

PROF. K.N. SUNDARESAN
(1899-1983)

. . . here was an authentic poet, original and sensitive, with the heart of a child, and fanatical dedication to his craft. Prof. Sundaresan was active while the rest of the world rested. In a sense, and then literally, his dreams were not daydreams, but night dreams and dreamt while wide awake. They took concrete steps in words, lines and stanzas . . .

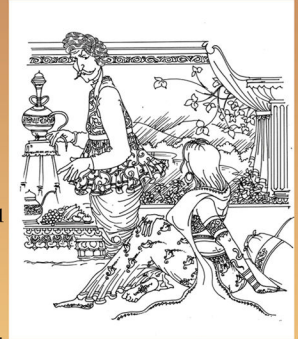
From the Foreword by Dr. P.S. Sundaram

Kurichi Narayanaier Sundaresan (KNS) was a gifted, inspired and prolific writer of poems and plays in English and Tamil from 1920 until his death at age 84. A poet, teacher and professor of mathematics, his interests extended over to many other fields. He has left behind a vast legacy of several unpublished plays and poems, parodies, crossword puzzles, and an unique parsing and annotating scheme he had invented and coined as *Iyappu Urai*, to help readers of ancient Tamil classics “assimilate more thoroughly what they read.”



Now his family members, at the initiative of the eldest member of the family Dr. S. Naranan, have brought out this collection of Prof. KNS works to serve as a sampler to new readers. The title KRISHNA AND GANDHARI refers to the leading play in the book and it first appeared under the title ‘The Cause’ in June 1939.

This volume includes the author’s both English and Tamil writings. It includes four plays - all based on historical fiction, 20 poems (some previously published as early as in 1922, and two on trigonometry and calculus) and an essay on Tamil poet Andal’s *Tiruppavai*. Also included is his short treatise on *Iyappu Urai*, his ingenious parsing technique, which delineates the original text in multiple hierarchical levels in a pictorial format. This scheme is perhaps his most enduring contribution to Tamil, which “greatly facilitates quick comprehension of even the most complicated lines couched in prosodic content.” Prof. KNS explains both the concept and technique with illustrations - for a *Sambhandar’s* Tamil *pasuram* as well as a Shakespearean poem.



He has annotated 50,000 lines of classical Tamil poetry, including *Agananuru* and *Purananuru*, and they are in a state ready for publication.

The book includes a foreword by Dr. P. S. Sundaram, a contemporary of the author, a distinguished scholar and translator of *Kamba Ramayanam* and *Kural*.

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