



????????? | Aithiyamala

Kottarathil Sankunni (Editor)

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????????? | **Aithiyamala** Kottarathil Sankunni (Editor)

????????? (Aithiyamala or Ithiyamala) (Garland of Legends), is a collection of century-old stories from Kerala that cover a vast spectrum of life, famous persons and events. It is a collection of legends numbering over a hundred, about magicians and yakshis, feudal rulers and conceited poets, kalari experts, practitioners of ayurveda and courtiers; elephants and their mahouts, tantric experts.

It includes popular tales such as about the twelve children of Vararuchi and Parayi (a woman of Paraiyar caste), Kayamkulam Kochunni, Kadamattathu Kathanar among many others. The story of 12 children is popularly known as Parayi petta panthirukulam.

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Date : Published February 2009 by D C Books (first published April 1909)


ISBN :

Author : Kottarathil Sankunni (Editor)

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Nandakishore Varma says

This book strings together the myths and legends of Kerala - it is true to its name, "The Garland of Legends". This fertile strip of land, bordered on one side by the Western Ghats and on the other by the Arabian Sea, is called "God's Own Country" by the tourism authorities. While this is a catchy line to sell to Westerners, "The Country of Woodland Sprites and Goblins" would be more appropriate.

Kerala is rich in myth, folklore and legend - and Kottarathil Sankunni does the invaluable service here of collecting many of them together in a single volume. It is a fascinating collection and required reading for every Malayali: to understand the magical landscape of our beautiful state.

Pramod Nair says

This title is the best reference source for everything related to myths and legends from Kerala. Century-old tales about mythical places, events, temples and even legendary elephants are narrated by the author in great detail and will mesmerize the reader. The book is so charming that it invites the reader to re-read it again and again.

Arun Divakar says

Ah ! Mythology ! Hallowed be thy name ! Thou shalt remain as the heart that beats indefatigably even after all the other stories are buried deep beneath the murky waves of time.

Ithiyamala captures some of the central myths from all over Kerala in this door stopper of a book. How is it amazing ? Let me count off on my fingers : There are vampires, witches, wizards, kings & scheming courtiers, vengeful gods & benevolent goddesses, thieves & murderers, noble pachyderms...and a list that goes on and on. The stories are extremely colorful and tell the tales of a time when people were more religiously oriented than they are these days.

Before electricity came into the villages & sleepy little towns, every twitch & movement beyond the circle of light cast by the flickering lamp was a demon out to get you. Before science befuddled the human mind with rationality, gods walked the earth with mortal men ! Sagas were told of seemingly supernatural events which the men & women of yesteryears brushed off as common occurrences. Yes, it was a magical time & this book is full of tales from that slice of time !

?r? says

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### Akash Aravind says

Stories are awesome, but language is a bit of a letdown, since its been written more than a century back. Still, enjoyed it all.

## **Jaanaki says**

The Aithiyamala is a collection of 126 tales that are an amalgamation of fact, history, myth and folklore from the state of Kerala. This collection was written by Kootharathil Sankunni in the 1900s and the documentation took place over a period of 25 years. The collection has been translated into three volumes by Leela James and is published by #hachetteindia. I love Indian folktales, tradition and myths and so I thought I will check out the first volume in the beginning. I was unable to put the book down. There are stories of miracle doctors - aalathur nambi, saints who could see God, kings who were real lions, loyal elephants, astrologers, snakes, gods and goddesses all combined in this volume. It was magical and these families still exist. I wanted to go to Kerala and actually see these places after reading this. If you love Indian folklore and history, don't miss this.

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## **Aseed hussain says**

It was in my UP School days when I first read this book. All those childhood fantasies about rajahs, temples, Indian culture was fulfilled by this single book. Still remember those torn pages in this book which was my single contribution.

The second reading happened after my school days, and it was when I understood the logical fallacies & historical fantasies in this book, yet it's a good pair evening time snack

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## **VijayaRaghavan S N says**

NOTE: Review of First Edition.

Poorly edited book. Even for a first edition. Lot of grammatical mistakes. And spelling mistakes too make their presence felt. I could have done a better job in editing this one.

Apart from that, the book showcases the old times in Kerala. Me, being from the God's Own Country, found it an interesting read because of the display of heritage and culture of my home land which was unknown to me till now. And the book mentions my hometown too. It was a goosebumps moment there.

Those who want to take in all the stories that are included in the book, you better have a paper and a pencil with you while you read. There are a few stories that are intertwined but mentioned in different chapters.

My home land is so full and rich of heritage and now I know some of it. Yayyyy.

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## **Abhiram Manakkad says**

The biggest collection of history

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## **S R Narayanamurthy says**

Having lost the ability to read lengthy Malayalam texts in original, I read the English translation of selected stories from this book by Leela James, published in three volumes by Hachette India (which doesn't figure in the editions listed by Goodreads). Mine was an attempt at reliving some of these mysterious stories that one grew up with in Kerala of half a century ago. I wasn't disappointed.

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## **albin james says**

There  
Far from our lives, our villages  
I'll forget your voice, your face  
Even if I hold you tight in my arms  
You escape already (from me) there

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## **Hari says**

Read during my childhood....now got lost somewhere

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## **Praveen Mohan says**

Its a collection of some of the legends of Kerala. A wonderful read!

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## **Ullas Nair says**

at the age of eleven I was lucky to have enjoyed this book. a treasure...love reading it even now...

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## **Arun Kumar says**

for knowledge about kerala culture

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