

M. R. Bhattathiripad

- **M. R. Bhattathiripad** is a 93 years old Indian social reformer and writer from Kerala. He joined Yogakshema Sabha and worked with V. T. Bhattathiripad. When widow marriage was considered a taboo in Nambuthiri community, he married Uma Antharjanam, younger sister of VT's wife Sreedevi Antharjanam, on 13 September 1934.
- This was the first known widow marriage in the Kerala Nambuthiri community. He was also an active member of *Purogamana Sahitya Prasthanam*. MRB wrote 14 books which included two plays: Ente Omana-play and Marakkudakkullile Maha

Narakam-play. When Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi started its flagship publication, *Keli* in 1963, MRB was the first editor.

Marakkudakkullile Maha Narakam

marakkudakkullile maha narakam of MR Bhattathiripad reveals the pathetic story of Antarjanams of Nambootiri Illams.

- These social dramas make deep impact in the Nambootiri community and these efforts of them discussed seriously in the society and later these efforts caused for the reformation and progress of that community.

Kumaran Asan

Kumaran Asan was one of the triumvirate poets of modern malayalam. , along with Vallathol

Narayana Menon and Ullor S. Parameswara. Narayana Guru's influence led Asan to spiritual pursuits and he spent some time at a local temple, in prayers and teaching Sanskrit. Soon, he joined Guru at his Aruvippuram hermitage where he was known as *Chinnaswami* ("young ascetic").

Asan was also involved with the activities of the SNDP and became its secretary in 1904. The same year, he founded Vivekodayam, a literary journal in Malayalam, and assumed its editorship. Under his leadership, the magazine became a monthly from a bi-monthly. In 1913, he was elected to the Sree Moolam Popular Assembly (Sri Moolam Praja Sabha), the first popularly elected legislature in the history of India

- The only poet in Malayalam became Mahakavi without writing a Mahakavyam
- First Malayalam poet appeared on Indian postal stamps

A highly philosophical poem, 'Veena Poovu' is an allegory of the transience of the mortal world, which is depicted through the description of the varied stages in the life of a flower. Asan describes in such detail about its probable past and the position it held.

- It is an intense sarcasm on people on high powers/positions finally losing all those. The first word *Ha*, and the last word *Kashtam* of the entire poem is often considered as a symbolism of him calling the world outside *Ha! kashtam* (How pitiful)

Duravastha (The Tragic Plight)- A love story depicting the relationship between Savithri, a Namboothiri heiress and Chathan, a youth from a lower caste. A political commentary on 19th and early 20th century Kerala.

Chandaalabhikshuki- This poem, divided into four parts and consisting of couplets, describes an untouchable beggar-woman" (also the name of the poem)

Vallathole Narayana Menon

He was one of the triumvirate poets of modern Malayalam, along with Kumaran Asan and Ulloor S. Parameswara Iyer. The honorific Mahakavi (English: "great poet") was applied to him in 1913 after the publication of his Mahakavya Chitrayogam.

- He was a nationalist poet and wrote a series of poems on various aspects of the Indian freedom movement. He also wrote against caste restriction, tyrannies and orthodoxies. He founded the Kerala Kalamandalam and is credited with revitalising the traditional Keralite dance form known as Kathakali. He was awarded Padma Bhushan title, India's third highest civilian award, in 1954.

His poems began appearing in Bhashaposhini, Kerala Sanchari and Vijnana Chintamani magazines. His first major literary ventures was a rendition of Valmiki's Ramayana into Malayalam, the work of which started

in 1905 and took two years to complete.

- His khanda kavya on Mary Magdalene titled Magdalana Mariam paved the way for a new tradition in of Christian symbolism in Malayalam. Other celebrated short poems of Vallathol include Sishyanum Makanum, Virasinkala, Achanum Makalum, Divaswapnam and Ente Gurukulam.

Involvement in Nationalist movement

Vallathol is regarded as the greatest nationalist poet of the language. He actively participated in the Nationalist movement. He attended the all India Conferences of the Indian Congress in 1922 and 1927 and rejected a royal honour bestowed

upon him by the Prince of Wales during his India visit in 1922. Vallathol remained a great admirer of Mahatma Gandhi and wrote the poem "Ente Gurunathan" ("My Great Teacher") in his praise. At the same time, he felt attracted by the Communist ideology and wrote poems praising the achievements of the Soviet Union. He wrote several patriotic poems hailing India's nationalist movement.