

அசல்

30.9.1934

University of Madras.

அசல் -1 (சுருதிநகர்தம்)

Madras,  
30th September 1934.

From

Mahamahopadyaya  
Dr. V. Swaminatha Ayyar,  
'Tyagaraja Vilas',  
TRIPLICANE.

To

The Registrar,  
University of Madras,  
TRIPLICANE.

Ref: Editing and publishing of Kurunthohai.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter No. A20653 of the 26th instant and in reply thereto, I am to state as follows:-

"KURUNTHOHAI" the book under referencé is a poetical anthology in Tamil containing 402 verses composed on various occasions by 205 poets of the Sangam Age and compiled by a scholar. This forms the second of the series known as "Ettuthohai" (the eight anthologies). Of these eight, I have already edited and published with critical annotations, glossaries etc., 4 books namely Aingurunuru, Patiruppattu, Paripadal and Purananuru.

While I was engaged for many years past in the research work of ancient Tamil Classics, I came across a manuscript copy of Kurunthohai, perused it, read it over and over, and with the object of bringing it to light, copied the text carefully, compared it with other cadjan manuscripts that were available to me, made corrections in the text which I found necessary on comparison, noted the different readings, traced the meanings of difficult expressions with the aid of other ancient works and put the text in a proper form. I need hardly say that the rendering of the text in a proper

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and correct form is a very difficult task.

I used to read the book many a time whenever I had leisure. As I was reading the book, I prepared notes regarding difficult words and expressions occurring in the text, passages used by old commentators in their works, parallel quotations etc. I should say that this item of work has been the result of many years' labour.

As I heard of the existence of an old commentary for this work, I made earnest attempts to secure it; but I regret my attempts proved futile. Therefore with the idea that word for word meaning for each stanza of this valuable work will be necessary and useful to readers, I am preparing a commentary.

The notes which I had prepared variedly as mentioned above <sup>are</sup> to be shaped and put in the proper places. These items have to be done by several assistants under my guidance.

The usual method of my editorial work I intend following in the case of Kurunthohai also. The book will contain an introduction, account of the authors, princes and chiefs referred to in the verses, and the person who prepared the anthology, critical notes, the text and the commentary--each verse followed by the name of the author, the theme and its division, word for word meaning, grammatical points, allusions, passages of the verse cited by ancient commentators in their work, parallel quotations, rare usages, and ~~ix~~ different readings, index to first lines, and a general index containing difficult expressions, compound words, proper names, and noteworthy features etc., with explanations wherever necessary.

If, in the course of my editing, anything new suggests itself to me, I may incorporate it.

On the lines indicated above, I have already taken up the work under reference. Any information that I may think

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necessary in this connection, I shall furnish to you in due course.

Yours faithfully,

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