



Parthiban Kanavu - Dream of Parthiban

Kalki , M.S. Venkataraman (Translator)

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This book is the first of trilogy, which covers the reign of Narasimha Pallavan(Narasimhavarman). The narrative revolves around the struggle of the Pallava Emperor to enhance the prestige of the Pallava dynasty flag.

Known for his patronage of the arts, Narasimha Pallavan took great interest in creating the remarkable shore town of Mamallapuram, with its famous Shore temple and the monolithic Rathas.

He restored to Hinduism its elements of love and compassion. He succeeded in wiping out the extremist cult of Saivism, which believed in human sacrifice. In Parthiban Kanavu these historic facts are woven around a remarkable narrative, filled with thrill, suspense and romance.

Paarthiban Kanavu deals with the attempts of the son of (fictional) Chola king Parthiban, Vikraman, to attain independence from the Pallava ruler, Narasimhavarman.

Parthiban Kanavu - Dream of Parthiban Details

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From Reader Review Parthiban Kanavu - Dream of Parthiban for online ebook

Green Singh says

The story of Patriotism, love and sacrifice. Parthiban Kanavu is the book every Tamilian should read and to get a glimpse of our glory,our history should be reminded to the people and Amarar Kalki does exactly that. Reading this novel has been a spine chilling experience for me.

This novel deals with the attempts of Vikraman,son of Chola king Parthiban, to attain independence from the Pallava ruler, Narasimhavarman.

The Cholas remain vassals of the Pallavas. Parthiban conveys his dream of the Chola dynasty regaining its glory – which he believes is lost since they are no longer the independent rulers of their land – to his young son Vikraman. Parthiban refuses to pay the taxes to the Pallavas and this triggers the Pallavas to wage war against the Cholas. In the resulting war Parthiban is killed. But before he dies, in the battlefield, an enigmatic monk promises to Parthiban that he will make sure that Vikraman fulfills Parthiban's dream. Vikraman grows up and plans his retaliation against Narasimhavarman. But his uncle, Marappa Bhupathi, betrays him and Vikraman is arrested and deported to a far off island by Narasimhavarman.

The narrative moves on to describe how Vikraman comes back longing to meet his mother and the mysterious beauty whom he saw before being deported. To his woe he later discovers that his mother has disappeared and has in fact been kidnapped by members of a savage cult who are known as Kapalikas – a group which believes in human sacrifice. He also comes to know that the beauty he has fallen for, Kundhavi, is none other than the daughter of his sworn enemy, Narasimhavarman.

The final parts of the story is about finding out the real identity of the monk and how the dream of King Parthiban came true after 300 years...

Thangaprakash Sengodan says

Many thanks to Kalki for bringing me the habit of reading books!!. When I was pursuing my Master's degree (2003) at Government College of Technology, Coimbatore, it was happened to read Kalki's "PARTHIBAN KANAVU" (thanks for my room-mate a good reader then), ofcourse I started the novel by 7.10 pm as a short time pass until the dinner 7.30 pm. But I was trapped by his writing and I lost my dinner that night and finally put down the book after 12.00. I never thought of reading a full book before, but it had happened by his fascinating narrating of the story. I could visualize the scenes, characters ofcourse every instants delivered in the book and hailed by the surprise almost in every page. Immediately I bought his other books, ponniyin selvan and sivagamiyin sabatham they are astounded then I switched to similar kind of novels and grew frantic in reading. I always believe "A good book can change your life". I don't want to review these three books (Parthiban Kanavu, Sivagamiyin Sabatham and Ponniyin Selvan)because these three books are such an extraordinary and scarcely exceptionally written in Tamil.

Roopkumar Balachandran says

This the sequel to Sivagamiyin Sabatham, the book is short compared to Sivagamiyin Sabatham and Ponniyin Selvan.

Parthiban is Chola King who is paying tax to Pallava empire. When Narasimha Varman went to war with Pulikesi, Chola king stopped to pay taxes. Narasimha Varman successful return after defeating Pulikesi he summons the Chola king to pay the taxes. But Parthiban who knows his army is not match to Pallavas ask them to wage war. He takes his son Vikraman to his secret room and shows his dreams of free Chola kingdom. Vikraman takes vow that he will fulfill his father's dream.

In the war Parthiban is defeated while on his death he meets a mystic monk (Saivite saint) who promises in helping Vikraman to realize his dream, before the king closes his eyes he comes to know who the monk is.

Years go by Vikraman tries to hoist Chola flag in his kingdom and he gets arrested by his own uncle who is the commander of Chola under Pallava rule. Narasimha Varman gets suggestion from his daughter Kundavi and so he deports Vikraman to an island, before he sets sail he sees a beautiful girl Kundavi in the port, love at first sight. After reaching the island Vikraman becomes the King.

Some years later Vikraman disguises as Gem merchant comes back to Mamallapuram on the way to Uraipur he was ambushed by his uncle and Kabala Bairavar and was saved by a Pallava spy (mystic monk). He gets the horse from the spy and tries to see his mother in Uraipur but he meets with an accident and fell ill gravely.

Did Vikraman saved from the illness? how did Vikraman gets back his kingdom? Who is the Saivite Saint? Who is the Maha Kabala Bairavar? All these are answered in the end.

From Sivagamiyin Sabatham the non fictional characters Narasimha Varman and Paranjothi now called Siruthondar reprise their roles. There is addition of Ponnann boat rower and his wife Valli, interesting characters who adds pace of the story. Those who have read Sivagamiyin Sabatham will not like the way the novel is written. The story has lot of twists, mysteries, political back stabbings and also the shrewdness of Narasimha Varman explained in detail. The story has potential to be big novel but the author has rushed in many places.

Arulmozhiarman says

The first of the trilogy of Kalki's historical magnum opuses, 'Parthiban Kanavu' boasts the richness of the Tamil Nadu and its people during the reign of Chola and Pallava dynasties. Written in a simple and lucid style without compromising the parlance of the language, this book is the best starter for anyone new to Tamil historical fictions.

Though the story is simple, Kalki has interwoven the plot with everything the reader can dream for: beauty, harmony, gallantry, romance, satire, shock, horror, suspense, sensation, thrill, rivalry, fame, sacrifice and morale. The characterization is brilliant and the plot cleverly synergizes historical events and creativity to portray a brilliant story.

A good not-to-be-missed book especially if you are a novice in historical fictions considering the limited number of pages!!

Silver says

I'm going to be generous with my stars here and give this one 5 shining stars. But that doesn't mean it isn't

good. It is; Just not Kalki's best. Still it is one of the better historical novels you can find in tamil. It is not long or as well-written as his other two masterpieces and I remember finishing it in hours. I have a definite soft spot for it since it is the first ever novel I read. Before that I just stuck with newspapers, magazines, etc. I should thank my dad for introducing me into the wonderful world of novels. Although now, he seems to be regretting that since he can't get me to stop reading. Heehee.

Jananee Raman says

Oh such an exciting sequel of Sivagamiyin Sabatham. Time just flies in Kalki's novel. You travel with the characters for year, you see their birth, their childhood, their adolescent, their love, their entire life as if it is your own. I can't define by words. I feel proud to be a tamizhian, born on the same land these great people have lived. RESPECT.LOVE.

Sudharsan srinivasan says

well penned Tamil classic by kalki. The characterisation was too good. The flow of story seems to be guessing but with that mystery saivite monk thrill and suspense has been cleverly maintained by author. The pace of the story is as good as watching a movie. we can't time travel but if want to meet pallava and chola kings one can travel in parthiban kanavu. so overall PARTHIBAN KANAVU - parthiban kanavilirundhu meezhavadhu sulabam alla...adhan thaakam vazhnaal muzhuvadhun thodarum!!

Ashish Iyer says

My suggestion is first read "sivagamiyin sabatham" then read this novel. It just a sequel to that novel and pre-sequel to "ponniyin selvan". But i read these books in reverse order. Still i enjoyed it.

Parthiban Kanavu brings to life the glory of Tamil civilization. The description of the events cuts across both royal life style and the life style of the common man. The book is really awesome and very very delighting. There are very decent twist and turns you can enjoy reading till end.

The pace in which the story travels is fantastic. Get ready to be transported to the Pallava/ Chola era. Walk the streets of Mamallapuram, get drenched in the rains of the forests, travel on the boats across Cauvery, and see the statesmanship of the Kings. Betrayal, love, suspense, dedication, intelligence, bravery.

Its quite amazing how the author weaves his characters- true and fiction. I can't stop pondering over the fact that today we have such popular novels like lord of the rings, harry potter and game of thrones and amazing on screen adaptations of these too. I imagine how grand it would be if someone got Kalki's writings on screen. Such an enchanting story entwined with real history would be a delight to see on screen!

Shobana says

A sequel to Sivagamiyin Sabatham. However I finished this earlier. Now the urge to visit mahabalipuram is even stronger. Vikrama chozhan's love for Kundavi has been crafted very beautifully.. A must read..

GS Nathan says

Intrigue, suspense, romance, valor, courage, villainy, revenge, envy, loyalty, all showcased within a intricate story filled with unexpected twists and turns makes this an excellent historical romance, told with all of Kalki's trademark ability. Perhaps that a fuller and more measured treatment of the story - a la Ponniyin Selvan - would have been more satisfying...but then again, you can't have everything. A gripping page turner!

Shakir Shakiel says

I have to say I was disappointed with this novel. Its nowhere close to its previous part - Sivakamiyin Sabatham which was a brilliant masterpiece. The main protagonist of this novel - Vikraman has absolutely no clue of what he is doing, let it be his ambition to accomplish his father's dream or his lady love.

But the suspense of who the main character of the novel will make you tread slowly. The last 50 pages leaves you somewhat satisfied as there is more action and twists involved. One thing is for sure. By the end of these two novels one would start having immense respect to NarasimmhaVarma Pallava.

Gowtham Mahalingam says

Great to know this history with non-fictional incidents and characters. This is will the great book if any read this before "Ponniyin Selvan". If you get into this after PS, you will feel very normal as this won't fascinate in wy as PS did. Strictly IMO. :)

As a whole, Worth the read

Venkat Krishnan says

This book gave me a new experience..Yes this is the of any stuff that i read in my own native language...""TAMIL""..I take pride of my self that I successfully started my first book in Tamil.. A sense of pride flows through my veins to say myself TAMIZAN.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

I have already heared some great things about AMARAR KALKI....I used to see many great people whom I Inspire took Kalki as Inspiration..After reading this book I came to know the reason..

Umesh Kesavan says

For those who wish to enjoy Kalki's genius yet do not have the patience for " Ponniyin Selvan" , this is a smart shortcut !

Bhargavi Balachandran says

I technically have the ability to read Tamil. But even on my best days, i don't think i could manage a page of Tamil prose without making my brain go bonkers. Obviously, i am not proud of this as Tamil is my mother tongue and I have studied it as my second language for a decent period of time. My reading habit started courtesy random books available at home. It is a little surprising that i have to slave over a passage of Tamil when both my parents read quite a bit of Tamil literature and we had tonnes of Tamil novels at home.

I had bought an English translation of "Parthiban's Kanavu", a very famous Tamil historical novel sometime last year and promptly forgot about it. A few days back, i decided to read something different and picked up the book. I must say the book has opened several doors for me. For one, i realized that translations and transliterations cannot do complete justice to the original. The lushness of words and the original import gets lost often times.

Coming back to Parthiban's dream, the Tamil version was translated by a 15 year old girl, Nirupama Raghavan. Commendable effort, i must say. The translation is not lucious enough when it comes to the choice of words, but despite the simplistic writing, the plot keeps you immersed in it at all times.

Parthiban is a Chola king. His empire is heavily marginalized with the Pandiyas, Cheras and Pallavas pressing into his territory from all directions. Pallava ruler, Mamalla Narasimha Chakravarti is the most dominant king in the southern lands and makes all other rulers pay tax to him. Parthiban refuses to pay up and decides to go into a war against the Chakravarti, knowing very well that his troops are nowhere comparable to the Pallava army. Before marching into the battle ground, Parthiban unveils his dream (Chola kingdom becoming the strongest in the region) to his son, Vikraman.

Vikraman is but a boy at his stage, but decides to make his father's dream a reality. Parthiban goes into war and gets killed. However, before he dies, a Shivanadiyar (Shaivite devotee) promises to help Vikraman realise his father's goal. The rest of the story is about how Vikraman realises Parthiban's dream. He is aided in his quest by several people like Ponna, a boatman, his wife, Valli, Siruthondar and the mystery Shivanadiyar.

Vikrama has a love interest as well - Kuntavi, who is the daughter of the Chakravarti. And a bunch of villains to foil Vikraman's resolve. The main suspense aspect is "supposed" to be the identity of Shivanadiyar. However, the narrative gives you enough clues early on to figure out who he is. So that is not exactly too surprising when at the end of 250 pages the Shivanadiyar reveals himself. I have no clue whether the subtlety got lost in the translation or whether Kalki's work is liberal with the clues too.

It's a highly entertaining read that rarely sags and almost every page has something wild and racy happening. People who like stories of kings and conquests will definitely like this. I am a history junkie, so i am not really surprised that i liked the book despite the very ordinary language. But one can't deny the fact that the abridged translation is neat and edited tautly. Overall good read.

