

Indian Writers and Poets

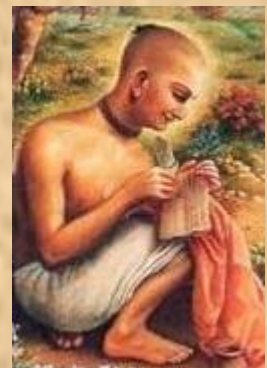
CHERUSSERI NAMBOOTHIRI

Cherusseri Namboothiri is the author of Krishnagatha, a prayer used for daily recitation for worshiping Lord Krishna in the month of Chingam(August-September). The poem talks about exploits of Lord Krishna and is said to have been inspired by a lullaby that his mother used to sing to him when he was a child. He follows the pattern of the lullaby in his poem. A near modern diction of the poetry and maternal love portrayed by it has gained popularity equivalent to Ezhuttacchan's Adyatma Ramayana (Ezhuttacchan is known as the father of modern Malayalam literature).



It is presumed that he hailed from Namboothiri illam, where the Namboothiri community resides, known as Cherusseri in Kurumbranaatu Taluk in Kerela in the 650th year in Malyalam calendar. History does not give us many details of his life, but it cannot be debated that Cherusseri was a poet with deep aesthetic sense. Although, his poem's first few lines indicate that he was a poet in the court of King Udhayavarman, who ruled the Kolathiri Dhesam. Bhaaratha Gaatha is another work that has been regarded his creation.

Krishna Gatha has been written in a metre known as 'manjari' with beautiful descriptions and lavish use of adjectives. The poem is filled with passion, devotion, humour and warmth making it highly enjoyable and interesting. It is the gentleness



of the language of the poem that has won the hearts of people and made it the pride of the soil of Kerala.

Cherusseri is the originator of Gatha style of poetry. Krishna Gatha is a long poem of epical dimensions. It is the first Maha Kavya in Malayalam. Krishna Gatha is the detailed description of the boyhood pranks of Lord Krishna based on the 10th canto of Śrīmad Bhāgavatam, an early Puranic text. Cherusseri's importance lies in his clear inclination towards native tongue, by which his poetry became popular among the people of Kerala. With the writing of Krishna Gatha, the validity of the use of spoken Malayalam for literary purposes received its ultimate justification. Unlike the language of Cheeraman's Ramacharitham and the works of the Niranam poets, the language of Krishna Gatha marks the culmination of a stage of evolution. It is a 1600 lines long devotional poem said to have been written on the instruction of the king.



Activity: Find out the history of our National Anthem.

Activity: What is the importance of sources in local languages in the understanding of history?

Sources: www.in.com,
www.revolvy.com,