

Spiritual world of Gajaman Nona manifested in "Gajaman Puwatha" stage play and the poem "Divaman Gajaman"

Induka Madumali¹

INTRODUCTION

Dona Isabella Perumal Korneliya alias Gajaman Nona was an illustrious poetess representing the Matara Literary Era in the 18-19 centuries with a ravishing fame. She was noted for having the ability to compose and recite impromptu Sinhala verses. Her competency and expertise in Sinhala poetic creations could be well determined through her composition titled "Denipitiye Nugaruka". This legendary vibrant figure faced enormous problems in her life among the most serious predicaments in her life were the unexpected loss of her first and second husbands, her parents, her sons except one she experienced the bitter part of life in her early ages. She had to face denigrations and critical remarks from the society due to the colonization rule and the weaknesses of the society for which she was adamant enough to retort through her competent poetic compilations. All her creations represented the miscellany of her remorseful sufferings. However, no one in the society was compassionate to see through the depressed feelings in the bottom of her heart. Artistic productions such as "Gajaman Puwatha" a drama by Dayanda Gunawardana and "Divaman Gajaman" a historical Parakrama Kodithuwakku attempted to portray her spiritual sensations. Therefore, these creations were successful in introducing and exploring into her virtual life which nobody cared to look into.

PURPOSE

The objective of this research is to explore the possibility of looking into virtues and spiritual achievements of the life of Gajaman Nona. The two main historical creations namely "Gajaman Puwatha" and "Divaman Gajaman" are the basics texts for this research. This is a research conducted

with the affiliation of primary “Gajaman nonage Kavi Seepada” edited by Bandusena Gunasekara and secondary sources are the drama “Gajaman Puwatha” and the lyrical elegy titled "Divaman Gajaman”. As there is no study conducted so far on any compositions related to the life of Gajaman Nona, the researcher hopes that this study will add valuable literary knowledge to the poetic field.

APPROACH

A collection of poems where the poetess reacts to the rumors and deformations she had to face due to her isolation being twice widowed and poverty were selected for this study. Her friendship with Elapatha Mudali gives rise to many allegations. We aim to research on her life as a woman, who along with males, wrote poems, her education and training in the monastery.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

We believe that the outcomes of this research will provide a better understanding and insight into Gajaman Nonas inner world.

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KEYWORDS

Matara era, Gajaman Nona, Divaman Gajaman, Gajaman Puwatha, spiritual world

¹Department of Sinhala. University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.
madumali.gamage@yahoo.com