

MAPPILAPATTU; AS A SOURCE TO REACH OUT TO THE LIFE OF MAPPILAS OF MALABAR

Mohamed Haseeb . N

Research Scholar, Department of History, Mangalore University, Karnataka, India

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ABSTRACT

Mappilas, the Muslim community of the south-west coast of India have a unique place in the socio-cultural and historical arena of Kerala. The literary contributions of the *Mappilas* are often called as *Mappilapattu* or mappila songs. *Mappilapattu*, have been classified into different variants in accordance with different themes. In the beginning, *Mappilapattu* were written in long papers having a low width, such papers are known as 'safeena' in Arabic. These songs usually called as *safeenasongs*. The second group of Mappila songs is *malappattukal*, which narrates the extraordinary and brave life of men. Similarly, *padappattukal* describes the background and of the ideological struggles especially the anti-colonial struggles in Malabar. *Kissapattukal* narrates the different episodes of a story especially the stories of regional importance and Islamic expansion during prophet time and its background. *kessupattukal* articulated the feelings of love or love stories. *kathupattukal* (letter songs) explains the pain of separation of the couples. *Kallyanapattugal* (marriage song), the special branch of songs especially during the occasion of marriage day celebration. These all varieties expressed the inner feelings of a particular group of society. More often than not *mappilapattu* reflected the different aspects of individual life and social behavior. Indeed these literary contributions of the *Mappilas* left out a permanent insight on the Mappila life. So this is through the study of these songs we can reach out to the life of *Mappilas* of Malabar.

KEYWORDS: *Anti-Colonial Struggle, Amalgamation. Cultural Synthesis, Psychological Weapon*