



## A Rare book - Dhevaiula on Ramanathaswami

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This classical work on Sri Ramanatha Swami of Rameswaram was composed by “Palapattadai Chokkanatha Pillai”. This work was discovered by Sri U.Ve. Saminatha Iyer after comparing multiple versions. He also wrote a commentary on this rare text.

### Foreword

கடலிடை மலைக டம்மா லடைத்துமால் கரும முற்றித்  
திடலிடைச் செய்த கோயிற் றிருவிரா மேச்சு ரத்தைத்  
தொடலிடை வைத்து நாவிற் சுழல்கின்றேன் தூய்மை யின்றி  
உடலிடை நின்றும் பேரா வைவராட் டுண்டு நானே

(Composed by Sri Appar/ Thirunavukkarasu Nayanar,  
Thevaram, 4<sup>th</sup> Canto of Thirumurai)



‘ULA’ is part of 96 types of poetic expressions in Tamil. In general, the theme of ‘ULA’ would be the glorification of the hero by the spinsters to garner his attention.

This book gives the following in detail:

1. The Karunya/ grace of Lord Ramanathaswamy towards the devotees
2. Description about the significant places in Rameswaram
3. Description about the ‘Theerthams’ in Rameswaram
4. About few puranic stories
5. Rare stories from the Siva-puranam and older texts
6. The great acts of the Saint-poets ‘Nayanmars’
7. Description about 512 native members of Rameswaram (verse 94)
8. About the people who had performed service to this temple (verse 97)
9. About the entry of the Utsava Moorthy in a mantapa constructed by Raghunatha Sethupathi (Verse 63)
10. About the temple chariot donation by the Sethupathis (Verse 108)
11. Donation of a special dress to Lord Ramanathaswamy by Vijayaraghunatha Sethupathi (Verse 67)
12. Donation of the rope that helps to pull the chariot (Verse 138)

“Dhevaiula” was written by “Sri Palapattadai Chokkanatha Pillai” on Lord Ramanatha Swami of Rameswaram. This place is part of the 14 Sivasthalams in erstwhile Pandya Naadu, which was praised by the Saints-poets called 'Nayanmars', worshippers of Lord Siva.

The author used linguistic specialties (that are unique to the Tamil language) that will keep the readers in wonderment. Since there is a mention of Vijayraghnunatha Sethupahi, the author might have lived during his period.

My interest in this text was aroused by the citation by my Guru/Teacher, Sri Mahavidwan Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai during his lectures on the rare Tamil scriptures. I further took steps to dig deep into this rare text and got hold of the following editions – The edition of my teacher and 2 more from the devotees. After the comparison of the 3 texts, I have arrived at this critical edition.



Further, I serialized them in a Tamil magazine for the benefit of the Tamils.

Let me pray to thy Grace to bless us!

Yours Lovingly,

U.Ve.Saminathaiyer

Chennai, 24-Feb-1907

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