A STUDY ON THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF TULUNADU WITH SPECIAL PREFERENCE TO BUFFALO- RACE (KAMBALA)

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Abstract: Kambala or buffalo-race is the most popular folk-game of Tulunadu. It is inextricably linked with the society and culture of Tulunadu and undoubtedly showcases the complex society of Tuluvas. It is a product of social and political system of Tulunadu. It has to be borne in mind that kambala is not meant only for entertainment. It is a competition, entertainment, village sport and a ritual with certain idioms, symbols and motifs embedded in it. It has functioned as an instrument of establishing a close balance associated with the social, political and judicial systems of Tulunadu. Thus there is a close relationship between social structure of Tulunadu and kambala. Oral tradition of the region is replete with activities and communities engaged in cultivation. Agriculture has given rise to a large number of agriculture-related games, customs, rites and rituals. There is a close affinity between the folk-game of Tulunadu and the wide variety of rituals associated with it. One gets the impression that a part of the past had been saved to posterity. To the naked eye it may appear as a mere sport but there is something more than what meets the naked eye. Therefore it is prudent to examine and analyze the whole lot of rites and rituals which takes place preceding the kambala and also on the day of kambala to indicate the complex social fabric of Tulunadu. It is a complex cultural phenomenon, which takes place in the shape of a sport. Therefore it is pertinent to analyze the elaborate activities like ‘Pani kullunu’, ‘Anuku Kambala’, ‘Inviting people to kambala’, ‘prohibitions’, beliefs and practices, worship of ‘Naga Berma’, ‘Uluvudu’, ‘Kori Kambala’, ‘ploughing’, ‘buffalo-race’, ‘Pookare Kambala’, ‘Arasu Kambala’, ‘Devara Kambala’, ‘Koraga dance’, ‘procession’ and the role of different communities like Koragas, Bunts, Billavas, Brahmins, Jains, Madivala, Nalike, Parava, Pambada, Mera, Mansa and the motif behind it. This will enable us to unravel the delicate issues associated with it and the function they performed in a traditional Tuluva society which had a definite purpose. At the backdrop of this my paper proposes to lay bare the complex social fabric of Tulunadu as found in the kambala. This paper tries to highlight the cultural sports of the district.

Key terms: Kambala, Anuku Kambala, Pookare Kambala, Ppani Kullunu.