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9.7.1938.

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Pages 517-524.

Buidana, Berar.
9th July 1938.

Dear Sir,

2834

I thank you for the copy of Manimekalai which you were kind enough to send me. If I am not encroaching on your kindness, allow me to place before you certain of my ideas.

Independently of references in Manimekalai, I have come to the conclusion that Sambuttivu of the Saptadwipa of the Puranas is what ^{was} ~~is now~~ known as Naka Tivu, a small island in the Palk's Strait. This is the island of Mainaka of the Ramayana. This is Manipallavam.

Valmiki ^{says} ~~uses~~ "Mainka ^a in "salt Ocean" (Lavana Toya)" which obviously refers to the Sea of Salt of the Sapta Sagara. Valmiki uses the phrase "Lavana ~~in~~ ambhas" for salt waters or sea in general. There are other evidences also pointing to Naka Tivu being the Sambuttivu.

Sambuttivu is mentioned in the Manimekalai. But your comments do not appear to identify Sambuttivu with Manipallavam. Are they identically the same island?

I am aware that India is supposed to be the Sambuttivu of ~~the~~ the Puranas. The fact that Kaverippumpattinam was known as Sampapati lends colour to this view. Is the Navalantivu & Sambuttivu of Manimekalai India?

These are the questions that I wish to answer with the aid of Manimekalai.

The goddess Manimekalai takes her name from "Mani-malai" Meru which was in Sambuttivu. "Mekalai" means the swelling sides of a mountain and refers to the effects of earthquakes on the mountain (Mainaka which Valmiki describes as being capable of expanding upwards, downward-

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She is, therefore the goddess of Manipallavam which I identify as Sambuttivu. She was worshipped at Kaverippumpattinam. Hence this town was called Sampapati, just as any place where Sivan is worshipped is called Isvaram. Since earthquakes that affected the islands of the Palk's Strait affected the eastern coast of South India, this goddess, who was the protecting deity of these islands, was worshipped at Kaverippumpattinam also for the protection of that part of India.

Manimekalai page 130 lines 106 & 7 appear to definitely identify Manipallavam with Sambuttivu.

யிங் கிஃபாத்திர மென் ஊபு 4 குந்தது
நகவெனடு பெயர்வ டுந வெடுந் தீவத்து.

Manimekalai page 164 lines 16-20 also appear to confirm this.

I shall be highly obliged if you will be kind enough to give me your opinion on these.

Kānthāram mentioned in Manimekalai is undoubtedly the Jaffna Peninsula which was formerly known as Kāntharuva Nagaram. I am taking the liberty to send you a copy of my father's History of Jaffna in which this information is given.

Consequently, Kayangkarai nathi must be there too. We have a port in Jaffna which was formerly called Kasāturai (Gayaturai, the port of embarkation for Gaya - the Buddhist pilgrims embarked here). Gayākkarai is the Kāyangkarai. It is recorded by Megasthenes that a river separated Ceylon from India. This is the Kayangkarai nathi which was the narrow sea at the ^{northern} entrance to the Palk's Strait.

The scene of Manimekalai's former birth was thus in the Jaffna peninsula. Moreover, I make out that "aravakkadal" (p104) is

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the NĀKA (Nākativukkadal) Kadal (nākam=aravam=pāmpu) and "Asōtaram" (p.104, l.38) is "Sākam" one of the Sapta Dwipa. "Acam =ādu or goat = sākam", now called Kāraitivu (kār=ādu,goat)

The most interesting piece of evidence confirming my identification of the Sapta Dwipa as the Seven Islands of the Palk's strait lies in the following lines in Manimekalai:-
p. 342 ll. 201-2.

புறகலிதீயிற் பண்டையொ றையுத்த
கொழுதி யென்னுந் கொழுந் திரவந்தொடு
மரமணி பன்வயம் வந்த தீங்கென

"Par-akam" is the "Par-ulagu" of the following stanzas of the Kantappuranam. Here "Par-ulagu" means the country of Par which consisted of the Seven Islands. "Kulaviya Sambu &c" means the CLUSTER of Sambu &c. "Viravicchulum" means that the seven sea mixed INTO ONE SEA which is the Palk's Strait. Even today there is a spot in the Palk's Strait called "Seven currents" "Elattuppirivu", ^{சுழாற் றுப் பிடுவு} the spot where the seven seas (Sapta Sagara) met.

1. பன்வகைப் பிளங்கட்கென்வளம் புறமதுயிற்றி கொள் பா
நுலகினுள் விரிவு மங்கனாள் றவு முணர்வன் கேட்கி
கலவிய சய் சாகந் துறை கிரவுஞ்சங்கோத்
விளவு கொழேதகம் புட்கர கிவை யேழுதீயே.
2. புறவு மீய்வுவகி றுப்புப் புறயிர் நெய் பே கன்ன
விரதமா மதுநீராகு மெழுகட லேழுதீயம்
வரன் முறை விரவிடி சூழ மற்றுதற்குயுந் தினன்னத்
துணயது சூழ்ந்து நிற்குந் சக்கர வளச் சையம்.
3. தினன்னதற் கிப்பன் வேலைக்கரமுதல் புறத்திலாழி
தின்னது துணக்கு மப்பன் பேரிடுள் ஆர்ந்த துளம்
மன்னவகாண்டியப்பன் வலிகெழு மண்டித் தோடு
துன்னுமீப் பெருகுள் கள் னுவுந் சூழ்ந்து கொண்
புருத்தென்

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I make out the meaning of these stanzas as follows:-
(called)

1. The country of/Par, called Param, consists of the cluster (கூலவிய) of the seven islands. "பாருகு --- இவை ஏழுதீவை!"
= பாரி ஏழுதீவுகளைக் குறிக்கும் இவ்வெழு தீவுமன்றி வேறில்லை. (பெரு விரிவு.)

(அங்கத்தொன்றா) 2. The seven seas ang in the golden land which encircle the Sakkaravalamalai. They encircle to

golden land which encircles the Sakkaravalamalai. அப்பால் = next to
சூழ் = encircle.

3. Next to the land of gold is the Outer Ocean. Next to the outer ocean is the great world (the continents of Asia &c).

The golden land, the outer ocean and the great world lie juxtaposed (tunnum) and collectively (இப்பெருங்காடுகள் யாவும்) surround Par.

Identifications

Seven Islands - Satta Tivu of Palk's St.

Seven Seas - Palk's Strait

Golden land - Ilam (gold) - Ceylon.

Sakkaravala malai was a mountain in Ceylon (Ilam) where the Sakkaravala birds (Sinhas), Yanai-un-kuruku, had their nests. Hence Ceylon was called Sinhika (Sinha-ikai) in the Ramayanam and Sinha-Ilam (Sinhalam) locally.

Outer Ocean - the Indian Ocean

The Great World - the continents of Asia, Africa &c.

The description is thus an accurate geographical description.

Par-akam of Manimekalai where Manipallavam was is this Par-ulagu, the country called Par, Param, Swarkkam, the visible heaven, ("வீரன் விசும்பம்") of Toongeyil mooru (Tripuram).

I have traced the present day names of the seven islands of the Palk's Strait back to their Puranic names. If you are interested in the subject, I shall be glad to give details of the identifications.

Kindly let me have the address of some Bookellers who can supply Cilappadikaram, Purananuru and Padirrupattu

Yours truly

NSP

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9.7.1922.

207-1 (85214101930)
References in John's History of Jaffna.

Satta Tivu - p.3

Kantharuvanakaram - p. 5

Kasatturai - p. 13

Also see reference to Kannakai - p. 7.

Q my address

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