

அதல்

1. 4. 1932. T. K. Joseph.

அதல்-1 (தமிழ்நாடு 6450)

T. K. Joseph, B.A., L.T.,
Secretary, Kerala Society.

Trivandrum,
1st April 1932.

Dear Sir,

May I first congratulate you on the honorary degree of D. Litt. recently conferred on you by the Madras University?

I write this letter to enquire whether the earliest olai copies of தமிழ்நாடு to the classis have தமிழ்நாடு நாடு and தமிழ்நாடு நாடு as the titles of 2 நாடு and தமிழ்நாடு நாடு, the first two Cheras mentioned in them.

I am of the opinion that தமிழ்நாடு நாடு and தமிழ்நாடு நாடு may be corrupt forms of தமிழ்நாடு நாடு and தமிழ்நாடு நாடு, which are literal translation of the title Dēvānām - priyā found in Asoka's inscriptions. Of course my interpretation is contrary to those of the commentators, who, we must concede, were not contemporaries of those kings, & were in no more advantageous position than we are. They must have guessed the derivation, & we too do the same now.

May I know if my interpretation is tenable? I shall be greatly obliged for your opinion on the matter.

Yours sincerely
T. K. Joseph

To Dr. Swaminatha Iyer,
Mahamshapathyaya,
Madras.

P.S. / Herewith a copy of verses published in Kerala Society Papers, Series 8. My stanza on p. iv is

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அசல்-1 (தமிழ் ௧450)

The style of Ramacharitam said to be
the earliest specimen of Malayalam. But
I am of opinion that its language
is the corrupt Tamil of South
Travancore, & not Malayalam at
all.

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G. E. V. L. O.

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