

അത്യാം
കേരള ചരിത്രം
കോൺഫറൻസ്
പ്രബന്ധങ്ങൾ

THE RUFFLED TIMES IN HISTORY

എഡിറ്റേഴ്സ്

മനോജ് ടി. ആർ., ബിജു ആർ. ഐ.

PROCEEDINGS OF
Vth INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
KERALA HISTORY




SPCS

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Reconstruction the Myth of Muchilot Bhagavathi

Dr. Susmitha Ramakrishnan

Abstract:

The consciousness of the past and its portrayal are reflected in the myths and practices of the present day. By investigating into the verbal and literary traces of the Theyyam myth, my intention is to create a dialogue between the past and the present and find out how this dialogue in turn constructs the portrayal of the past.

Among the numerous Theyyam Goddesses, here I have analysed a prominent Theyyam Goddess whose legend reveals indigeneous folk origin-the Muchilot Bhagavathi. The gifted Namboodiri girl, became a martyr for fault which was not her own. Since the folk tradition of the Thottam songs was transmitted orally, some transformation might have occurred in the language, but the basic idea of the legend was retained.

Here the myth reveals that even though the Goddess was worshipped, the society never permitted a woman to express herself. A normal woman lived her life and perished unnoticed, it was the aggrieved woman who was worshipped as the Goddess, and that too only after her martyrdom.

Through this paper an attempt is made to analyze the status of women of pre-modern Kerala as evident from the myth of the popular Theyyam.¹- the Muchilot Bhagavathi. Since the conventional sources of History like inscriptions, manuscripts etc. are generally silent on the status of women, there is a need to analyse other sources which reveal the milieu of pre-modern age. Among the numerous Theyyam forms, the Goddess is very popular as a deity. She is worshipped as the family deity, as the guardian of the village, and also as the protector from dangerous diseases.

By investigating into the verbal and literary traces of the Theyyam tradition, legends, ritual performances, artistic depictions and modes of