

## **Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai To Tamil Literature**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai was the famous historical writer in South India. He contributed much to the Tamil literature. His famous writings were Nutrogai vilakkam, Manonmaniam, some Early sovereigns of Travancore and History of Tamil literature. Manonmaniam Sundarampillai had profound knowledge of Tamil literature. During his times people believed that the Aryan civilization was inferior. His view point out that Tamil literature was divine and moral. Manonmaniam Sundarampillai took interest in the study of history and epigraphy. He laid many historical works and visited many places for gathering sources. In his historical findings he mentioned several monuments are related with Tamil literature and history. His invention of Kollam Era stands even today as a monumental contribution to the chronological historical reflections and interpretations helped Dravidian India. In his historical work scholars got clear information about the findings and literary works.

**Keywords:** Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai, Tamil literature,

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### **Early career**

Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai was born in 5<sup>th</sup> April 1885, at Alleppey in the princely state of Travancore. His father was Perumal Pillai and mother Madathi Ammal. His father was a Tamilian so he well versed in the Tamil Language. His early education at Trivandrum high school. Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai completed his Bachelor Degree and Post graduation in Maharaj College Trivandrum. During his early education and college life he participated in various extracurricular activities. In his college life he caught the turning

point from various personalities. During his leisure time he read several novels and books. He had more faith in Tamil language during the higher studies. In the college studies he performed with various activities like drama, debates, and other cultural programmes that will changes the life style.

### **Professional life**

In 1877, Manonmaniam sundaram pillai joined as the school teacher in Tirunelveli. As he served as the teacher for few years then he became the principal of Tamil and English School in Tirunelveli. He took many efforts to develop the institution. In his tenure as a teacher, he gave more importance to Tamil language. Many Novels, and dramatic, literature, Journals Tamil poetry books were kept in the school library, this gives more information to students and teachers. Then he joined Maharaja's College Thiruvananthapuram as a professor. In this college, he gave more importance to the Tamil language, many literary works were done by him. Due to his efforts Tamil conferences were conducted in this college. It is very useful for scholars and students. He rent many services to explore Tamil languages in the Kerala state. Then Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai became the first principal of MDT Hindu College, Tirunelveli. In this college he started several works to uplift the Tamil language throughout the world.

### **His works to Tamil literature**

In 1885 he established SivaPrakasha Sabha at Trivandrum. He published Chathirasaugiragam Commonly known as Nootrogai Villakkam. He wrote and published his master piece Manonmaniam in 1891. History of Tamil literature and the age of Tirunjnana Sambandar in 1895. He wrote his famous books related south Indian history, some Early sovereigns of Travancore. In support of his Tamil drama manonmaniam, he has

sung a song Tamil Deiva vanakkam, worship of the Goddess of Tamil. He proved that Tamil was divine and Tamil literature was moral. Manonmaniam Sundarampillai believes that the faith of Bankim Chandras Tamil Nationalism and Tamilttai was the Southern Counter part of Indian. He presiding Tamilttai so called as Tamil Inam.

### **Tamil literature and historical works**

Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai gives more importance to Tamil literature and historical works. He has good contact with the famous historians like K.K. Pillai. K. Nelakanda Sasturai, K.P. Padmanabha Menon. Among his historical writings he stated that the first half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century is valuable of the Tamil language . He fixed the controversy in fixing the Sambandar's age from 1200BC to 1200. He taught that saint Sambandar was an younger contemporary of saint Appar. In this work Tamil literature will gives many evidence for the writings and feature Benefits of the scholars. In the view of the Tamil Literature he built many monuments in South Travancore. He also laid the Historical research in the Southern area. He wanted to write Tamil literary history and history of South India. Based upon his writings he visited many Historical places for gathering sources. His research work would gave more importance for the historians scholars.

### **Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai statement**

Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai gave some statement as follows:

- a) The Darvidian is pre-eminent among its constituents
- b) Tamil is like the eternal God
- c) Tamil is the parent of all the Dravidian languages.
- d) Tamil is a living tongue.

In this statements the author compares the Tamil works, as social justice, morality and relevance. Thus Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai played a great vital role in the Tamil literature. His findings and research work would grate attitudes towards historians and Tamilagam. He laid foundation to scientific research in south Indian history.

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