

Jain Authorship: Reassessment

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Jains have played a crucial role in the history of Tamil literature. Many important works, such as the *Tolkappiyam* (oldest and greatest grammar of the 1st-5th cent. CE), the *Tirukkural* (most popular didactic work of the 5th cent. CE), the *Cilappatikaram* (earliest and best epic of the 5th cent. CE) and the like, were said to be composed by Jain authors. However, Jain authorship of these works is not so self-evident as is mentioned by some critics. In addition, these works sometimes exhibit counter-evidence for Jain authorship. Thus, it appears to be natural that some have a doubt about Jain authorship of them.

In my paper, firstly, I examine how so-called Jain works do not show conclusive evidence for Jain authorship and, on the contrary, indicate evidence against it. Next, looking into Buddhist or Hindu works, I specify how they exclusively reveal Buddhist or Hindu nature; in other words, how they directly propagate Buddhism or Hinduism. Then, taking into characteristics of works by other than Jains, I reassess common features of Jain works.