



Course on Kerala Renaissance Leaders

# Renaissance Leaders of Kerala - VII

# PANDIT K.P KARUPPAN



**1885 - 1938**

- Pandit K.P Karuppan (Kandathu Parambil Pappu Karuppan) was born on 24th may 1885 at cheranalloor near Ernakulam
- He was born in a lower middle class family of Dheevera fishermen community.
- Karuppan's Father - Pappu (locally known as Atho Poojari)
- Karuppan's Mother - Kochu pennu.
- Pandit Karuppan original name was Shankaran
- The name Karuppan was given to him by a Tamil Gosai who happened to be his family friend

- Karuppan formal education began at the age of five under Azheekal Velu Vaidyan.
- Pandit K.P karuppan was a Sanskrit scholar, Poet and Dramatist
- He is called as the 'Lincoln of Kerala' for steering social economically and educationally backward communities to the forefront
- He wrote Lanka mardhanam at the age of 12
- The most significant period of his education was at Kodungallur Kovilakam
- Karuppan formed Araya Samajam in 1907

## ❖ Social reforming activities

- He was considered as the first human rights activist from Cochin state
- He spend more time and energy to up lift his own fishermen community
- He organised his community into regional group called 'Sabhas'
- The main agenda of the service was to pursue people to fight against ignorance and superstitions

## ❖ Kayal Sammelanam

- It is believed that Kayal Sammelanam was organised in 1914 February 14 by Dheevara (Fisherman community) under the leadership of Pandit Karuppan.
- At that time Dalits could not use the roads to walk.
- The pulaya community liked to organise a meeting to raise their demands and the authorities denied permission
- But the Dheevara community led by Pandit Karuppan help them to construct a barge by tying several country boats together.
- Dalits conducted their meeting on it floating in the Cochin kaayal (backwater) so that the authority could not take action against them.
- Hence it is called as Kayal sammelanam.

- Cochin pulaya Mahasabha was founded by Karuppan along with K.P Vellon in 1913 for the upliftment of Pulaya community
- Kerala Varma Valiya Koyi Thampuran of Travancore conferred the title of ‘Vidwan’ upon Pandit Karuppan in 1913.
- He was honoured with the title ‘Kavithilakam’ or great poet by the Maharaja of Cochin
- Also he was given to the title ‘Sahitya Nipunan’ by Maharaja of Cochin

- He organised the first sabha 'Kalyana Dayini sabha' at Anapuzha in Kodungallur (1921)
- In 1925 he was appointed as the member of Cochin Legislative assembly
- He also entitiled the post of Superintendent of vernacular education of Cochin state during 1931
- Pandit Karuppan and his wife Kunjamma lived in 'Sahitya Kudeeram' a house near Ernakulam
- Pandit karuppan smaraka grameena vayanasaala is a library founded in 1953

## ❖ Major Literary works

- Sthothramandhaaram(സ്തോത്രമന്ദാരം ) is the first poem of Pandit Karuppan
- Jathikummi(ജാതിക്കുമ്മി) and Baalakalesham(ബാലകലേശം ) are his famous works
- Jathikummi, the first book in Malayalam literature questioning the caste system and untouchability was published in 1913
- The dramatic work Baalakalesham was written by him on the occasion of Shashtipoorthi of Maharaja of Cochin in 1919

- In this drama Baala was the Queen of Cochin and Kalesan was the Maharaja of Cochin himself
- Karuppan wrote the play Baalakalesham under the compulsion from Guru Rama Pisharady in 10 days
- He wrote Aacharabhushanam( ആചാരഭൂഷണം ) to generate awareness among the depressed classes against superstitions

- Another notable contribution by him in the literary field was the writing of the poem titled 'Udyanavirunnu'(ഉദ്യാനവിരുന്നൂ )
- The poem Udyanavirunnu was penned by him to vent his anger at the authorities for not inviting him to a garden party by the Maharaja in the honour of a visiting Governor of Madras.

- **Pandit Karuppan prize instituted in 2013**
- **First winner - Sugathakumari**

## ❖ **Sabhas founded by Pandit Karuppan**

- Kalyanadayinisabha ( kodungallur)
- Sanmarga Pradeepa Sabha ( Kumbalam)
- Jnanodayam Sabha ( Eda cochi)
- Prabhodha Chandrodaya Sabha ( North Paravoor)
- Araya Vamsodharini Sabha ( Engadiyoor)
- Vaala Samudaya Parishkarini Sabha ( Thevara)
- Cochin Pulaya Mahasabha
- Vaala Seva Samithi (Vaikkom)

## ❖ Important Literary works

- ലങ്കാമർദ്ദനം
- ജാതിക്കുമ്മി
- ആചാരദ്രുഷണം
- ബാലകലേശം
- മഹാസമാധി
- ശ്രീബുദ്ധൻ
- പഞ്ചവടി
- കൈരളീ കുതുക്കം
- ധീവര തരുണിയുടെ വിലാപം
- ഭാഷ ഭൈമി പരിണയം
- അരയ പ്രശസ്തി
- ഉദ്യാനവിരുന്ന് (കവിത )
- കാവ്യ പേടകം
- കാളിയമർദ്ദനം
- രാജരാജപർവം
- ചിത്രലേഖ
- ധ്രുവചരിതം
- മംഗളമാല
- സംഗീത നൈഷധം
- ശാകുന്തളം വഞ്ചിപ്പാട്ട്
- സൗദാമിനി
- എഡ്വേർഡ് വിജയം (നാടകം )

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