

**THE INFLUENCE OF RAMAYANA
ON THE VAISHNAVA HYMNS**

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract (English Version)	v
Abstrak (Malay Version)	vi
Note on Transliteration	vii
List of Abbreviations	xi
List of Tables	xiii
Chapter 1 : Introduction	
1.0 Background	1
1.1 Objectives	2
1.2 Literature Review	3
1.3 Scope	5
1.4 Sources	6
1.5 Methodology	7
Endnotes	9
Chapter 2 : The Influence of Rāmāyaṇa on the Vaishnava Hymns	
2.0 Introduction	11
2.1 <i>Ālvārs</i> and <i>Ācāriyars</i>	14
2.2 Nālayirat Tivyap Pirapantam	15
2.3 <i>Ālvārs</i> : A Definition	19
2.4 <i>Ālvārs</i> : Their Number	22
2.5 Listing of the <i>Ālvārs</i>	23
2.6 The Twelve <i>Ālvārs</i> : A Short History	23
2.7 Rāmāyaṇam : An Introduction	40
Appendix: Table 1-5	46
Endnotes	56
Chapter 3 : Influence of the Rāmāyaṇa on Ancient and Medieval Literature	
3.0 Introduction	62
3.1 Ancient Period	63
3.2 Medieval Period	71
3.3 Conclusion	89
Appendix: Table 1	91
Endnotes	92

	<u>Page</u>
Chapter 4 : Rāmāyana Incidents in the Hymns of the <i>Ālvārs</i> – An Individual Study	
4.0 Introduction	96
4.1 Mutalālvārs	96
4.2 Tiruppāṇālvār	104
4.3 Tirumaḷicaiyālvār	105
4.4 Toṅṅaraṭippotiālvār	117
4.5 Kulacēkarālvār	120
4.6 Periyālvār	133
4.7 Sri Āṅṅāḷ	145
4.8 Tirumaṅkaiyālvār	148
4.9 Nammālvār	164
4.10 Conclusion	168
Appendix: Table 1-9	169
Endnotes	179
Chapter 5 : The Rāma Saga as Depicted by the <i>Ālvārs</i>	
5.0 Introduction	197
5.1 <i>Bala Kandam</i>	198
5.2 <i>Ayodhya Kandam</i>	203
5.3 <i>Aranya Kandam</i>	208
5.4 <i>Kishkindha Kandam</i>	220
5.5 <i>Cuntara Kandam</i>	225
5.6 <i>Yutta Kandam</i>	229
5.7 <i>Uttara Kandam</i>	246
5.8 Reasons for the Frequent Use of Rāmāyana Incidents	248
Appendix: Table 1	253
Endnotes	257
Chapter 6 : Conclusion	
6.0 Introduction	268
6.1 Hypotheses	268
6.2 Conclusion	274
6.3 Some Recommendations	274
Endnotes	276
Bibliography	277

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to identify and assess the influences of the **Rāmāyaṇa** on the hymns of the Tamil Vaishnava saints called *ālvārs*. The hymns of each *ālvār* is examined separately and the **Rāmāyaṇa** incidents are then collectively scrutinised to assess the treatment of these incidents by the *ālvārs*. They are also compared with similar events in the **Rāmāyaṇas** of Vālmīki and Kampar. Research for the study is based on the library method and for the collection of relevant material, the documentation method is used. The facts thus collected are analysed according to the synthesis method and then comparisons are made to determine the similarities and dissimilarities. The primary source for this study is the **Nālāyirat Tivyap Pirapantam**. Since the study is comparative in nature, the **Rāmāyaṇa** by Valmīki (English translation), **Kamparāmāyaṇam** and the **Uttara Kāṇḍam** by Oṭṭakkūttar are also used as basic texts. This study brings out the incidents of the Rāma-story found in the hymns of the *ālvārs* and identifies some incidents not mentioned elsewhere. The influence the *ālvārs* had from Vālmīki and in turn had on Kampar are also looked into.

ABSTRAK

Tujuan kajian ini ialah untuk meninjau pengaruh cerita Rāma dalam mazmur-mazmur Vaishnavisme yang dinyanyikan oleh para *ālvār*. Dalam kajian ini, mazmur setiap *ālvār* diselidiki untuk mengumpulkan maklumat mengenai cerita Rāma yang terkandung di dalamnya. Seterusnya, maklumat ini dianalisa untuk memperlihatkan bagaimana sesuatu aspek cerita Rāma yang sama digunakan oleh pelbagai *ālvār*. Seterusnya, cerita Rāma yang dipaparkan oleh para *ālvār* dibandingkan dengan Vālmīki dan *Kampar* untuk memperlihatkan aspek persamaan dan perbezaan maklumat. Dalam kajian ini, kaedah penyelidikan perpustakaan bersifat interpretasi kesusasteraan digunakan. Bersesuaian dengan itu, bahan dikumpulkan berdasarkan metod dokumentasi. Seterusnya, metod sintesis digunakan untuk menganalisis data yang telahpun dikumpulkan. Selain itu, metod perbandingan digunakan untuk memperlihatkan aspek persamaan dan perbezaan bahan yang dikumpulkan. Teks **Nālāyirat Tivyap Pirapantam** digunakan sebagai sumber utama dalam kajian ini. Disebabkan kajian ini bersifat perbandingan, maka teks-teks **Rāmāyaṇa ciptaan Vālmīki** (terjemahan Bahasa Inggeris), **Kamparamayanam** dan **Uttara Kandam** ciptaan Ottakkuttar digunakan sebagai sumber. Kajian ini memperlihatkan pemaparan unsur-unsur **Rāmāyaṇa** dalam perspektif para *ālvār*. Melaluinya, ciri-ciri tersendiri dalam mazmur-mazmur para *ālvār* dikenalpasti. Maklumat tadi dibandingkan dengan **Rāmāyaṇa** ciptaan Vālmīki untuk mencari persamaan dan perbezaan. Ini diikuti dengan penilaian pengaruh unsur-unsur cerita Rāma para *ālvār* terhadap *Kampar*.

NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION

SANSKRIT

Transcriptions of Sanskrit names and terms through English transliteration follow the transliteration system used in the book, **A Sanskrit Grammer for Students** by Arthur A. Macdonell. The following is the key to the transliteration of Sanskrit alphabets.

Sanskrit alphabets and their English symbols with diacritical marks:-

VOWELS

a	अ	r̄	ऋ
ā	आ	r̄̄	ॠ
i	इ	l̄	ऌ
ī	ई	e	ए
u	उ	ai	ऐ
ū	ऊ	o	औ
		au	ऒ

CONSONANTS

k	क	p	प
kh	ख	ph	फ
g	ग	b	ब
gh	घ	bh	भ

ñ	ञ	m	म
c	च	y	य
ch	छ	r	र
j	ज	l	ल
jh	झ	v	व
ñ	ञ	ś	श
t	ट	ṣ	ष
th	ठ	s	स
d	ड		
dh	ढ	h	ह
ṇ	ण	ḥ (visarga)	
t	त	m̄ (anusvāra)	
th	थ		
d	द		
dh	ध		
n	न		

TAMIL

Transcriptions of Tamil names and terms through English transliteration follow the transliteration system used in the **Dravidian Etymological Dictionary** by T. Burrow and M.B. Emeneau with the exception $\text{ழ} = \underline{l}$. The following is the key to the transliteration of Tamil alphabets.

Tamil alphabets and their English symbols with diacritical marks:-

VOWELS

அ	a	எ	e
ஆ	ā	ஏ	ē
இ	i	ஐ	ai
ஈ	ī	ஓ	o
உ	u	ஔ	ō
ஊ	ū	ஔா	au

CONSONANTS

க	k	ம்	m
ங	ñ	ய	y
ச	c	ர்	r
ஞ	ñ̃	ல்	l
ட	ṭ	வ்	v
ந்	ṇ	ழ்	ḷ
த	t	ள்	ḷ̣
ந்	n	ற்	ṛ
ப	p	ள்	ṅ

ஃ Aytam ஃ க

However, for some common words like Chola, Pandya, the diacritic marks have been left out.

To avoid clumsiness, the transliterated words are not indicated by marks of quotation except in the case of some which need distinction.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1 st Tiru.	-	First Tiruvantāti
2 nd Tiru.	-	Second Tiruvantāti
3 rd Tiru.	-	Third Tiruvantāti
Amala.	-	Amalaṇātipirāṇ
Ant.	-	Sri Āṇṭāl
Ciri. Tiruma	-	Cīriya Tirumaṭal
E.n.	-	Endnote
Etc.	-	Etcetra
HPS.	-	Hari Prasad Shastri
I.e.	-	In Example
Ibid.	-	Ibidem
Kulace.	-	Kulacēkarālvār
Ltd.	-	Limited
Nac. Tiru.	-	Nācciyār Tirumoli
Namma.	-	Nammālvār
Nan. Tiru.	-	Nāṇmukaṇ Tiruvantāti
Num.	-	Number
OUK.	-	Oṭṭakkūttar's Uttara Kāṇdam
P.	-	Page
Peri. Tiru.	-	Periya Tirumoli
Peri. Tiruma.	-	Periya Tirumaṭal
Peri. Tiruva.	-	Periya Tiruvantāti
Periya. Tiru.	-	Periyālvār Tirumoli
Periya.	-	Periyālvār
Peru. Tiru.	-	Perumāḷ Tirumoli
Peyal.	-	Pēyālvār
Poykai.	-	Poykaiyālvār
PP.	-	Pages
Putat.	-	Pūtattālvār
RK.	-	Rāmāyaṇa of Kampar
RV.	-	Rāmāyaṇa of Vālmīki

Tiruccan.	-	Tiruccantaviruttam
Tirukkuru.	-	Tirukkuṟuṅtāṅtakam
Tiruma.	-	Tirumālai
Tirumali.	-	Tirumaḷicaiyālvār
Tiruman.	-	Tirumaṅkaiyālvār
Tirunetu.	-	Tiruneṭuntāṅtakam
Tiruppa.	-	Tiruppāvai
Tiruppal.	-	Tiruppallāṅtu
Tiruppalli.	-	Tiruppalliyelucci
Tiruppan.	-	Tiruppāṅālvār
Tiruva.	-	Tiruvācīriyam
Tiruvay.	-	Tiruvāymoli
Tiruvelu.	-	Tiruvelukkūrrirukkai
Tiruviru.	-	Tiruviruttam
Tonta.	-	Toṅṅaratippotiyaḷvār
Viz.	-	Namely
Vol.	-	Volume
Vols.	-	Volumes

LIST OF TABLES

		<u>Page</u>
<u>Chapter 2:</u>		
1.	Works of the <i>Ālvārs</i> :	Table 1 – 3 46-48
2.	Listing of the <i>Ālvārs</i> :	Table 4 49
3.	The 108 Holy Shrines sung by the <i>Ālvārs</i> :	Table 5 50-55
<u>Chapter 3:</u>		
4.	Tamil Literary Texts :	Table 1 91
<u>Chapter 4:</u>		
5.	Mutalālvārs :	Table 1 169
6.	Tiruppāṇālvār :	Table 2 170
7.	Tirumalicaiyālvār :	Table 3 171
8.	Toṇṭaratippotiālvār :	Table 4 172
9.	Kulacēkarālvār :	Table 5 173
10.	Periyālvār :	Table 6 174
11.	Sri Āṇṭāl :	Table 7 175
12.	Tirumaṅkaiyālvār :	Table 8 176-177
13.	Nammālvār :	Table 9 178
<u>Chapter 5:</u>		
14.	The Rāma Saga as Depicted by the <i>Ālvārs</i> :	Table 1 253-256