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The origin of this study may be traced to my years of involvement with the coastal fisherpeople in Kerala during 1980s. During this period I was prompted to reflect on different aspects of their life and culture. One question that particularly captured my attention referred to the intimate bond between the practice of religion and the socio-political reality of the coastal context. So I decided to pursue this question when I got an opportunity to do doctoral research. Finally it has taken concrete shape in the form of this thesis on the religious phenomena among the Mukkuvar of Vizhinjam.

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