INTRODUCTION

A comparative study of Literature will not only bring out the similarities as well as the unique features of the different languages of India, but will also bring about national integration by strengthening the fraternal bonds that have been existing for several centuries. As Van Tieghem observes,

"The object of comparative literature is essentially the study of diverse literatures in their relations with one another".

The present study is based on the Ramayanas of Kampan and Eluttacchan. Since the scholars differ in opinion, about the authorship of Uttara Ramayanan of Kampan and Eluttacchan respectively, the corpus is limited upto Yuddhakandam in both the works. The study is comparative analytical and descriptive. Comparative study of Kampan with Milton, Tulasidas, and others have been carried out by various scholars. But nobody has so far compared Kampan's Ramayana with Eluttacchan's Adhyatma Ramayanan. Full fledged research in this field - Ramayana study - is rare. Scholars like S. Vaiyapuri Pillai have suggested this type of study, to promote national integration and enable us to have a proper understanding of the Ramayana Literature, through

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1 Rene Wellek, Discriminations pp.1-36 as quoted in Oppilakkiya Arimukam (1973), p.59
the ages, especially in Tamil and Malayalam. Comparative study of the Ramayanas have been carried out in different languages. Dr. S. Shankar Raju Naidu, has done a full fledged comparative study of Kambaramayanam and Tulasi Ramayanam. C.R. Sarma's "The Ramayana in Telugu and Tamil" is another attempt in this field. Kampan has been compared with other Tamil, Sanskrit poets and even with foreign poets like Milton and Virgil. V.V.S. Aiyar has attempted to bring out the greatness of Kampan, comparing him with Milton and Virgil. But a thorough study of Kampan, comparing him with Milton has been carried out by S. Ramakrishnan.

The present study "A comparative study of Kambaramayanam and Adhyatma Ramayanam by Ezhuttacchan", as the title itself denotes is a comparative study of the two Ramayanas.

The thesis consists of six chapters, apart from the "Introduction" and "Conclusion". The first chapter of characters in the Ramayana. Their names are alphabetically arranged, according to the common spelling. Their pronoun-idea of the two works, their influence on the respective languages and Kampan's influence in Malayalam. The second chapter, "The main story variations" deals with the main
story variations found in the two works. The study is carried out, cantwise, under separate heads. The third chapter, "The Episodes a comparative study" is a chapter on the episodes in Kampan and Eluttacchan. The next chapter is on the "Religious elements in the two epics - (Hymns and Sermons)" found in Kampan and Eluttacchan. The fifth chapter is on "Characterization". Both the major and minor characters have been studied under four heads, viz., The hero and his associates, The heroine and her associates, the villain and his associates and other characters. In the last chapter the "literary eminence of Kampan and Eluttacchan" has been brought out.

A select bibliography is appended at the end. Tables and charts have been added at appropriate places in the study, for the purpose of comparison and interpretation.

The researcher has used, wherever necessary, Sanskrit words for which English equivalents are not available and whose exact meaning is not available. A glossary of such words is appended at the end. Another appendix is the list of characters in the Ramayana. Their names are alphabetically arranged, according to the common spelling. Their pronunciation in Kampan and Eluttacchan has also been given.