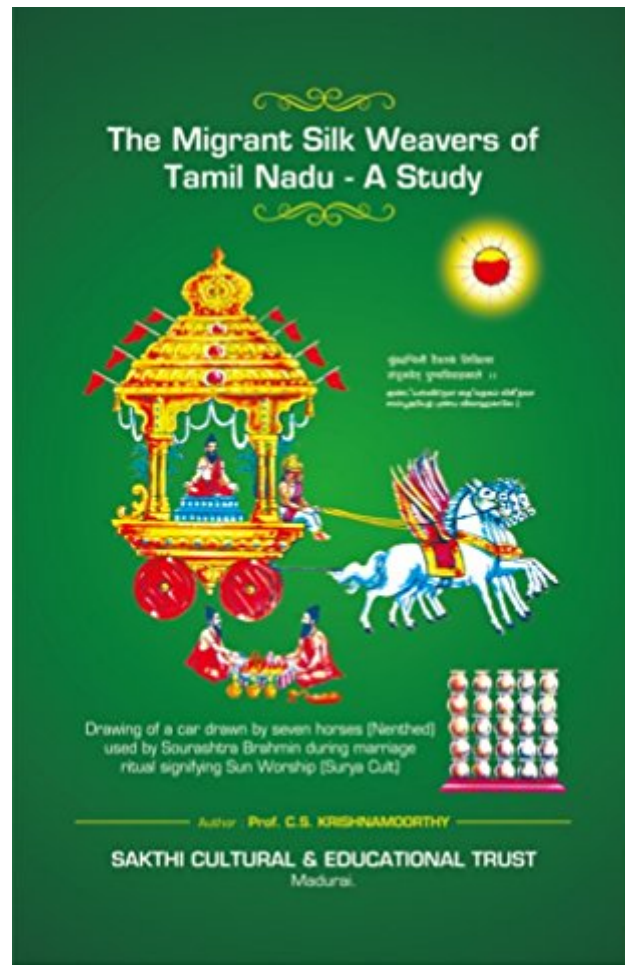


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THE MIGRANT SILK WEAVERS OF TAMILNADU - A STUDY: Book On Sourashtra Community



Synopsis

The Migrant Silk Weavers of Tamil Nadu-A StudyTM by Prof. C.S. Krishnamoorthy

The migrant silk weavers of Tamil Nadu or the TMPatnulkaranTM/ TMSourashtrasTM form a unique and tiny tribe or caste in Southern India whose origin and migratory aspects had been a puzzle till this author Prof. C. S. Krishnamoorthy solved it through his continuous and tireless research for more than 30 years. He is a researcher on these people since 1978-1981 and preferred to wait till reasonable amount of historical evidences could be collected and this caused a delay in bringing forth a correct, logical and evidence based version in the form of a research output as under the present title. Dr. H. N. Randle, M.A., D.Phil., I.E.S., Librarian, India office, London is the pioneer in informing the world about these people through his article in the Journal of R.A.S, London(Oct,1944) entitled TMThe Saurastrans of South IndiaTM giving his account on the basis of the writings of Edgar Thurston in his TMCastes & Tribes of Southern India Vol.6 (1909). Dr. Randle has also analysed the language of this people and published an article under the head TMIndo-Aryan Language of South India-TMSourashtra BhashaTM in the B.S.O. A. S, Vol XI. Later, Dr. Noriko Uchida of Japan wrote on their language and some cultural traits and published in 1979 (Delhi) a work under the title TMThe Oral Literature of the SourashtriansTM. Linguistically their language began to draw the attention of Western linguists like Masica Collin P, Taylor and Southworth and A. Master, and began linguistic analysis of Sourashtri, but on the basis of the prevailing knowledge on TMSourashtriTM as evinced from the DEFECTIVE findings of G. A. Grierson, the compiler of the Linguistic Survey of India (1928). Following the theory of Hoernle on OUTER BAND ARYANS, the author has equated Sourashtras with Outer Band Aryans in this work and has attempted to give a logical and correct and most acceptable account on their TMOrigin and MigratoryTM aspects based on the histories of the Indo-Aryan people and language(s), the crafts they practice and the religious principles and practices they follow. According to this author, the antiquity of these people goes as far back as the Rig Vedic times and they form the most primitive Silk weavers of India as well as the age old traders in cloth, silk cloth and textiles besides precious stones esp. diamonds.

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