here to live a better life." En kal sillambu vendi""en" means me" kal"means leg " silambu" means anglet " pagarthal" means pledge. Total meaning in order to pledge her anklet. "nipal kolai kalapatta" nipal means because of you, "kolai" means murder,"kalapatta" means taken to murder place basically it is punishment place but here kannaki says murder place because of injustice done by king towards her husband."kovalan manaivi kannaki enpathu en peyare" kovalan manaivi" manaivi means wife here wife of Kovalan,"kannaki enpathu en peyare,"peyere"means name total meaning my name is Kovalan's wife Kannaki.

About poem:

Silapathigaram means silampu + athigaram. silambu means anklet and athigaram means stanza of the poems. This name has been kept. This poem speaks about Kannaki's anklet. The major point in the poem is the anklet of kannaki.

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